

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



Comparatively Speaking

Our first ever (FMD) comparative religions summit is now history. We anticipate having others. For two days we analyzed, studied, researched, and compared Oneness Pentecostalism/Christianity with another world religion. We learned exciting new, creative access methods of outreach and walked away from the summit with a deeper understanding and ability to witness to those we desire to evangelize.

Here are a few general things learned from the presenters at the summit. These are helpful in reaching others from any religion. For specifics from the presenters or summit write sslaydon@upci.org.

1. Be aware of the advance of other religions and the demographics involved. Increase such awareness throughout the Christian community.
2. Look through the lens of another. Understand their world and view.
3. Study what they believe and compare it to the truth of God's Word.
4. Realize our commitment to monotheism and holiness is attractive to others.
5. Find methods or strategies that work. Have a plan. Our devotional speaker asked "Can God trust you?" Suggested methods of evangelism in the summit were:
 - (a) Home fellowship groups: they are non-threatening and serve to develop lasting relationships.

(b) Friendship evangelism: win others to yourself and then win them to Christ.

(c) Power encounters: points others to the One True God. Declare the gospel. Demonstrate the power.

(d) Next Generation ministry: half of the world is under the age of fifteen. Reach children and touch the future.

(e) Internet evangelism: truth-seeker can surf the web in privacy.

(f) Literature targeted at the specific world religion.

6. Be ready for a spiritual struggle: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).
7. Prayer changes people: "Do pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may speed on (spread rapidly and run its course) and be glorified (extolled) and triumph, even as [it has done] with you" (2 Thessalonians 3:1, *AMP*).
8. One teaspoon at a time: Share the Gospel carefully and in a way the person will be able to understand. Be systematic and simple. "He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30). God's Word will accomplish its job. It convicts, convinces, and changes—or it condemns. "So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11, *AMP*).
9. Persistence and dedication pay off: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, *NIV*). The harvest will come. It may be slow or small, but remember, every soul counts!