

RICE FIELDS

JOURNAL

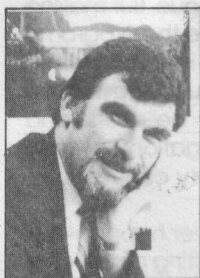
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Editorial

Into the 90's . . . Boldly

Who among us is entering the 90's without some degree of fear and trepidation? Let's presume it to be a healthy fear, of course—the kind that sniffs out the possibilities as well as the problems, takes a deep sigh and then commits itself with a measure of apprehension to the task ahead.



To kick off this first RICEFields of the 90's let's try a little crystal ball-gazing to see what lies ahead of us in radio . . .

The Bible uses a number of metaphors which we could well apply to our role as broadcasters—prophets, watchmen, ambassadors, the "aroma of Christ," just to name a few. But they each carry with them a high degree of responsibility, a role which needs to be taken seriously. At the same time, as the people of God, we are privileged to have been given a glimpse into the future. Not only do we have the inside track on how it is all going to end but we are also given pointers to look out for along the way.

First, we as media people, by definition, also need to be "in the know." Perceptive. Prophetic. We must grapple objectively with developments in our world—at home and abroad—and formulate opinions in the light of biblically revealed truth. To do this we lay aside faulty presuppositions and look for fresh interpretations as world history unfolds before

our eyes, dramatic changes in Eastern Europe and the USSR notwithstanding. We must be well-read people, balanced in our outlook, endowed with good common sense, while open to the Spirit's leading. Daily we find news items which cry out for Christian commentary—but on which we too often remain silent. God is gagged.

But what's new? Only this, that world events are going to become harder to read in the days ahead. Confusion will increase and distinctions increasingly blurred between what is right and wrong, good and evil, better and best. Someone will need to provide the insights.

Our second responsibility is specifically toward the Christian faithful. Like it or not as Christian broadcasters we are shaping the outlook of the believers for better or for worse. We are sending signals as to what is important not only by what we do say but also by what we don't. A biblically-based faith must find expression in daily events, social problems, opinions such that the Christian community is able to function as salt and light in a darkening world. The faithful need to be kept on track, solidly grounded in the Word of God but also exerting Christian influence in all areas of daily life.

To our condemnation the cults are cashing in on areas of life where the Church has large-

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Radio In Church-planting Evangelism