

Pentecost HRM

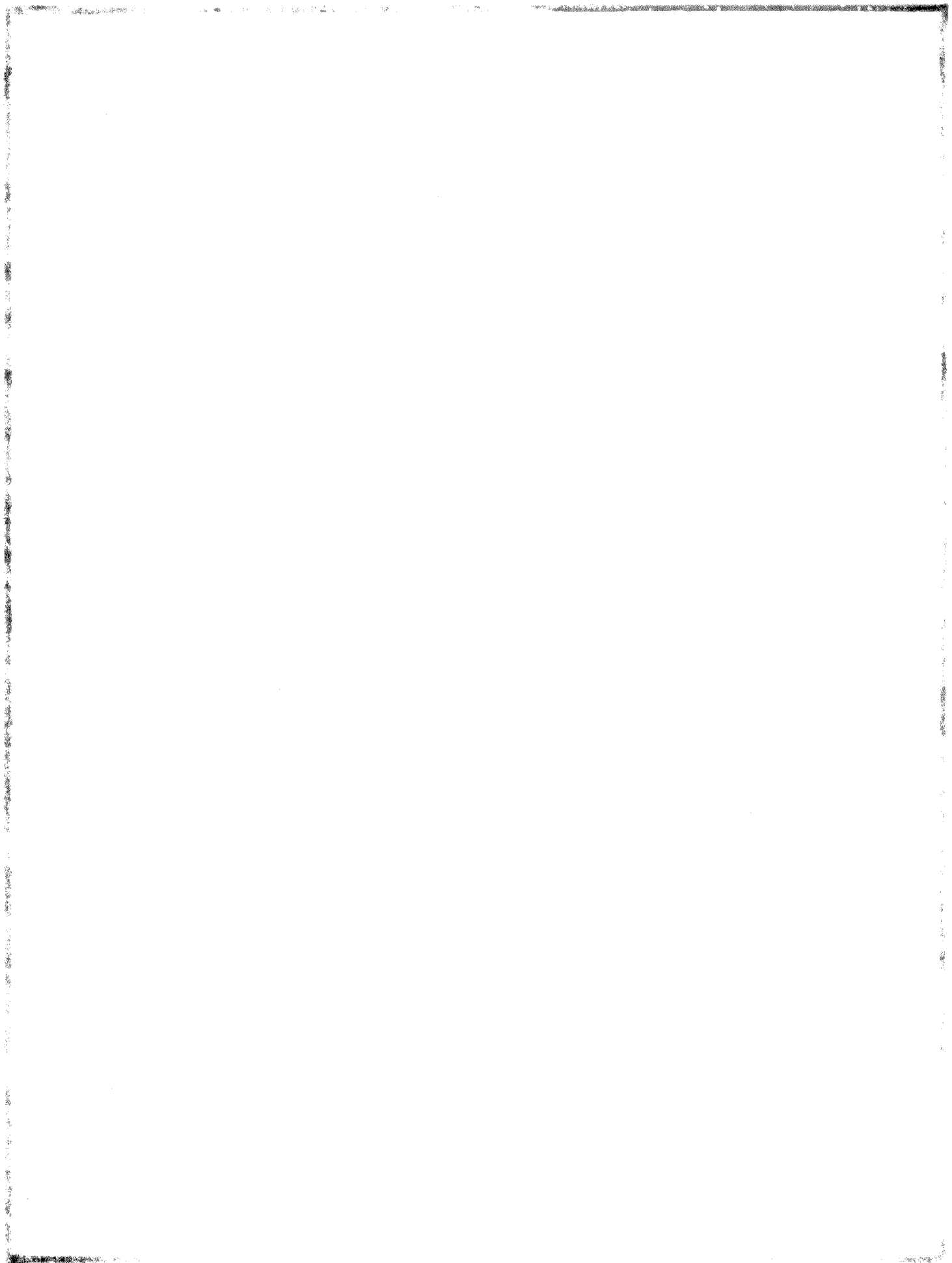
In the midst of a quarter of working in Research Centrum in such arenas as Town Meeting, University 13, Uptown, Majuro, and the Primal Community Experiment we learned several things. The first thing we learned was that the more intensely you turn to the world, the more urgent is the deepening of the spirit. It is clear that what enables our social demonstration to happen is a breakloose in the consciousness of the people of the world that has already happened. The moment these programs of ours bring that consciousness into recognition, a person is susceptible to being burned out in a matter of weeks. Most of us have experienced that. This kind of social demonstration and turn to the world requires a deepening of the spirit.

The second thing we learned was that the Human Resurgence Mission is a very effective and relatively easy way of releasing the spirit deeps in the local congregation. The 19 pilot runs in the latter part of Quarter II of 74-75 worked quite well. Also, we continue to receive reports from Kang Byoung Hoon in Seoul; last week he reported that 8500 people attended a one-day local congregation HRM. One person came in this morning and wrote on the planning board the names of three congregations that he had already lined up.

Now I have an announcement to bring to you. On Pentecost Sunday, that is, in Week 6 of Quarter IV, there will be 101 Human Resurgence Missions around the globe, one per House. A medium-size congregation might have 200 people in attendance on a given Sunday. Therefore, in one day 20,000 people will experience an impact of the Word. Such an event throws me over against the image of the original Pentecost which has traditionally been talked about as the occasion of speaking in tongues. If you read the Pentecost story in Acts, the speaking in tongues means that people understand. We have a chance of speaking the Word of Jesus Christ to 20,000 people in one day in a fashion understandable to people in the 20th century.

The results will be manifold. The HRM will give form and expression to the depth of consciousness that is already operative in the world today. It will bring absolution and new life to the local religious institution, without which there is no primal community, nor any society. It will also be a direct response to the cry from the Church. Ten years ago the criticism of the local church was coming from those outside. These days the criticism is coming from those within the ranks. Some of us have been looking very closely at a book by Karl Rahner, The Shape of the Church to Come, in which he voices a cry for a new form of the local church and projects the direction he senses is needed. HRM is our chance to demonstrate precisely our response to that cry of the local church.

Another particular form of cry is, "This is Holy Year!" Holy Year is quite an auspicious occasion---it happens only every 25 years. The mythology that surrounds the occasion in the life of the church---the Pilgrimage (the long march and its rehearsal), the Indulgence (social absolution), and Reconciliation (social repentance)---is precisely what is called for in our time. We've discovered that many churches have no way of honoring and celebrating Holy Year. Now is the time for the Human



Resurgence Mission to be offered. It is a great gift we have to offer to the church that gave us birth, that called us into being, and sustains us.

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The second image is availability. The HRM is an opportunity to maximize our contacts, or the contact of the local church with the local movemental resources. We'll be working with you on the practical details of how all that might be done.

Practicality is the third image. I found out recently that Pentecost Sunday in Canada strikes on Victoria Day. I would not be surprised if in Australia it strikes Anzac Day, and in England it is probably the day when the bishops come around to baptize all the children in the parish. For many people those kinds of practical things would be blocks, but we are those who have learned that instead of blocks they are contradictions. A contradiction is not a block, it is the route to the future. I would not be surprised to find many ingenious and creative proposals for dealing with those details.

Commonality is the fourth image. HRM impacts the whole church, not simply a particular local congregation. We have learned that power is gained through operating with common constructs, not dissipating our energy and impact doing something different every time. You will be receiving a refined HRM construct in the near future. Your wisdom on its design and content would be most helpful.

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