

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENTS AND ACADEMIC DEANS TRACK

### *Beginnings:*

The Presidents and Academic Deans Track began as one of the tracks at the Global Consultation on World Evangelization (GCOWE) meeting in Pretoria, South Africa in July 1997.

Two hundred and fifty Presidents and Academic Deans (PAD) representing theological schools from 53 nations gathered at Doxa Deo Church in Pretoria, South Africa and developed the following ten theses:

1. The primacy of missiological concern for world evangelism must be recognized and focused in the total curriculum of ministry training.
2. Partnerships at all levels and in multiple forms is essential for reaching the unreached people of the world.
3. Formal, non-formal and relational approaches to learning are to be seen as complementary rather than competitive.
4. The content of ministry training must uphold the uniqueness of Jesus Christ and the necessity of personal faith in Him as Lord and Saviour. This is especially imperative in the light of the increasing pluralistic environment which has been brought about by the resurgence of non-Christian religions hostile to the advance of the gospel, by the erosion of historic Christianity in the West, and by the increasing prevalence of secularism almost everywhere.
5. Ministry training must aim to produce practicing supernaturalists who minister effectively in the power of the Holy Spirit, relying on prayer and complete trust in the Word of God.
6. Basic to all ministry training is spiritual and character formation in the life of the student, in part facilitated by the example of the teacher.
7. Approaches to ministry training must reflect concern for the whole counsel of God wisely contextualized and sustainable by local and national resources.
8. Academic accreditation may serve to guarantee quality control and encourage institutional effectiveness. At the same time it should not be allowed to impede the spiritual and missiological thrust of theological education. Every effort must be made to assure that accrediting structures affirm and promote commitment to world evangelization.
9. Serious consideration should be given to the training of both husband and wife for their mutual effectiveness in ministry, and accessibility to ministry training broadened to include all who can benefit from it.
10. A permanent PAD track has been incorporated and another Consultation will be convened.

Looking to the future, we call upon college Presidents and Academic Deans, and commit ourselves, to put the vision of "a church for every people and the gospel for every person" at the heart of ministry training. We resolve to explore together new paradigms of partnership in theological education that training schools share their distinctives and resources to accomplish the goal of global evangelization. We shall continue to press the claims of the kingdom as we move towards the consummation of history and the coming of our Lord in the glory of God. Hallelujah, the Lord God Almighty reigns.

### *PAD Purpose:*

In a spirit of servanthood, the purpose of the PAD Track is to seek to encourage, motivate and mobilize Christian training institutions to focus their mission statement and academic programs on the Great Commission and to partner with the Church worldwide, to prepare workers with a vision to establish a church among every people group so that the Gospel is accessible to every person.

***PAD Objectives:***

The Objectives of the PAD track are to challenge the leadership of training institutions so that they will,

1. Clarify their respective institution's mission statement and implement a vision which will focus more on preparing workers to bring the nations to faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Consider how their institution may more effectively produce theologically literate, biblically saturated, and culturally sensitive graduates submitted to Biblical authority, committed to the uniqueness of Jesus Christ and motivated by the Holy Spirit to make Him known among all ethnolinguistic groups.
3. Seek to learn from and interact with others in leadership how graduates may be motivated to declare the glory of God and present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, so that evangelism, church planting, and bringing God's Kingdom values to bear upon society, will be seen as the basic essentials of Christian ministry.
4. Deliberately seek out ways to partner with others who are providing training, including institutions, mission agencies and churches, in order to take advantage of the unparalleled opportunities for worldwide evangelization.
5. Encourage and work toward the unity of the Church and coordination of ministry training, throughout our rapidly shrinking world.
6. Subscribe to the theses of the PAD Declaration.

***PAD Strategy:***

1. Network Presidents and Academic Deans (PAD) to reclaim the centrality of the Great Commission in training programs through international, national and regional consultations, in conjunction with churches and mission agencies.
2. Encourage and form partnerships with other like minded training institutions, churches with a cross cultural training focus, and mission agencies to implement the objective establishing a church among every people group so that the Gospel is accessible to every person.
3. Work through and with formal and non-formal PAD related associations, fellowships, church and mission associations to encourage acceptance and commitment to the PAD Declaration and Objectives.
4. Form regional committees to forward and commend PAD objectives to sister institutions, churches and mission agencies.
5. Encourage steps which will make missiological training more accessible to persons who could benefit from such training.
6. Foment the interaction of missiologically oriented theological educators, pastors and mission executives, from differing cultures, to enrich missiological training and enhance the unity of the Church.
7. Raise the missiological awareness of faculty members and pastors with regard to the fulfillment of the Great Commission, by encouraging cross-cultural ministry and exposure to missiological literature.

***CURRENT INITIATIVES:***

Although begun as a track of AD 2000 and Beyond movement, in 2001, PAD is now under the umbrella of the World Evangelical Alliance.

The International Coordinator, Dr. Phil Steyne of Columbia Biblical Seminary and School of Missions, who is in the process of transitioning the leadership to a new team who share the vision and passion of the ten theses of 1997 declaration.

The new leadership team will, Lord willing, continue to encourage key theological administrators to focus the total educational curriculum on the Great Commission.