

HeRD #121 - The Search for Sincere & Pure Conversions

One of the most difficult, troublesome issues facing missions is the question of "true conversion." What is a valid conversion? How can one tell when a person is sincere in their conversion? The Presbyterians in the North, from time to time, struggled with this issue and went to some lengths to try to assure the purity of conversion. A motion from the 1917 minutes of the North Laos Presbytery reflects that concern. It states, "Candidates for baptism shall make confession of Christ with the mouth, placing the hand on the Bible, in the presence of the church, promising to truly study and strive to learn the truth until he understands sufficiently to receive the sacraments; all candidates to be left until 6 months or until the session is assured that the candidate is ready to receive the sacraments." The whole point here was to slow down the conversion process in order to make sure that the candidate for conversion was sincere.