

NEWS FROM INDIA

2,500 ACCEPT CHRIST

In January and February 2003 a YMG Team arrived in India to conduct two campaigns, three pastors and leaders seminars, and a women's conference. Pastors from several states attended meetings taught by Rev. Pauline Edwards, a pastor from Great Britain. At two separate cities evangelism/healing campaigns were held with wonderful miracles being given by the Lord. Nearly 2,500 people made commitments to Jesus Christ. In one city there were 1,600 decision cards returned in four days of meetings.

Julie and her team worked closely with local pastors and leaders to conduct the campaigns that presented the gospel to thousands.



Praying the Sinner's Prayer



Julie welcomes people as they come forward to accept Christ in Southern India

INDIA POWER TEAM

Julie and the YMG team linked up with Power Team India while doing an outdoor campaign in which nearly 2,000 people were saved. Headed by Manoj Chopra, awarded "The Strongest Man in Asia" title, six black belts in Tae Kwan Do performed feats of strength and stunts to an appreciative crowd. The crucifixion of Jesus was also presented in drama—gripping the crowds which came to watch. Hundreds were saved each night as Julie preached.



The "Strongest Man in Asia" at work on a telephone book



The India Power Team performing for crowds at the YMG campaign in India

EVANGELIZING THE POSTMODERNS

By Evangelist Julie Young

In recent years there has been much discussion about postmodernism. In brief, postmodernism represents a society gone far beyond traditional standards of conduct, ethics, and values. Standards that governed our behavior and beliefs have been drastically transformed to be unrecognizable, or they have been discarded. Society has progressed beyond a God who is not relevant to saying that the idea of God is totally irrelevant to everyday life. Relativism is the rule. Decisions are not made based on ethical principles anymore. Post moderns generally don't believe in God, see moral absolutes, and feel they bow to no authority. In effect it's like trying to play Monopoly without anyone agreeing to the rules.

As Christians we are taught to think and make decisions based on Biblical principles. A postmodern world makes decisions based on personal feelings or opinions. There are no standards; no absolutes. Opinions are formed through one's interpretation of the world around them. Therefore, a person's **choices** should not be criticized, since there are no hard and fast rules by which to live.

In much of Europe, Australia, and increasingly in the United States, this post-modern world view permeates the lifestyle of millions.

As Christians who obey the Lord's command to share our faith, we must understand the thinking of our contemporaries and build a bridge to them. Ravi Zacharias, a foremost Christian apologist, has asked the question, "How

do you reach a culture that hears with its eyes and thinks with its feelings? A culture where life and feeling are synonymous?" What he means is that people of this generation make decisions based on their feelings, not any objective standard. The universe turns, not on objective data and unchanging facts, but on the feelings of the individual. How do we share the unchanging demands of the gospel with a world that is convinced that truth is anything you choose to believe it to be?

The Great Commission has not altered because people have refused to recognize the authority of the Bible, the Lordship of Jesus, or the existence of an unchangeable truth. We must build bridges to where these people live in their thinking. Let me suggest for you a few thoughts to help you in evangelizing the post-moderns.

First, you must look at people who are postmodern with the compassion of Jesus. Their lack of traditional morals may offend you. Their choices, their despairing voices, their destructive behaviors, and their overtly sexual lifestyles may shock you. But you must get out of your comfort zone— out of the 'Christian ghetto'. Remember that Jesus was called "the friend of sinners". He spent time with prostitutes and thieves. It is all too easy to slip into the safe counter-culture of Christianity. We are a minority in postmodern countries. Will you shun or interact? This is a challenging proposition. For good reason Paul wrote to believers not to stop associating with the immoral people of society (1 Cor. 5:9,10). Jesus associated with people not because it was comfortable, but because He wanted to give life to them. You must interact with lost and hurting people to bring to them the reality of Christ.

Secondly, we must understand that God made the human heart with undeniable needs. When I am witnessing to post moderns, I take time to address honest questions about God, Jesus, and life. I also take time to confront, in love, with the truth of the Bible. But I always speak to the heart need of the person.

Recently I spoke to a young man in Britain about giving his life to Jesus. He bluntly told me he wasn't ready to do that. He was, he said frankly, enjoying sex before marriage, drinking, and his music, doing what he liked. Why should he know God? I confronted him lovingly with truth (not opinion): what he was doing was called sin. Sin has a payday that would be much bigger than he wanted to pay. I also took time to tell him I cared about him, and pointed out how much



God loved him and wanted him. In seconds the young man was in tears, trying very hard to hold back his feelings. I got in to the need of his heart with the truth, carried on the back of God's compassion. This is how post moderns need to experience Christ. They are

experimental with their feelings, as their feelings guide them. Speak to the heart.

Thirdly, if you don't live what you profess to believe, no one will listen to your witness. You will be worse than irrelevant. Jesus called these kind of people hypocrites. You are the Bible for the unbelieving. You must be the thoughts of God in the flesh— kindness, wisdom, self-control, truth. You must be much more than you speak.

Before He left the earth, Jesus commanded His followers to "**be** My witnesses..." (Acts 1: 8, emphasis mine). People don't care **what** you believe. They will begin to see the truth when you **become** what you believe.

Finally, you need the power of God in you to live successfully in this age. Jesus gave you the Holy Spirit so you could have power over sin, temptation, selfish desires, and the moral traps in our society. Prayer, study of the Bible, and praying in tongues strengthens you (see Jude 20). Furthermore, miracles and healing are the calling cards God want to use with post moderns. He wants to use miracles through you to open hearts and minds to the claims of Jesus. When a family member is healed by prayer in Jesus' name, the claims of Jesus are validated (see Rom. 1:3,4). A miracle certifies to the postmodern man or woman that Jesus is alive and interested in them. Ask God to use you in miracles, and you will see people coming to Christ.

Apply these four observations, in prayer, to your life. Begin to seek change for yourself. As you do God will enable you to touch those around you for Christ. All God is looking for is your participation.

**People don't care *what* you believe.
They will begin to see the truth when
you *become* what you believe**