

REPORT ON THE STATIONS

The Stations and Posts	Vocation	Spirit	Masses	Corporateness					
1	13	14	18	19	23	24	27	28	32

1. AT&T hires roughly in the neighborhood of a million people, but I feel I would rather try to pull together their activities than those of the ten stations that have been at work at base in the last quarter. You can be nothing less than overwhelmed by all the doing that we've got going on in the 43 posts within those stations.

2. Before I even attempt to pull together the written and verbal stations reports which were given at plenary a couple of weeks ago, it would be helpful just to list the stations and the posts, and give you some idea of their tasks and their accomplishments for the quarter in terms of one simple image for each station.

3. Development has three posts: grassroots, donors, and grants. An image which could begin to hold their task and accomplishment particularly for this past quarter is systematic regular giving. The emphasis has been on a shift to the grassroots. You probably have heard of the bank draft system now being experimented with for getting at systematic regular giving.

4. For Management, an image like movement sustenance holds their task and accomplishment. We also point there to things like keeping the inspector happy when he comes as well as enabling the movement in terms of printing and so on. They've got posts like these: property, housing, data processing, finance, and printing. One example of their accomplishment would be over three quarters of a ton of ITI materials sent out this quarter from that station.

5. Control has within it order finance, administration, emerging generation, formulation, and penetration, which is a fairly diverse group but can be pulled together under the task of creating and holding order commonality. They are charged with maintaining this body of people as one order.

6. In the Education station the posts are elementary, primary, junior high, senior high, and university. The image of the quarter's activity is something like imaginal education practices. I'm pointing in particular to a manual that has been in process for a couple of quarters. It enables getting hold of being an imaginal educator in terms of quickly learning the practices of imaginal education, and being able to develop rapidly adequate classroom plans.

7. Social station operates with an administration post, which is basically people working for the City of Chicago, a hospital post, and a case work post. The image there this quarter is something like job stance. They saw that no

longer was it necessary to raise the question of what my stance should be on the job, but rather to engage oneself in the job and experiment with a variety of stances. So they found themselves pushing to a deeper kind of engagement with what was going on in their job, and talked about that in terms of vocational excellence.

8. Civil station operates with a law and computer post, a secretarial and clerical post, a business post, and an engineering post. The image there may be indirect/direct mission, pointing to the kind of struggle necessary in holding the tension between, for example, working continuously at doing the kind of job and the kind of planning that gets you salary improvement, without being eaten up by your job or selling your soul to the job.

9. In terms of the University station, four posts are operating: sociology and economics majors, anthropology and history, education, and philosophy and theology. The image there is an emphasis on scholarship. We don't have their grade averages for the winter quarter, but their average for the fall as a body of people was a grade point of 4.1 out of a possible 5.0. One image is of one person taking 28 hours; there is no excuse for not taking a full load. It is deciding that one can quickly get a university education.

10. In Research listen to all these posts: editorial, local church, black church, historical order, files, task force (that points to the North Shore cadre men), new course, future development, and new social vehicle. It's hard to get an image to hold that many posts, but maybe something like movement demand begins to. If you need to know what needs to happen in the movement, just corner one sometime and they can spin for an hour or two or three. Maybe that begins to hold what goes on there in terms of pulling together the new social vehicle, thinking through recruitment for the summer, and designing what the summer needs to look like.

11. Demonstration operates in three posts in 5th City: environmental, auxiliary, and preschool. The image there, I think, is social signs. The list of practical concrete signs is impressive. I would lift these up: preschool manual written, funding under way for shopping center, old Westlake Press building being rehabilitated and negotiations taking place for industry to move in there, residents moving in rehabilitated apartments, and preschool remodeling coming soon.

12. Training station points particularly to the academy with two posts there, the academy staff and the academy participants who are order members. The image there is finally just tooling the movement. That comes out in terms of 160 people participating in the academy, the depth spirit analysis of society in our time, and the seven-page lesson plans being created for almost all seminars.

13. Those are the kind of things we have going on. The reporting itself had four general themes that crossed through each one. The first was the image of a new kind of struggling with VOCATION. That was particularly true in the work-out stations, but not limited there. There was a new way of talking about vocational malaise, the vocational struggle in our time. Second, there was a

	VOCATION	SPIRIT	MASSES	CORPORATENESS
Accomplishment	Seriousness relative to secular structure	spirit prowess	Grassroots push	Operated as one station
Insight	permission to be a giant	spirit comes from engagement in particular	Popular preaching is the key	Each post responsible for whole station
Contradiction	how maintain "in but not of" stance	how maintain depth in midst of immediacies	How move with tangential style that gets things done	How hold so many universes together
Next Step	Corporate vocation of responsibility	Point to signs of NSV	Models of consistent engagement in society	Reflect on each particular assignment

new sense after the SPIRIT dimension within the life of the station. Third was a new kind of thrust relative to the MASSES, or a new way of engaging society. Then there was a new sense after CORPORATENESS within the diversity and complexity of each station. I will talk about the accomplishment, the insight, the contradiction, and the next step for each of these four categories above.

14. In terms of VOCATION, the accomplishment there was one on behalf of local churchmen. It was a new kind of seriousness relative to the secular structures. In our station, the civil station, a clue was that in the practice part of our guild meetings on Wednesday night we raised the question of twenty years from now. Twenty years from now, what is it that you are going to be doing in terms of your occupation in society? And what's got to happen in the next five years in order for you to move in that direction? And we answered that question. You couldn't even have asked that question two quarters ago and gotten any kind of practical answer.

15. There is a new kind of seriousness relative to engagement in society. A colleague in the Social station talked about suddenly one day seeing himself as a 50-year-old man sitting at his desk in one of the City buildings. There was an affirming of the secular occupation in a new way, a new grasping that one does not escape out of the society in order to engage in mission to the society. We found that just that realization, and beginning to talk about it, had healing possibilities relative to the struggle of every local churchman these days, especially those who are trying to participate in the galaxy and at the same time hold down a job. We've got to find new ways of keeping ourselves employable, and taking seriously the task that we have been given.

16. The insight that we have seen afresh across the board in all the stations is that there is the permission to be a giant in the midst of that assignment, or that that assignment is not a limit upon your life but a possibility. The tension is being a worldly success (regardless of the station you're in), and at the same time being the spirit giant within that. The image the civil station used was that we've got to begin to think in terms of a corporation vice-president being a religious house first prior, or, if you don't like the image of first prior, a ^{vice-}president being chairman of the official board. It is obvious that the same kind of spirit prowess is going to be required there as any other place. One way of saying that insight is that a practical vision has got to come into being. You don't have to quit your job to be in the galaxy would be the way of saying that relative to the movement. The possibility is emerging of being the man who keeps himself employable and at the same time is the giant in terms of involvement in direct mission.

17. The contradiction is then how you maintain an "in, but not of" stance relative to your vocation. The University station said it exactly that way-- in but not of--but that came out one way or another in all the station reports. The question is how not to sell your soul to your station in the midst of doing a fantastic job there, and at the same time not totally negate the station in favor of other demands. One of my great fears is that one Friday I'm going to head out to O'Hare Airport on an RS-1 teaching assignment (having told my office I was sick), and just as I'm ready to get on a plane I meet my boss also getting on a plane. That happened to a colleague last quarter. He didn't see his boss,

but on Monday morning he got to work and his boss said "Say, didn't I see you at the airport on Friday?" The temptation there, when you see your boss at the airport on Friday as you get on the plane, is to defend yourself by thumbing your nose at him. That's the kind of tension I'm talking about.

18. How do you maintain an "in but not of" stance relative to participation in the station as well as the other demands that are upon you? The contradiction is how you maintain that kind of tension. The next step is one of corporate vocation. I'm not entirely clear what that image is pointing to, but it has fascination for me. I think it is something like the question, "How will the movement be responsible for my structure?" as opposed to, "How will I do a variety of experiments in which I begin to pull off my structure?" The shift is to the Movement's beginning to deal with how to take responsibility for my structure. Maybe that is being pointed to there in terms of the future.

19. In the spirit dimension, the accomplishment is a kind of spirit prowess that has been sensed across the board. The words of Jesus have come alive for us as I suspect they have for all of you outside of base too. A fresh kind of prowess is in the Academy. The way in which they're able to talk about stoicism and gnosticism--nobody can escape that kind of spirit prowess. We've become fantastic story-tellers across the board, too. Just catch anyone and get them to tell about the way in which they have talked with someone on the plane or someone at work.

20. Occasionally that prowess gets turned back on you. I ride to work with a guy who has not had RS-1. He doesn't really know anything about us except that he is glad to be my friend. We ride for half an hour in the morning and 45 minutes home in the evening, which means that we have a lot of time to just talk. He's begun to pick up that same kind of style, I've noticed. The song "Big John" was played on the radio one morning going to work. Big John was the guy who worked with the coal miners. One day the coal mine collapses and Big John supports the whole thing until everybody walks out. Then the whole thing falls in on Big John. This guy riding with me said "You know, he didn't give a darn about those people until his life was demanded." What could I say but, "Yea, that's right." There's prowess relative to communicating.

21. You can begin to reflect upon what it is that's going on in society. Push on that a bit relative to the realities of life itself, and to prowess relative to communicating. We, especially those who are in the work-out structures, experience ourselves almost as having a following. People begin to gather at lunch just to talk to us about anything. That's true of every one of us. A fresh kind of prowess is operating there. The print shop has experimented all quarter long with how you bring spirit into that dimension. It's fantastic what goes on over there. Just to watch those guys, you feel that there is more than printing taking place as that goes on. That produces the insight that spirit comes only out of engagement in the particular. The demonstration station of 5th City got it said, that raw mission and secularity is what produces spirit. It is engagement in the particular that produces spirit, not in the abstract. It is almost obvious, I suppose, but it came upon us afresh again this quarter.

22. The contradiction there then is how you maintain that kind of depth in the midst of the millions of kinds of immediacies that crash in upon you in the station. How is it that you keep from doing the obvious without looking at the depth demand? Our corporate nervousness relative to the future comes out at this point. You've got to meet the immediate demands, yet you can't be swallowed up by the immediate demands. That's the kind of tension, the kind of contradictions in which we find ourselves operating especially these days.

23. The next step there is to begin to be even more intensely the ones who spot the signs, who point to the signs of the emerging new social vehicle, who point to the mystery itself in the midst of any situation. We begin to image ourselves as the spotters, and to operate intentionally as those.

24. In terms of the MASSES, or engaging in society, the accomplishment there is an intensification of the grassroots push. For example, I mentioned Development earlier. Finally, it is the regular giving of the grassroots that is crucial. One sign of that in 5th City is the fresh kind of vitality in the leaders' decision to be first priors not only of 5th City but of other community organizations like the Urban League. Or I would point to the individual and society course as a fresh kind of push upon the masses; to penetration--209 courses this quarter, an average of about 26 a weekend; to the Black Church's 12 RS-1's held during their penetration trip with an average of 25 people per course. A fresh push on the masses is the accomplishment there.

25. The insight is that popular preaching is the key to that push on the masses, or that spiritizing the task requires an indigenizing of the gospel. The gospel must be said in a thousand and one ways. Popular preaching is the key to getting into any given situation. When you're trying to talk a businessman downtown into giving you money, somehow you have to inject spirit into that situation in order to break him loose. Therefore, popular preaching is the key.

25a. The contradiction there is the style. What is needed by us these days we we move on the world in a more direct fashion? This gets raised in particular in terms of the required style for the New Individual and New Society course, but comes up at every point. How do you get the job done, but get it done by operating tangentially in a situation in which you're not at all in control. This is the contradiction or the struggle that's going on there.

26. The next step is building the models of what it means to engage in society in a consistent fashion. Management station got it said well. How is it that you continue to give the same story to the inspector? How do you maintain a consistent image as the inspector comes back time after time. We have to get it said that we are not a fly-by-night organization. In the midst of calling into question the tyrannies of the structures of our time, which in the first instance makes you come off as a fly-by-night organization, how do you get said that you're not.

27. We've impressed our inspectors, by the way. The fireman now is tremendously impressed with the way in which we respect each other. He said "You ask somebody to do something and they do it. 'Yes' is the immediate response." He was here one time and said "You know, this place could stand a paint job." He went somewhere to another part of campus, and when he came back (it happened to be an Academy work day) all the walls were being painted. How we maintain the image that we are responsible people is our task as we engage the masses.

28. In CORPORATENESS the accomplishment was to operate as one station. That happened in each case in spite of the fact that some of the stations were split by being both at North Campus and at West Campus. In spite of the wide diversity of posts within the station, a new sense of corporateness, a new sense of that station operating as one body was there.

29. The key insight is that the post has to see itself as responsible for the total work of the station. That happened in a new way. Interchange between posts is the key as one post has had to decide to do the work of other posts for a period of time just in order to enable that total station. That is the kind of corporateness taking place. That was particularly true in the Control and Management stations, and if you look at the diversity of the posts there you begin to sense why that was crucial.

30. The contradiction was still how you hold many universes together. It's like you ask someone if they are winning and the answer is "I'm winning on as many fronts as I can remember." You can never hold them all in your head, and just getting a picture of all that has to be done in the station is a contradiction.

31. The next step, then, is just to reflect on each particular assignment. Again, it is going back and intensifying reflection upon the activity of the post, and in some cases probably reflecting on the activity of one person, especially when that person is the only one in a particular structure. We want to push there to the mystery in the midst of the assignment. That is a way of talking about the next step relative to the corporateness within the station.

32. Well, that is a quick pull-together of the work of the stations this past quarter.

--Gary Tomlinson