



The **Lausanne** Committee for World Evangelization

The Whole Church taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole World

Lausanne Movement I

The Lead up to Lausanne 1974



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Precursors to Lausanne 1974: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association Sponsored Events

World Missionary Conference
(Edinburgh 1910)

World Congress on Evangelism
(Berlin 1966)

Asia-South Pacific Congress on
Evangelism (Singapore 1968)

North American Congress on
Evangelism (Minneapolis 1969)

Latin American Congress on
Evangelism (Bogota 1969)

European Congress on
Evangelism (Amsterdam 1971)

International Congress for
World Evangelization
(Lausanne 1974)



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World Congress on Evangelism (Berlin 1966)

- Convened October 26 - November 4, 1966
- Co-sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and *Christianity Today* (CT)
- Almost 1,200 delegates from over 100 countries.
- Theme: One Race, One Gospel, One Task



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Why Berlin 1966?

- Concern on the part of Billy Graham and Carl Henry (editor of CT) over the radical shift in Western theology—and the World Council of Churches in particular.
- A desire to unite evangelicals in the spirit of the World Missionary Conference (Edinburgh 1910).
- A desire to clearly articulate and promote the evangelistic task of the Church.
- Sweeping changes were beginning in the Catholic Church as a result of Vatican II (liberation theology was in its early stages of development).
- The cultural turbulence in North America and Europe cultures of the 1960's needed a biblically-framed response.



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From Berlin to Lausanne

- Four BGEA-sponsored regional conferences
 - Asia-South Pacific Congress on Evangelism (Singapore 1968)
 - North American Congress on Evangelism (Minneapolis 1969)
 - Latin America Congress on Evangelism (Bogotá 1969)
 - European Congress on Evangelism (Amsterdam 1971)
- Focus of each conference: sustain the momentum for evangelism generated at Berlin



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Between Berlin and Lausanne

- Radical changes in Western cultures
- Charismatic surge
- Dramatic increase in Christian literature and Bible translation
- Evangelicals gained in prominence
- Sweeping changes in the Catholic Church after Vatican II
- New forms of evangelism—more holistic in nature—appeared



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Asia-South Pacific Congress on Evangelism (Singapore 1968)

- Convened November 5-13, 1968
- 1,100 delegates from 24 Asian countries.
- Purposes:
 - To *discover* ways of implementing the proposals of the 1966 World Congress on Evangelism in our area, challenged by an exploding population and social upheaval.
 - To *expand* the relevance of the Christian evangel and stress the urgency of its proclamation to the two billion people in this region.
 - To *summon* the Church corporately, and its members individually, to recognize and accept the priority of evangelism.



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North American Congress on Evangelism (Minneapolis 1969)

- Convened September 8-13, 1969.
- 5,000 delegates from across North America
- Theme: "Much Is Given—Much Required" (Luke 12:46)
- Twin foci:
 - Personal purity and holiness
 - A return to evangelism—but an evangelism which is alert to our social responsibilities to meet the needs of society.
- The event was as much a revivalist preaching rally as a congress; Billy Graham preached to 22,000 on the closing night.



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Latin American Congress on Evangelism (Bogota 1969)

- Convened November 21-29, 1969
- Some 830 delegates from 25 countries attended.
- Theme: "Action in Christ for a Continent in Crisis"
- The Congress concluded with the voted affirmation of "The Evangelical Declaration of Bogota," which called for a contextualized Gospel:
 - "Together we have recognized the necessity of living the Christian life to the full and proclaiming the total Gospel to the Latin American man in the context of his many needs.
- A 30 year plan to evangelize Latin America was proposed as part of the conference; this was the first of the CLADE conferences which continue in Latin America.
- One contextual reality: evangelicals were not unified in responding to the changes wrought through *aggiornamento* promoted after Vatican II .



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European Congress on Evangelism (Amsterdam 1971)

- Convened August 28 – September 4, 1971
- 1,064 delegates from 36 European countries.
- Statement of purpose:
 - To reaffirm the fact that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is still the power of God unto salvation to all who believe.
 - To alert individual Christians to their personal responsibility to evangelism.
 - To recognize the social implications of the Gospel.
 - To seek ways and means of effective cooperation in evangelism in Europe.
 - To discover ways and means of communicating the eternal Gospel in the context of contemporary society.
- The contextual realities included the radical trends in European political theologies.



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Summary of Pre-Lausanne Congresses

- Ensured that evangelicals would focus energy on evangelism as the primary task of the church.
- Gathered international leaders in regional contexts to consider local and regional issues in light of the universal need for evangelism.
- Enabled theological unity, and at the same time generated discussion on significant theological issues (e.g., the relationship of evangelism and social responsibility; responding to Vatican II).
- Brought evangelicals international attention and gave momentum for the Lausanne consultation.