EDITORIAL

At the Congress of Evangelicals in the Caribbean, CONECAR 2000, it was declared that the Caribbean is no longer a mission field but a mission force. All present were elated and overcome with emotion to see a number of our own being commissioned from the Caribbean as a whole to go to the ends of the earth. It has been said time and again that the Caribbean, with our multi-ethnic background and colourful history, is strategically poised to reach many of the "unreached" people groups around the world. Since the mid-nineteenth century, in increasing numbers and frequency, a number of Caribbean churches, para-church organizations and mission agencies have answered this call. But many more are yet to respond.

It is our prayer that the articles of this issue will serve both groups, those not yet involved in missions and those already involved in missions. In these writings you will find a theological framework for *doing* missions which will alert our church leaders to the "*non-optionality*" of missions and so motivate those not yet involved to get involved. For those already *doing* missions, you will find a theological framework, founded on the timeless Word of God, within which to operate and continue *doing* missions.

Wayne Allen opens the innings with a follow-up to his article which appeared in our 2000 issue, demonstrating that God's ultimate purpose in the universe is the healing of the nations. Participating in this programme is what missions is all about. While in the first issue he focused on the period from Seth to Solomon, in this issue he focuses on the missionary message of Isaiah.

The second to bat is Dae-Sung Kang who continues in the same vein as Allen. He shows that responding to the missionary mandate is really responding in obedience to the dictates of the Kingdom of God. The Church, as Kingdom people, needs to be obedient to this call. He examines patterns of obedience and disobedience in both the Old and New Testaments and concludes that at the heart of obedience is right motives which come out of a renewal experience in the Holy Spirit. He highlights the importance of *being* rather than *doing* in missions. This is where Clinton Chisholm and James Loewen pick up.

In reality, missions is about *living*. It is about the way we live our lives and the way we relate to other people. Whether involved in cross-cultural missions or "home service", all of us have to live with and relate to people. It is therefore of crucial importance to examine our values. Chisholm takes up the bat and engages us in the question of ethical principles and practices. To what extent do we live what we believe? Are we absolutists or relativists? Loewen, for his part, takes us from theory to praxis, giving practical, street smart advice as to how to relate to one another based on twelve "one another" passages in God's Word.

The penultimate batsman is D. Vincent Palmer who reviews the address given by the Archbishop of Canterbury at the leading international conference on world evangelization – Amsterdam 2000. By so doing, he brings to those of you who were not privileged to attend the conference this insightful message based on Romans 5. One of the highlights of this message was the particularity of Jesus in the face of religious pluralism. Jesus is still unique and still "preachable".

The last batsman is Billy Hall who closes the innings with a review of a book celebrating the life of a movement which has been *doing* missions in Jamaica for over fifty years – Students Christian Fellowship and Scripture Union (Jamaica).

It is our hope that as you read this issue you will be motivated and encouraged to *do* missions as your lifestyle.

Dieumeme Noëlliste