



Creative Response to an Uncertain Future: *Facilitator's Guide*¹

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A two-to-four group experience in contemplating the future and to develop plans for its exigencies that have practical value for personal and group guidance.

1. Arrange groups of four or five people each.
2. Distribute to each group an envelope containing the 18 slips.
3. Begin Discussion #1 with these instructions (preferably posted on a large poster or chalkboard :)
 - Remove one item from the envelope at a time.
 - Discuss the probability of the event's occurring.
 - Decide which of three stacks to place it in:
 - Stack (1) Probably will occur. (For these items check the timeframe of the probability, e.g. it will probably happen within 10 years.)
 - Stack (2) Probably won't occur. (At least not within 15 years.)
 - Stack (3) Group can't agree.
 - D. Save the blank card until all other cards are sorted, then write one other event that probably will occur.
 - E. Complete these tasks in 25 minutes.
4. Begin sharing #1 with this question: From Stack (1) items what do you imagine the world may look like in 5, 10, and 15 years?
5. Distribute to each person an uncut set (page) of the events.
6. Individually, circle the events that you feel should be included in your own view of the future.
7. Distribute to each person one each of the two worksheets: "Best Case" Scenario and "Worst Case" Scenario. (See below.)
8. Each person works individually for 30 to 45 minutes on the "Best Case" and "Worst Case" Scenarios.
9. Share in full group with emphasis on the ideas and suggestions for preparations.

¹ Materials for Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC) workshop, 1979 (www.omsc.org)

10. Facilitator should compile a list of the suggestions for preparation phase.
11. Organize small groups (3 to 5 people) for the major preparation ideas. (One approach is to let people elect which of the preparation ideas they'd be most interested in developing as practical personal or group plans.

Time-Frame Anticipation: within the next 5/10/15 years.

"Worst Case" Scenario

1. Conditions, problems and circumstances upon which this scenario is based:

2. General description of the situation as anticipated:

3. Estimate of the probability that this scenario will occur: _____ (.1 to .9)

"Worst Case" Preparation

1. Important features of this scenario which call for personal or group preparation:
 - A. _____

Estimate of importance: _____ (1, low, to 5, high)
 - B. _____

Estimate of importance: _____ (1, low, to 5, high)
 - C. _____

Estimate of importance: _____ (1, low, to 5, high)

2. Preparation Plans

INTENDED OUTCOMES	RECOMMENDED PROCESURES

Time-Frame Anticipation: within the next 5/10/15 years.

“Best Case” Scenario

1. Conditions, problems and circumstances upon which this scenario is based:
2. General description of the situation as anticipated:
3. Estimate of the probability that this scenario will occur: _____ (.1 to .9)

“Best Case” Preparation

1. Important features of this scenario which call for personal or group preparation:
 - A. _____

Estimate of importance: _____ (1, low, to 5, high)
 - B. _____

Estimate of importance: _____ (1, low, to 5, high)

C. _____

Estimate of importance: _____ (1, low, to 5, high)

2. Preparation Plans

INTENDED OUTCOMES	RECOMMENDED PROCESURES