

EVANGELISM PRESENTATION TO CHRISTIAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

2/7/07

The distinctive features of the Methodist/Wesleyan movement is that :

All need to be saved-

All may be saved-

All may know that they are saved-

All may be saved to the utmost-

THE TRADITIONAL FEATURES OF METHODISM INCLUDE:

- The importance of blending knowledge with vital piety, a quickened mind with a warm evangelical heart.
- Shared leadership inclusive of both clergy and laity in the life and mission of the church.
- Blending personal commitment with social responsibility. Conversion is both personal and social related to the commitment to love, justice and mercy in the world.
- The essential of hymn singing and the teaching of Christian truth.
- The blending of teaching and testifying with sacramental worship.
- Expressing gratitude for God's grace by rendering unselfish service.
- The creation of small communities of cell groups within congregations for instruction, pastoral care and fellowship.
- The importance of a connectional system that links local congregations to districts conferences and a global church.
- Blending ardor and order in matters of faith and practice.

In his work Evangelism and Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit, the late theologian Albert Outler talks about John Wesley and his evangelistic success. He described John Wesley as an obsessive-compulsive neurotic all of his life. He had an authoritarian temper-all too often limited, without comparable results. He was not a strong communicator of the gospel so in many ways it is a mystery that Wesley experienced evangelistic success. The first transforming event at Aldersgate allowed Wesley to develop his sense evangelistic focus occurred because he shifted, upon his conversion, from passion to compassion. He moved from being a zealot to becoming a winsome witness to God's grace, from a censorious critic to an effective pastor, from arrogance to humility.

Perhaps this is a message for our churches as we seek to be agents of evangelism and transformation. It is perhaps in our willingness to move from arrogance to humility that we can become purveyors of God's grace. This is a challenge to which the churches of CCT is confronted and serves as the background for our discussion today.