

DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL OPINIONS (DSTO)

VOLUME 1

G. INTER-DENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION – CHURCH MOVEMENTS

Radio mission

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THESIS ON THE THEOLOGY INVOLVED IN THE CONCEPT OF A LUTHERAN RADIO MISSION

1. The theology underlying the concept of a radio mission in the Lutheran Church rests primarily in every passage of Holy Scripture, which sets forth the mission of the Church as proclamation and teaching of the Gospel (Rom 10:17; Matt 28:18–20; Mark 16:15,16; Luke 24:46).
2. In the theology of a radio mission, its definite limitations must always be recognised. No such mission can exercise a full ministry to the individual. The obvious limitation is its inability to administer the Sacraments, according to Christ's commission. A Lutheran radio mission must stress the necessity of Baptism, and the diligent use of the Lord's Supper (Matt 28:20; Acts 2:38; Acts 2:42; Acts 20:2). A radio mission can stress this need through its contact mail, correspondence courses, as well as by the broadcast message.
3. The common concept of a 'Radio Church' is foreign to the New Testament theology of the Church. The Church's mission in the world is not merely to proclaim the Gospel, and 'teach all things commanded', but finally to motivate action in obedience to God's will. A radio mission must make clear the admonition, 'not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near' (Heb 10:25). The purpose of such meeting together is not merely corporate worship, but also the diligent use of the means of grace, specifically the Sacraments.
4. A radio mission must never degenerate into a mere membership promotion campaign or worse, become a proselytizing agency for some particular Church.

5. A radio mission can be used not only to win the unchurched to Christ, but to strengthen the faith of Christians everywhere.

THE PROBLEM OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A RADIO MISSION

1. The effectiveness of the proclamation of the Gospel is always assured (Isa 55:11; Jer 1:12; 2 Tim 2:9).
2. The effectiveness of any preaching of the Gospel can never be fully assessed by human estimates; only eternity will make clear how many are won for Christ. Nevertheless, the Church must exercise a wise judgment in utilizing its resources for the proclamation of the Gospel as widely and as effectively as those resources will allow.

THE POSSIBILITY OF LINKING THE AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN HOUR MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONS

1. A radio mission has not fulfilled its obligations by merely proclaiming the Gospel on the air; wherever possible a close link should be maintained with the ministry of the congregation.
2. Just when, however, referral should be made, must be left to the discretion of competent staff. The time of transition from radio mission contact to pastoral care of a local congregation must always be determined by deep concern for the spiritual welfare of the individual.
3. Similarly, there must always be a close link between the congregation and its radio mission. Local congregations have an obligation to support their radio mission with earnest prayer and generous gifts, incorporating it also in their program of evangelical outreach.