



A PUBLICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

Praise the Lord! For those that may not know me, I am Rev. Bruce A. Howell, General Director of Foreign Missions. During my travels, I have met many of you. I look forward to meeting many others as the Lord permits.

“Global Connection” is my new quarterly publication that will serve as a communications link between us. It is for our leaders and ministers around the globe. I encourage you to make copies and share it with others. Thank you for your tireless work in the United Pentecostal Church International. I appreciate you very much. Blessings!

The Global Council Connects our World

Chris Johns, editor of the “National Geographic” (September 2005) tells of a photo he took while visiting Africa. It was of an incredible bridge built by the persistence of one man, Brother Crispin. In 1971, five people lost their lives while crossing the Zambezi River. Crispin worked on a mission and vowed to stop further deaths by constructing a bridge. He had little resources and no knowledge in bridge building. He started reading books, gathering cable, and enlisting help. In five years a 1,000-foot walking bridge was ready, overcoming an impossible task of connecting two sides of the river.

The Global Council endeavors to build such a bridge between the Foreign Missions Division, the North American Church, the six other

regions of the world, and each national organization affiliated with the UPCI.

The Global Council unites our universal family to fulfill the task of world evangelism. Leaders come together from around the world to ensure loyalty to, and preservation of, pure doctrine and holiness, and cooperation with an effective evangelism program to reach the lost world.

The *International Articles of Faith* of the UPCI provides the doctrinal foundation for all our churches. This council assures that no changes will be made to these universally held truths without input from those who would be affected.

The worldwide church is mobilized by a deep burden for souls. The Global Council seeks to provide the coordination of the whole gospel to the whole world by the whole church. A clearer understanding of fellowship and plans to work together will involve more people and finances to achieve world evangelism. National organizations affiliated with the UPCI are members of the Global Council and have the right to send two delegates. Be a part of the Global Council. It connects our world!

Why Connect with the UPCI?

Raymond Woodward, a UPCI minister wrote an interesting article, “Why I Belong to the United Pentecostal Church International.” He writes, “Our fellowship has retained the

apostolic pattern of doctrinal and lifestyle affirmation established in the first century, as represented by our Articles of Faith.” He feels our affiliation with this global organization of UPCI churches provides four central benefits (adapted here).

1. ***United force for evangelism:*** By combining spiritual energies and financial resources with other churches, we are able to fulfill the Great Commission.
2. ***Protection of doctrinal balance:*** We are bound together and accountable in areas of fundamental doctrine as outlined by our *International Articles of Faith*.
3. ***Cooperation without control:*** We all obey the *International Articles of Faith* but constitutions, bylaws, worship styles, etc. can be based on culture. Each national organization or local church is given freedom to operate as they see fit to reach their area.
4. ***Identity with other apostolics:*** Belonging to the UPCI allows each minister and member to connect with other apostolic believers around the world who are known for their commitment to Christ, His Word, Christian lifestyle, and the New Testament salvation experience. What a joy to make this global connection with millions of others of like precious faith.

Good Leaders Connect

Here is a short leadership lesson to teach others (adapted from *Management: A Biblical Approach* by Myron Rush). The ancient story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) provides five keys of connecting with organizational success.

1. Vision
2. Commitment and/or discipline to work on the vision or goal (vs. 3 – 4).
3. Unity (v. 6)
4. Effective communication (vs. 1, 6)
5. Doing the will of God (vs. 7 – 9). God stopped the project because they were not doing His will.

Nothing is impossible to a group that has these five elements at work. God stops or ignores organizations not operating according to His will. He closed the Tower of Babel project down. How? He confused their communication connection. Once the communication link broke, unity dissolved, commitment weakened, and vision fell silent.

Ever analyze organizational problems? They usually fall into four categories: lack of vision; lack of unity; lack of commitment; or lack of communication. Think about it. The lack of communication connection usually causes the other problems. Remember good leaders connect!

We Want to Hear from You

Next time, “Global Connection” will focus on church growth. We would like to hear of a brief experience or factors that caused church growth in your nation or local church. E-mail globalconnection@upci.org or send letters to Global Connection, 8855 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, Missouri, USA, 63042. We may publish your encouraging experience in our next edition. It should reach us before December 1, 2005.

