

Cross-Cultural Perspectives from the Director



Decade to Dare

Dare to Dream

At the last Executive Global Council, Brother Haney reminded us we need to pay the price for revival. He called us back to the preaching and way of the cross. Self-denial is the way to the heart of this world. He told a story of a communist boy, standing on a street corner, with tattered clothes, propagating communism. Someone walked by and said, "You're paying a big price for communism!" The boy responded, "When you're changing the world, no cost is too great."

Brother Haney told us, "Don't live one more day without a dream." He asked that we adopt the attitude that each of us has ten years. Imagine that at the end of that time the trumpet will sound. He asked, "How would we live? What would be our vision? What would we do?" He ended with a solemn thought, "The reality is we may have less than ten years." Brother Haney was a major impetus in the Global Impact project and projections. We, in the Foreign Missions Division, continue to press on with our goals in line with that thrust. However, we also need to seek out new horizons and experience a new dream of what other things can be done for the kingdom in the next decade: 2010-2020. Do you have 20/20 vision?

As this is being written, Christmas is upon us, and the calendar marking a new year, and the dawning of a new decade, is about to be turned. Several weeks ago I spent

considerable time reviewing my vision for an upcoming edition of the *Pentecostal Herald*. I want to give the next decade my ultimate best. It will be a decade to dare.

I dare to dream. I dare to plan. I dare to trust!

Florence Littauer in *Dare to Dream* taught a valuable lesson, reviewed by John Maxwell in his excellent book, *Put Your Dream to the Test*.

1. **Dare to dream:** Take the risk. Step out of your comfort zone.
2. **Prepare the dream:** All is well that is planned well. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.
3. **Wear the dream:** Let your dream become your life. Wear it every day!
4. **Repair the dream:** Maintain the dream. Make adjustments and repairs as necessary.
5. **Share the dream:** Pass it on! Give others ownership in the dream. Achieve great things together. Build a dream team.

Dare to Plan

While working as a missionary in El Salvador, I recall that the only year the church did not grow was the year we failed to set goals. It was a hard lesson well learned. It never happened again. To fulfill your long-term vision you need to set your short-term goals. Ron Blue in his book *Evangelism and Missions* suggests that such goals have five essential qualities. First-class goals are:

1. Simple enough to be understood.
2. Short enough to be remembered.
3. Sensible enough to be achieved.
4. Specific enough to be measured.
5. Stretching enough to be challenging.

Dare to Trust

When looking at the next decade it is easy to think of one word to describe it: "unknown." I love this famous poem, written by Minnie Louise Harkins and used in the end-of-the-year message of King George VI, in 1939:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied,
'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'

So I went forth and finding the Hand of God
Trode gladly into the night
He led me towards the hills
And the breaking of day in the lone east.

Dare to put your little hand into the mighty hand of our all-knowing God and walk into the unknown. He is in control. Someone said, "Those that see God's hand in everything, best leave everything in God's hand." I'm placing everything in God's hands but rolling up my sleeves to continue excitedly in advancing the kingdom. I trust you will step into the New Year, and new decade resolute with a dare to dream, a dare to plan, and a dare to believe. After all, it's your decade to dare!