

# **INTRODUCTION PRESENTATION**

**Jerry Lambert**  
**Tuesday, July 11**

We have come from the North, from the South, from the East and the West. Over 132 countries of the world are represented as you come and sit at these tables for the beginning of Johannesburg 2000. As we sit here today, I was thinking each one of you has been especially selected by the leaders on your region to come and represent that region and the work being done on your region. What an honor for you and what a privilege for us to have you here to represent your region at this inaugural event of the Nazarene Academy to prepare Global Faculty. No one of you is here by chance or by happenstance. You're here providentially. You are here because God has guided in the selection of scholarly pastors, church leaders, professors, academics who guide Nazarene higher education literally around the world. You've come to be a part of this epical event. Thank you for moving aside your own travel schedules and work schedules to be absent from your loved ones and family for this block of time to give yourself to this, what I believe, most important agenda that God has for the Church of the Nazarene in this day.

We are privileged today to have greetings from two of our significant leaders who are not able to be here. Both were invited but were unable to come though both of them wanted to bless this event. We have greetings first from Dr. Jerry Porter who is the Responsible General Superintendent for the International Board of Education.

Greetings to the Johannesburg 2000 Global Faculty Conference. We celebrate the educational experience, concentrated talent and world view that each of you

brings to the table as you discuss, define and shape the Academy of Global Education in the Church of the Nazarene. On behalf of the Board of General Superintendents I am honored and delighted to commission, empower and encourage you in this paradigm changing vision. As global education visionaries, beware of arrogance. This is not really about you or me. It is about the hundreds of thousands, yea millions, of invisible men and women, boys and girls who will encounter God's eternal kingdom due to the prophetic ministry of servants who will be trained by the emerging global Nazarene faculty. So listen closely and deeply to each other. Let the Spirit guide you to collective wisdom. Above all, embrace the diversity.

The apostle's work was manageable when the New Testament church was primarily Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. The task of projecting orthodoxy and core values became more challenging when the Lord used a non-credentialed layperson to spark a great revival in Samaria. God further complicated the assignment when persecution catapulted the great dispersion of Christian missionaries throughout the known world. The church was surely doomed to splintering, isolated diversity.

Ah, but God's creative Holy Spirit enlightened concentrated, obedient leaders to develop unity and diversity. That is our challenge today. God often works outside our boxes and then stretches and enables us to join Him. Humbly learn of God wisdom from each other. Prayerfully launch a 21<sup>st</sup> century Global Academy that honors the rich cultural diversity of the church yet constantly testifies to the unity of one Lord and one kingdom.

Exclude no one from the educational training process. Rather embrace all whom the Lord may call, teaching them to observe all the Lord has commanded us.

By the way, try to be nice to Jerry Lambert and Al Truesdale. They are the best we've got and they are doing the best they can. Please have a great time. God bless.

I apologize for that. Dr. Porter does his own thing, as you know, and he didn't take instructions very well.

I think that might be one of the most important statements on education that I've heard in recent days. We are going to make that copy available to place in your hands. It is very significant and we appreciate so much the greeting, the thoughtfulness and the encouragement we have received from our Responsible General Superintendent and indeed the Board of General Superintendents.

The Board of General Superintendents received the Luce Foundation Director to their board meeting. The Board was excited about the Global Faculty and the Academy. They did a wonderful job in helping to present this to the director of the Luce Foundation and the funding for this event, and the next three years, came I think largely because of the great support that not only Dr. Porter but also the Board of General Superintendents has given to this project.

We are pleased now to have greetings from Dr. Louie Bustle the Division Director from World Mission.

I bring you special greetings from World Mission. We are so pleased what God is doing these days. Incredible movement – a movement of church growth. Thousands and thousands of people are being saved. As a matter of fact, over 1,600 people every day are coming to Jesus in the Church of the Nazarene through the Jesus film. We are so pleased at how the Lord is moving and how our people around the world are responding to the challenge that God has given them these days.

We are really committed in these days to winning 3 million new members by the year 2010. Think about it. Think what that will do for not only for your ministry, but in every country where we are working in the church. God is going to give us that kind of growth that will reach many people that we wouldn't otherwise be able to reach.

But in order to do that, we know that the commitment has to be for education. We're totally committed to education. We believe that it is our base. We're not only committed to educating our pastors but our laity. We realize that we've got to build a whole system of education to be able to train people for evangelism, discipleship and the responsibility of carrying on the work of each local church. Really, education is our base.

What you are doing in these days will help us to build that education base. Think system of education where we can take the seminaries and Bible schools to our people and train them in extension education but we can also get many people involved in education even in our residential programs. God is calling us in these days to do incredible things. Think about it. What He wants you to do in these

days. How He is going to help you in these days and, I believe, how He is going to help us in a worldwide ministry to impact this world for Jesus Christ. Education is one of the great keys to that.

I will be praying for you as you build a system of education worldwide.

May God's blessings be upon you.

You need to know that Dr. Bustle is supportive, not only when he makes a video but each day of the year, in the work of Nazarene higher education. Recently, he has brought on Bob Woodruff to work as Theological Coordinator and we welcome him. He will be a very important part of all we do in the future in Nazarene higher education.

For this event, I can think of no finer resource person and keynote speaker than Dr. William Greathouse, General Superintendent Emeriti in the Church of the Nazarene, theologian, pastor, college and seminary president, author of outstanding books and many articles and resources in our Wesleyan holiness movement. Dr. Greathouse, we welcome you and appreciate Mark, your son, coming and accompanying you. We are excited about your part in this event.

We also appreciate Ted Esselstyn, Enoch Litswele and Ingrid Boudewijn, who has given up a part of her husband's vacation. He has gone away studying and she is here to make this event possible. Much sacrifice is going into the accomplishment of whatever God wants to do in us and through us these days.

The planning of this event took place by the persons involved in Resource Institute for International Education (RIIE) working closely with the regional education coordinators. I think

I will ask these gentlemen to stand as I call your name. Ted Esselstyn from Africa, Ruben Fernandez – MAC, Danny Gales – Canada, Loren Gresham, who suffered a mild heart attack but was active in this planning, John Haines – Eurasia, Brent Hulett and Brent Cobb – Asia Pacific, John Smee – Caribbean, David Wesley – SAM, Bob Woodruff – World Mission Theological Coordinator, David Hayse – Resource Institute, Wilbur Brannon – Office of the Ministry, and Mike Vail of the Office of Education. Please give these individuals a hand in appreciation for their work.

The Academy for International Education is actually a vision that was begun by the scholars and church leaders that met in Oxford, England in 1995 to attend the “Theological Education in the Two-thirds World Conference.” From that event, this event and that event have become water shed moments for Nazarene higher education. That event has moved us through the last five years of planning and implementation of educational work.

Three different things have occurred that I might look at and you consider as a renaissance movement. First is a new level of global relationship where the ground is level and each participant is both a teacher and a student, sometime 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.

The second epical event from these two meetings is the 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.” I want to refer just briefly to some of the things the educators who gathered five years ago talked about and committed to. Then I want you to see how the thinking and planning those 18 from all over the world have happened, are happening and will be happening in the future.

They wrote “As the church enters Century 21 there are numerous factors at work in our global society and within the Church of the Nazarene that make it critical to develop a comprehensive strategy of theological education for ministers. Among the most significant challenges are: first, the church is experiencing rapid global growth in the context of rising educational expectations; second, the opening of many new world areas has created a critical need for pastors where we have no educational structures now in place; third, expanded areas of ministry demand new contextualized textbooks and library material for ministerial preparation beyond our current resources; and last, the mission philosophy of the church includes a conscious effort to develop strong indigenous leadership. This requires that emerging leaders be firmly grounded theologically and biblically and that they have resources and competencies to preserve the heritage of the church.”

There were nine things they wanted us to consider as we look toward the future as we think of a global educational philosophy.

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 its unique mission.

4. 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Nazarene education must take advantage of modern technology in resourcing and delivering theological education.
8. 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.
9. 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.

The second thing that happened as a result of the Oxford Conference is a new level of relationship that is demonstrated I think by our being here today and third, are new resources to help us carry the vision. We all know and realize that the World Evangelism Fund is not capable, because of our evangelistic thrusts and other costs, to do some of the things that need to be done. We have been going to outside resources. In the last couple of years, about 2.5 million dollars have been raised to carry out the exceptional new educational things taking place.

Let me tell you how we got started going down this trail of working with foundations and trusts. I mentioned the conference that took place five years ago. It not only impacted all of those who were present, and some of you are present this morning, we also had an impact on the attendees at that conference. There were 120 people and there were 18 Nazarenes. Most other groups had 1 or 2 representing them. We were there full force to get everything we could out of thinking for the future and planning for global education. We went to sessions all day from 8 in the morning until 6 in the evening. We had dinner and then we went to a hotel workroom and spent from 7:30 until 11 at night talking about networking and building a Nazarene system of higher education. For two weeks we worked literally day and night. Yes, we became weary. There was a little grouching, but not very much. Most of the educators were into the plan saying “Something great is happening here and we want to be a part of it.”

The interesting thing is that we were closely watched and observed as Nazarenes. People who had never heard of us before said, “Well, who are these people that they are so interested in education that they would spend day and night working toward their goal?” One of the persons who observed us was Phyllis Smith, trustee for the Maslin Trust. She sat with me one day on the bus being transported to Oxford for the day’s session. She said, “Who are you Nazarenes and what is it that you are doing that you think is so important?” As we began to talk and share, she said, ”Do you know who I am?” She said “I am the trustee for a foundation and I am looking for people just like you who are committed to missions and who are committed to education.” As a result of that meeting five years ago, and of her interest in your hard work she has been responsible for placing over \$650,000 at our disposal to do special educational projects. She continues her interest into the future.

When we went to the Luce Foundation to fund faculty development and this Academy she was one who represented us and spoke to the Luce Foundation on our behalf to help us find the funds and have the ability to accomplish what we are doing even here today.

I mentioned the Resource Institute for International Education (RIE) and some of you say “What is that?” It really is a think-tank. An opportunity to come together for dialogue and look at who we are and where we need to go in international education. It is sponsored by the International Board of Education, the Office of the Ministry, the Division of World Mission and Nazarene Theological Seminary. Al Truesdale is the chair; David Hayse is a member of that. These gentlemen are going to come and help us, as we further understand what we are about in these days.

Al Truesdale: David is the Assistant to the Director of World Mission and also the Director of Personnel in World Mission. He is a person of integrity and significant wisdom. He has been a very significant player in planning for this conference. We have asked David to make a contribution to the introduction of this conference

David Hayse: It is a privilege for me today to have opportunity to share with you at the beginning of this conference. I first bring you greetings from Dr. Bustle who was unable to be here today due to a prior commitment but he asked that I send to each of you his special greetings and his prayer as he mentioned in the video for this conference for he too recognizes the significance of this time together this week. As he stated, we are experiencing great growth in World Mission areas primarily through the efforts of the Jesus film. But his concern as well as each one of yours, Brother Litswele alluded to this, we must be careful to keep education moving along side with our evangelistic efforts. He is committed to that.

I also bring you greetings today from Fred Huff, Regional Director for Africa. He had intended to be here but is still in the States awaiting his work permit for South Africa but his desire was to be with you today.

This is an historic event in the Church of the Nazarene. A first time for this group to meet and, as has been alluded to, this has been the culmination of a lot of dreaming and planning over these last five years. As Dr. Lambert spoke a moment ago, about five years ago we began to meet in a collaborative effort with the commissioner of education, the Nazarene Theological Seminary, and Office of the Ministry and to work on the various educational issues. As we worked together we said, “We needed a title for this group.” That led to the title “Resource Institute for International Education.” Al Truesdale has done a magnificent job in leading that effort. This group has been primarily a think tank for the educational development of the church.

One of the first ideas that came from that group was to develop a “global registry.” It was an effort to identify faculty members from around the world who were willing to go other schools and share their expertise. The next step in that development was the issue that to be able to do that we needed faculty that were well prepared to minister cross-culturally. While each would have their academic credentials we knew it was very, very important that they knew how to take that and share it in another culture. From that need came the concept for a global faculty and an academy for a global faculty.

Daily many of you are faced with the need for more faculty. In a team effort today, and throughout this week, we are attempting to work together to find creative ways in which to meet those needs. This conference has been loosely structured in order to have plenty of time to explore the needs, the resources and the appropriate methods to develop those resources.

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 and purpose and our mission.

Each of YOU are vitally important to this conference

**WE ARE TOGETHER**

Let us work together diligently over these days to find the creative ways which 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 the 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. I like what David said, “We are equals.” I like what Enoch Litswele said, “We are servants one of another.” I must tell you that is a driving passion for me. 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 here this week to foster that collegiality. We are also here to make plans for the future that will develop the ideas we generate here this week.

You have heard a couple of terms or phrases tossed around already the two days we have been together. A Global Faculty. The Academy for International Education. Those are concepts. They are not bureaucracies, they are not concepts already frozen in stone. They are ideas.

Quite some time ago as we thought about global education, global partnership, an equitable sharing of resources in the church. In the discussion in the RIIE we began to think about a vehicle, and I use that conceptually now, through which we could foster the global partnership that we were dreaming. The very idea for the Academy for International Education emerged. I want to make it very clear here when we use this phrase, we are not talking about something that

has been already formalized. This week one of the reasons for being here is to think about what an effective vehicle for fostering global partnership, what effective vehicle for fostering a true system of education in the C/N what that vehicle might look like. So we are building that vehicle this week. Each person's contribution to that concept will be very, very important. We will be doing that both informally and formally in a directional way. There are times set aside for you on a regional level to discuss this particular concept. So we will be talking about it, massaging it, developing it.

We have also talked about a Global Faculty. That would simply be one part of this Academy for International Education. 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. I thank God that we are arriving at the day when we say that, know it and practice it. We are strategic persons in that session to make sure that that happens. It will not be enough for any of us to talk about what they ought to do. We are they. In good American language the buck stops here. You and I are responsible for bringing to pass what we dream and that for which we hope. We will do this not principally in our own strength but in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit. We do believe fervently that we are His instruments. I'm sure that you will share with me this conviction. The Church of the Nazarene is no end in itself. The Church of the Nazarene at best is one of many instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit. And we want this denomination to be one vehicle through which this world is reached for Jesus Christ. So I invite you, even as my colleagues have so eloquently invited you, pull up a chair to the table, join the conversation. Let us enrich each other and in so doing enrich the church. May God indeed bring it to pass.