

## YOU CAN DO WITHOUT POWER POINT

I have never been a fan of power point presentation in preaching or at mission talks. In a world of media where we are bombarded with images, it is actually refreshing to have someone up there whose only tool is a passionate heart, sharing real life stories. I lost count of how many times I have witnessed computers and power points fail. How many times I've seen the poor missionary struggling, clicking all over his computer to get the pictures to work. I feel like yelling at him, *"Forget your power point! Take the mic and speak your heart out"*.

Power points can be of great distraction. Instead of focusing on the speaker and building a rapport through eye contact, the audience is looking all the times at a screen. In the 70s and 80s, we had slides (remember those)? In the 90s, we had acetates. Now we use power points. I wonder what will be next in 10 or 20 years – A 3D missionary? By then, we might realize that the 3D missionary was there all the time, in flesh and blood!

I have memories when as little boys, my brother and I would go with Mum and Dad night after night, showing slides on our visits to churches in England and Scotland. Looking back, I think people were more interested in our stories, testimonies and French songs than the dozens of slides we had prepared. Sometimes the slides would get stuck in the machine, or two slides would show up at the same time on the screen (people would wonder what in the world was that woman doing on top of a tree)? People had come to hear a missionary they have not seen for years. What they got instead, was a dark room and a missionary hiding behind his slide machine! Some speakers in the third world today are so into using power points that if they have to speak in a remote village (where there is either no power or frequent power cuts), they just don't know what to do!

If fellow missionaries use power point, it's OK. But don't feel pressurized that you have to use it too. You can do without and still feel good about it.

I remember speaking at a youth meeting in a large Church of Scotland some years ago. It was the 3rd meeting that day and I was very tired. As I got to the church, the music was very loud, pictures were flashing on 3 of the church walls, lights everywhere. My head was spinning. A young guy responsible for the PA system came up to me and asked where my power point for my talk was. I said, *"When I go up to preach, I want no lights flashing, no background music and no power point. I just want a microphone and a glass of water"*. He thought I had arrived from the Stone Age! I spoke for 40 minutes, just from the heart. At the end I gave a call for missions. A number of young people that night stood up to give their lives

for God's service. Don't feel that you have to use the latest media to captivate people's heart and imagination. If Whitefield could preach to 20,000 people with nothing but a Bible and a passionate heart (and no microphone), you can do it too!

I thought I was the only "no Power Point Presentation fan" till I picked up a book at Hong Kong Airport a few months ago - "**Real Leaders Don't Do Power Point. How To Speak So People Listen**" by Christopher WITT (Piatkus Books/www.hachette.co.uk). One of the most useful books recommended to read.

God bless you as you minister His word and stir God's people for missions.

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