

# JOHANNESBURG CLOSING

**Tuesday, July 17**

We began with worship and theological dialogue eight days ago. If we were to evaluate our conference goals and whether or not we achieved those goals, we have to answer the question have we

- I. Explored and defined the role of the Academy for International Education and the Global Faculty;
- II. Have we expanded our vision of global education; and
- III. Have we found ways to promote faculty, curriculum and administrator development in the educational institutions of the Church of the Nazarene.

I believe that by adopting this statement, this affirmation, this summation, that you have just adopted a few moments ago I believe you would say we have indeed met the goals of this conference.

We came . . . 55 of us from the

1. North/South/East/West
2. Representing 132 countries and 57 institutions
3. We came as faculty members, staff, administrators from college, universities and seminaries; we came as pastors, district and regional leaders; both lay and clergy

Sometimes we were teachers

- Other times we were students
- Always we tried to "listen" to each other and validate the worth and fellowship of each one of us!

We will never be the same again – Johannesburg 2000 has changed us perhaps more than we know. We can never go back to our old worldviews and old world thinking. We've seen a bigger picture. We've also seen the significance of even minute cross-cultural diversity and we have come to love and appreciate it.

How was the time spent?

1. We ate together 26 times = approximately 26 hours
2. We slept 10 nights if you came in on Sunday – approximately 80 hours
3. Our mission: "Explore and define the role of the Academy and Global Faculty" = 10.5 hours
4. Our Vision – "To expand our vision of 'global education'" – cross-cultural training – 6 sessions = 9 hours
5. Faculty, Curriculum and Administrative Development – 15 sessions = 22.5 hours
6. Worship and Theological Dialogue - we invested 12.5 hours in worship and theological dialogue in 10 sessions
7. We played together 16 hours – including an African Safari. And for those of you who have been saying we never did play that's an average of two hours a day. When I'm home I never get to play that much.
8. We spent 8 days together investing 192 hours in each other's lives and in Kingdom work.

That means we worked and played together 176 hours. Now with 192 hours in 8 days I can't find 16 of those hours. I guess we just goofed off for 16 hours! I don't know what else to think.

The conference was put together in a collaborative fashion by chairman Al Truesdale with input from the regional education coordinators; and World Mission Education Coordinator, Bob Woodruff; the Resource Institute for International Education, Wilbur Brannon and Office of the Ministry is a part of that; and staff assistants Mike Vail and Barbara Najarian.

Joanie Doerr is serving as our reporter and Steve has been the gofer. He has helped us in many ways. Don Messer has been here and been a part of this as much as was possible for him.

And what about the African NCN staff. John and Kyle, our video and audio people. We appreciate you.

We appreciate the Good New Conference Center staff. We've been trying to express it as we go along and especially Ted Esselstyn; we never could have done it without you and all of the African people who worked so hard to host us. Let's give them a hand.

We value the Henry Luce Foundation, as well as a private donor, Jay Meador, for their sponsorship of this inaugural Academy Conference.

I want to thank each one of you. On the first day we met I thanked you for setting aside your personal agendas, other trips, and other work you had planned. When you heard about this and you got excited about it, you changed everything to be here. I don't take that lightly. The fact that you were willing to leave your families for a large block of time, we don't take that for granted. The fact that you have worked and worked and worked we don't take that for granted. Thank you for all you have done to make this conference a success. I want to thank you for

making this an Epic event with 21<sup>st</sup> century outcomes that will make a great difference in the future.

Two other things I want to do before I'm finished. One is to ask Ruben Fernandez to come. He is going to make a presentation on behalf of all of us.

Ruben Fernandez: We'll ask Al Truesdale to come join us. They asked me to give a gift to Dr. Truesdale and I'm really in the midst of a dilemma because if I do it Argentine style I will have to give him a kiss on the cheek. (This was greeted with applause and cries of "yea, yea") It is great that we can dream big dreams in the Church of the Nazarene. It is even more beautiful when these great dreams become great projects like this one, the International Academy in Johannesburg 2000. But always in front of a great project is a great leader. In our case God has given us a great leader to carry forth this great project. We are very grateful Dr. Truesdale for everything you have done to make this conference possible. I was able to meet Dr. Truesdale some time ago very quickly. But during this week I was able to get to know him better and see his passion and get to appreciate him a lot more. I want to motivate you and all of us, and as Dr. Lambert mentioned, we cannot go back any longer we must continue going forward.

Al Truesdale: Thank you very, very much. What a delight you have been to work with.

Jerry Lambert: I need to tell you that six years ago when I arrived at the International Board of Education office, the Commissioner's office, in Kansas City, I found a very small office with a little space for a secretary. That was international education in the Church of the Nazarene. As I looked around and tried to figure out how in the world could one do the great task that is before us, from this little space and a little vision, that would say is education really important. I want to

tell you that Al Truesdale, and he's not the only one but a significant one, came as a volunteer saying, "Whatever I can do and whatever way I can serve, I want to be a part of making a contribution with my life and any abilities or skills that I have. I'm at your disposal." And across these years, Al you have been a great help and support. You really represent other folks, volunteers. We've been a volunteer organization. Thank you so much. It has been a real privilege to work with you and to experience this conference, and lots and lots of other things God has helped you to do for us. Thank you.

The other thing I want to say is that not only have we worked with a great staff of volunteers but the General Superintendents really came on board with some educational agenda. We went to them and talked about the future and about serving you and resourcing you, and began thinking about how we could do that. The Board came to the table and said, "We will help you." That has made it possible for Mike Vail to come on board and to be a servant to all of you. It's going to be a different kind of relationship because I've said to Dr. Bustle; he can work for World Mission. I've said to Wilbur Brannon, in the Office of the Ministry, he can work for Office of the Ministry in Curriculum and modular design. And of course he will be involved in education in different levels.

We're hoping this will be kind of a new way of looking at the international center, in all of us being served by some of the same people and some of the same resources. I want you to know that things are looking up.

Then Dr. Bustle came forward and said. "You know, I'm ready to appoint a theological education coordinator." I said, "Well, its about time." We talked about it for about a year. As the name of Bob Woodruff came up again and again, the offer was made and Bob has accepted it. So you can see we have two PhDs who are now staff people working in education in a global way.

We have lots of volunteers who have come forward. It seems to me the future is not dependent upon on one little white haired guy and a secretary trying to take on the problems, needs and resourcing of the world. As you can see God is doing some very, very wonderful things. You can see NTS Kansas City has been right there to serve with offering people, offering to help in whatever way possible. I think it's very exciting to see what God is doing and what He is going to be doing in the future.

Now when you came to this conference you really didn't know you were going to get credit but you have earned 6 continuing education credits for the ministry. Wilbur's going to come and we will present these certificates publicly.

Wilbur Brannon: Before I pass them out, I want to take this opportunity to first of all to reminisce like Ron did. I well remember that 1989 General Assembly when the Commission Report on International Education was given and accepted and the International Board of Education was formally adopted. When Dr. Bill Sullivan, Director of Evangelism and Church Growth Division, stood and advocated that the office of Pastoral Ministry, which it was called then, should be included as a part of the international Board of Education. That was a very significant addition from my standpoint because I have, as you might guess, a real heart for pastoral education or clergy preparation. It was that year that I began to dream. I don't think any of you can imagine how I have been feeling as I've been sitting a couple of places, going back and forth (I lost one of my hearing aids on the plane). But as the processes were going on, I was being filled with emotions that can hardly be described because that year I gave birth to a dream. An unimaginable dream. An impossible dream but it came to me in the words "a dream to change the nature of clergy preparation in the Church of the Nazarene." Now I think you can understand the immensity, the complexity, the impossibility of that kind of a statement when you think of institutions as conservative and difficult to move as educational institutions are but I had

the support of my colleagues that energized me and energized that dream that began to unfold and began to take on concrete formation at Breckenridge in 1990. A dream I refused to abandon. A dream that grew and accelerated with each ensuing year. A dream that climaxed with a major piece of legislation overwhelmingly endorsed by the General Assembly in 1997 largely because it was a grass roots collaborative effort. The dream was caught by our education commissioner, even before he became education commissioner, which has brought us to Joberg 2000. The measure and pleasure and satisfaction could not be put into words as I observe and feel and am caught up in the spirit of Johannesburg 2000. A spirit that was so elegantly expressed by David Whitelaw and Norm Shoemaker in a document entitled “the Spirit of Breckenridge” Here I am, near the point of retirement. I could not bring myself to the closing of this chapter of my life with a greater sense of fulfillment as I look on your faces, as I feel this spirit, knowing that my successor in collaboration and partnership with Jerry Lambert will keep the spirit alive. I’m happy. I can’t do it like Leah can but I’d like to give that happy yell at the top of my voice.

You know we probably wouldn’t be passing these certificates out if it hadn’t been for the Africa delegation at the General Assembly in 1997. Some of you were there. I was in the committee where it practically gutted the legislation. There wasn’t anything left but shreds. Ted Esselstyn came to me and said, “We’re surprised. We thought the United States was in favor of continuing education. Our delegation would like to see it go through. Would you mind if we would bring it back up on the floor.” I said, “No.” He said, “Would you support it?” I said I would. They brought it back on the floor and I supported it. It was a very interesting kind of debate but we got it through by the skin of our teeth. There’s still one paragraph that you guys who go to the General Assembly must fix. I want to congratulate the Africa Region and the General Assembly.

I want to congratulate the following. I’d like you to receive these certificates. (Each participants name was called to receive their certificate)

I like to say that the thing that makes the Office of the Ministry and the Education Commissioner's office work so well in a complimentary kind of way is while the Commissioner is responsible for education in its broadest sense my office represents the credentialing side of the issues that involve clergy preparation and clergy education which keeps the educational institutions educating and the church ordaining. We must continue working together and make these things in a dynamic energetic collaboration, not subsumed one under the other but both contributing to the value of the other. It's a real joy for me to be here and I also want to say that the Board of General Superintendents have given great support for this way of working and for what we are about. Thank you very much.

Al Truesdale: We want to take a few minutes now to ask you to complete a survey, an appraisal of the conference. We have an evaluation form.

Mike Vail: There are two demographic questions on the survey. One is to identify the region where you serve. The second is to give your principle responsibility, whether you are a preacher, church administrator, teacher, or school administrator. I understand missionaries don't have one job. Most educators have a variety of jobs and you wear different hats during the day. Choose the primary one. These are to be filled out and returned to Diane Miller. Would you do that before you leave the building tonight please?

Al Truesdale: We are going to conclude by singing the great Wesley hymn "And Can It Be" but you're writing. We'll just wait a minute. Let's stand and sing. John Haines come and led us.

Following singing "And Can It Be" Bob Woodruff closed Johannesburg 2000 with prayer.