

JOHANNESBURG 2000

TUESDAY, JULY 11

The first session of Johannesburg 2000 opened with the Africa Region leading in worship. Greg Crofford led in singing “He is Exalted”, “Majesty”, “Oh, How He Loves You and Me”, and “How Great Thou Art”. Enoch Litswele shared a devotional based on The Great Commission (“Go ye into the world . . . and teach them”) and John 13. He pointed out that education is a step ladder that brings the student to a higher level but that step ladder must also allow the student to go down to help the people. Paul Sueia closed the devotional time with prayer.

Al Truesdale officially opened Johannesburg 2000 with a time of greeting each other. He then introduced Jerry Lambert, Commissioner of Education, who carries a great burden, as well as a great passion, for education in the Church of the Nazarene. Jerry Lambert is an activist responsible for Johannesburg 2000. He sought the funds and vehicles to enhance education for the Church of the Nazarene.

As a part of his remarks Jerry Lambert shared video greetings from Jerry Porter, Responsible General Superintendent for the International Board of Education. Jerry expressed appreciation for the greeting, the thoughtfulness and the encouragement received from the IBOE Responsible General Superintendent and indeed the Board of General Superintendents.

Louie Bustle, Division Director for the World Mission Division, also sent video greetings. He, too, is very supportive of Nazarene higher education.

Jerry then expressed appreciation to Dr. Greathouse for his involvement in this event as well as each of the Regional Education Coordinators (RECs) and the Resource Institute for International

Education (RIIE), Enoch Litswele, and Ingrid Boudewijn who gave up some of her vacation in order to host our meeting.

Johannesburg 2000 is the fulfillment of a dream that began at the 1995 “Theological Education in the Two-thirds World Conference” held in Oxford, England. Three watershed events led to this event:

1. New level of global relationship where the ground is level and each participant is both a teacher and a student; sometimes leading, sometimes following but always listening to each other as we move beyond our own personal and provincial interests to become indeed global educators and global Christians, listening, leading, teaching, following.
2. Ability of a church to reach not only a new level of relationship but a commitment to a document that was called “The Oxford Affirmation.”

There were nine things to consider when looking toward the future of a global educational philosophy.

- A. The responsibility for Nazarene ministerial preparation is shared by all Nazarene institutions of higher education who offer such training, Office of the Ministry, and the various district boards of ministerial studies.
- B. All educational entities must be committed to equipping all the people of God for ministry to the whole Church in its mission to the world.
- C. All higher educational institutions of the church are equal partners within the International Board of Education. We affirm both the diversity and the kinship of our institutions. No attempt should be made to make all Nazarene educational institutions identical. Each should be enabled to become the best possible institution in fulfillment of its unique mission.

- D. The gifts needed for the understanding, analysis, design, and implementation of a Nazarene global strategy and system of education are endowed in the body of leaders God has chosen to lead His Church into the 21st century.
 - E. The institutions of the International Board of Education will be more effective as they are integrated more fully into a global network of inter-related institutions with the goal of moving beyond network to an integrated system of education.
 - F. Our mission requires multi-level education, from certificate to doctoral programs, delivered in multiple settings and delivery systems including various forms of distance education along with campus-based programs.
 - G. Nazarene education must take advantage of modern technology in resourcing and delivering theological education.
 - H. Missionaries, regional educators, pastors, and other ministers have a need and desire for appropriate orientation, continuing education, and programs for personal, professional and faculty development. That is the basis and foundation of the beginning for this event.
 - I. Nazarene Institutions around the world long for reciprocal sharing of resources and professionals from other countries and institutions. This resourcing can be done without invading institutional autonomy, while facilitating institutional development and the movement of institutions from primary dependence upon World Mission Division funding.
3. New resources to help us carry the vision - In the last couple of years, about 2.5 million dollars have been raised to carry out the exceptional new educational things taking place.

Jerry then offered background information that led to this event including the Oxford Conference. He highlighted the work done by the Nazarene participants during the evening hours, the questions by other participants about who we are, why we are so interested in education and, the relationships that have developed from those contacts. These contacts have

generated over 2.5 million dollars to do educational projects that would not have been possible with World Evangelism Fund dollars.

Al Truesdale introduced David Hayse who brought greetings from Louie Bustle, World Mission Division Director, and Fred Huff, Africa Region Director.

One of the first ideas that came from the RIIIE think-tank was to develop a “Global Registry” of faculty that would be willing to share their expertise in any educational setting. It was also recognized that these faculty members must be cross-culturally trained. While each faculty member would have his or her academic credentials it was also very, very important that the faculty members know how to share the information in another culture. These ideas led to the concept of a “Global Faculty” and an “Academy of International Education.”

This conference was NOT mandated. It is simply a conference that will deal with the heart and soul of the mission of the Church of the Nazarene.

It is NOT a conference in an attempt to find faculty members from a specific country that we can send to the rest of the world.

It is called GLOBAL FACULTY meaning that we are looking at the entire world as a resource that potentially could go to ANY location in our vast world.

Everyone here today is an EQUAL.

This, we pray, will be a time of unification of vision, purpose, and mission. Each of YOU is vitally important to this conference.

WE ARE TOGETHER.

Let us work together diligently over these days to find the creative ways that can meet the tremendous needs of a growing church.

Al Truesdale thanked Jerry Lambert and David Hayse for their remarks.

Why are we here? We are here because there exists in the Church of Nazarene a thriving, growing vision for:

- global partnership
- shared resources
- increasing equity in distribution of resources
- enhancing Nazarene education worldwide so that all the partners share equally in the possibilities for growth and enrichment

We are here because of a vision for what education can do to promote a truly global church. Education is a significant part of that process.

We are here this week to foster collegiality. As David Hayse said, we are equals. As Enoch Litswele said, we are servants one of another. Regardless of our cultural background, regardless of our place of assignment, regardless of the institution we serve, regardless of the titles attached to our names, we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Each of us, to use Enoch's terms, carries a towel and basin, and that is our principal identity.

We are also here to make plans for the future that will develop the ideas we generate this week.

You have heard a couple of terms or phrases tossed around already – a “Global Faculty” and “The Academy for International Education.” These are concepts. They are not bureaucracies. They are not concepts already frozen in stone. They are ideas.

One of the reasons for being here is to think about an effective vehicle for fostering global partnership and what that vehicle for fostering a true system of education in the Church of the Nazarene might look like. Each person’s contribution will be very, very important.

In a truly global church the resources will not flow in one direction. The resources will flow in all directions. Each culture, each person will have a significant contribution to the entire denomination. So I invite you, along with my colleagues, to pull a chair up to the table and join the conversation. Let us enrich each other and in so doing, enrich the church. May God indeed bring it to pass.

David Hayse and Jerry Lambert then presented a plaque to Ted and Joan Esselstyn for their education work in Africa. During Ted’s tenure, as the first regional education coordinator, he raised the education level in Africa as well as starting the first Nazarene university in Africa.

Following a break, Dr. Greathouse was introduced and gave the keynote address (see printed text).

Al Truesdale thanked Dr. Greathouse for his work. He also told the attendees that Jerry Lambert would make available to each participant a signed copy of “Love Made Perfect” and

“Wholeness in Christ.” The participants expressed appreciation for the book gifts from Dr. Greathouse and Jerry Lambert.

Jerry Lambert introduced the visiting faculty members from Nazarene Theological College who were present for Dr. Greathouse’s presentation. They were invited to join the participants for lunch.

Following lunch, Dr. Greathouse hosted an hour of theological dialogue.

David Hayse made a presentation on “Understanding the Culture of the Church of the Nazarene.” Following his presentation, he opened the floor for a question and answer time (see printed text).

Al Truesdale then sent the attendees to their first regional caucuses to discuss how an Academy for International Education might be shaped and how it might best serve the church.

Following dinner, the Eurasia Region led the group in an entertainment time.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Miller
Recording Secretary

