

REBUILDERS



Spring 2009

In a time of great transition, upheaval, and change, people are searching for leaders who understand what is going on and can navigate troubled waters with a clear and solid biblical foundation. This February, Strategic Christian Services hosted the Business Leadership Intensive in California with the theme, "Successfully Navigating the Financial Crisis." The objective of the three-day event was to provide "real answers from a biblical perspective" and to equip those leaders who are positioning themselves, to provide desperately-needed answers for those around them in such a time as this.

Dennis Peacocke laid the foundation on the event's opening night by giving a broad scope of what the current economic crisis really is, as well as the inherent possibilities for the church as salt and light in the world. After a thorough examination of the Keynesian economic system that led us into the crisis we find ourselves in today, Mr. Peacocke stated that now is the time to engage in a dialogue around the real issues surrounding where we have put our trust. As Christians, we must

view this economic situation with eyes of faith, beginning with a biblical worldview which stands outside the tumultuous transitions of the world's system.

"Heroes arise out of crisis", stated Linda Rios Brook as she continued in the theme of preparedness, positioning, and strategy. The current financial crisis is a symptom of a deeper crisis of identity in our culture. The church has a unique opportunity to "be the answer to somebody's prayer" as Mrs. Rios Brook exhorted us to be. In a nation that has lost sight of itself, God is looking for a people who are prepared, prayed-up, and able to take the lessons of their past to change history. This is that time and we are to be that people.

Gerald Chester, Os Hillman, and Ron Coverson each gave greater detail to the theme and challenges presented during the conference with strong statements about finding our calling and inheritance out of our obedience (Hillman), responding to and navigating through turbulence in our homes and workplace with faith and security in God (Chester), and maintaining employment and competency by applying bibli-

cal wisdom in a rapidly changing work environment (Coverson). Each speaker provided very tangible and engaging questions for us to take with us into our spheres of influence.

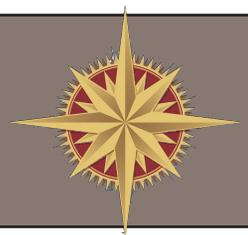
The Business Leadership Intensive supplied important keys for those who desire to lead and see the church take its place in a rapidly changing society. Mr. Peacocke emphasized that the current financial crisis cannot be dealt with or resolved by the liberal or conservative thinkers who led us into this mess, but through careful discussion and examination of the crisis' root structure. We would do well to remember the challenge made by Mr. Peacocke in one of his closing statements, "This is not a time for fear, except fear of the Lord. This is a time of repentance. This is a time for getting back into the Word of God. This is a time for examining 'what is a real church?' and 'how does a real church function?'" If we are ready, this is a great opportunity for God's people to be salt and light and to truly disciple nations. □

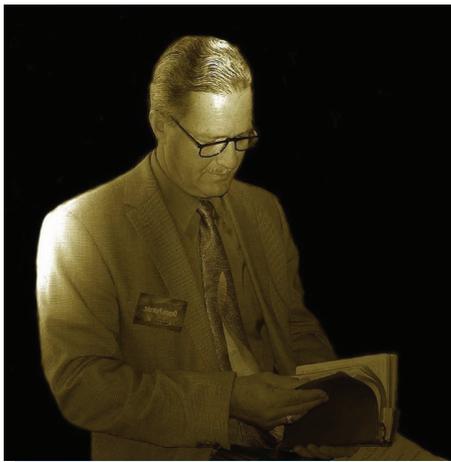
"This is not a time for fear, except fear of the Lord"



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SPIRIT TO SPIRIT

by Dennis Peacocke

Reformation: An Ultimate Challenge to the Church

“Reformation” is a word used in church history to describe the process whereby the church calls the citizens of a nation to reshape or reform their nation, by calling it to biblical values and the laws that encourage them. Reformation in the culture of a nation is almost impossible to achieve without a revival first taking place within a significant portion of the nation’s churches. In other words, a spiritual “critical mass” must occur within the people of God, which then pours out into the surrounding culture.

a “religious takeover,” and gives the culture confidence in the possibility and long-term viability of the changes it must go through to achieve that vision.

While each of these three necessary conditions warrants a lengthy discussion in themselves, the net of it all is this: in order for reformation to take place, the majority of a nation’s culture must buy into the church’s vision. Pluralistic democracy cannot be “taken over” by force. It must be won by a vision of something that promises the majority of its citizens a superior lifestyle. The significance of this fact is both enormous and challenging. We, as believers, must demonstrate and convince the unchurched that what we bring to them will give them and their posterity something worth the risk of change.

I have just given to you, in the broadest language, the mission of SCS and why we are placing such an emphasis on the web and other methods of effective communication with both the church and our surrounding culture. Strategic Christian Services is all about reformation and always has been. Now, however, we have a much greater set of tools and clarity of vision to help achieve our mission.

Reformation therefore requires a convergence of three conditions in order to create a catalytic change in the culture:

1. The church must embrace as a mission its mandate to “love its neighbor as itself”, by providing its neighbors a vision with a picture of a safer and more honorable and productive culture, based upon biblical principles.
2. Society must be sufficiently disillusioned with its current condition in order to listen.
3. The church, obviously under the power of God, must be able to connect the culture with the church’s vision for it in a way that disarms the fears of

PRAYER & EVENTS

Pray for the demonstration of God’s ways to be fruitful for the communities where we minister this Spring.

APRIL

Central American Summit
San Jose, Costa Rica
Guatemala City, Guatemala
Managua, Nicaragua
April 16-23

Business Leadership Intensive
New Zealand
www.businessleadership.co.nz
April 17-18

Kingdom Economics Summit
Austin, TX
www.kingdomeconomicsummit.com
April 22-25

MAY

Teaching & BLS
Vienna, Austria
Johannesburg, South Africa
Capetown, South Africa
Toulouse, France
May 14-27

JUNE

Strategic Life Training Intensive
Middlefield, OH
www.strategiclifetraining.com
June 17-21

CALENDAR

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

—Benjamin Franklin

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Perspectives by Jan Peacocke

Christian Charity

The word “charity” means “love” in King James English. It is the theme of I Corinthians 13. It also came to mean the ministry of “helps”, because that is how Jesus expressed His love so often in His life here on the earth He created. As Christians come to express Christ in them, it is often in actions done with His attitude of “charity.”

In American history, the demonstration of Christian “charity” became an unique component of our culture. Whereas Europe had and still does in many nations, a state church, the United States has historically had a “separation of church and state.” The very term was coined in a letter by Thomas Jefferson, where he was assuring that the government would not encroach upon our freedom of religious expression by establishing a state church. Until the twentieth century, the vast majority of public education, hospitals, and relief work was an expression of the Christian faith. It was not seen as a governmental function or responsibility.

Today when we are told the US does not “give” proportionally to a need, it is usually because only government funding is compared and not private giving. It is well known that private giving is much more likely to reach the purpose, and even considering fundraising costs, the fruitfulness of each dollar is greater. The presence of Christianity in the spirit of the “gift” is clearly of significance.

Why are we seeing a move to change this foundational element of our culture? Why would we limit charitable deductions to increase tax revenues, and then have government run the programs? What is the language strategy that speaks in an oxymoron about “paid volunteers” for one such proposal? And most importantly, why would we thus consolidate power in central government where we know the bureaucratic issues and powers that be are less successful?

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