

FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

ASIA PACIFIC NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NOVEMBER 17, 2008

RE-DEDICATION SERVICE

BIG DREAMS! GREAT FAITH!

INTRODUCTION

Little did I know in 1985 when I began to dream of a communication center on the Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) campus that the vision would develop into such a vital and vibrant center as witnessed today! To God be the glory!

In the early years of APNTS, I believed strongly that our training in communication should extend two ways: toward assisting pastors who thought that the radio was the primary means to evangelize their people; and toward connecting via technology with people groups in countries on the region not accessible to missionaries.

What has emerged over the past fifteen years far exceeds my “small” vision!

I am fascinated with the strong relationship between the APNTS Master of Christian Communication degree program and the Asia-Pacific World Mission Communication Center. Because of this collaboration, the potential exists to dramatically impact not only the Asia-Pacific Region, but also the global Church of the Nazarene, in making Christlike disciples in the nations.

Indeed, Christ will be proclaimed and His Kingdom advanced to levels we can now only imagine! Millions of people can hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Holy Spirit inspired plans and programs emerge from creative minds and servant

hearts shaped on this campus through this program. APNTS can be the graduate education center for Christian Communication professionals around the world!

Let us dream big, God-inspired dreams and be willing to pay the price to see these dreams come true!

MISSION

The Fairbanks International School of Communication (FISC) on the APNTS campus is dedicated to the mission of equipping pastors, missionaries and media professionals to effectively communicate Christ in the Asia Pacific region and beyond. This mission will be accomplished through formal education, non-formal trainings, research and publications.

PARTNERSHIP

The FISC, under the strong leadership of Professor Dong Hwan Kwon, seeks to educate professionally trained and culturally sensitive Christian communicators for the mission of the church in Asia, the Pacific and around the world. Over the next five years, the vibrant, mission driven Master of Christian Communication degree program, supported by the outstanding faculty of the Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary in partnership with the phenomenal staff and facilities of the Asia Pacific World Mission Communication Center will effectively equip dedicated and gifted graduate students in Christian Communications! These students will give a lifetime to the ministry of effectively communicating Christ across cultures.

They will also be prepared to equip others as Christian communicators across boundaries and borders! What a breathtaking thought!

A TWO-WAY STREET

This campus is dedicated to developing Christian servant leaders. Leaders who are gifted and trained for pastoral and teaching ministries and in mass and graphic arts communication. It is a two-way street. We learn from each other!

We need those who feel called to use their gifts and graces in the area of media development to have strong, solid foundations in the Wesleyan holiness theology. Media has an amazing ability to impact people...with either the right or wrong message! So our media developers need to produce out of a knowledge and understanding based in the best of our Wesleyan holiness tradition. Likewise, pastors, teachers and church leaders must be trained in effective, relevant, appropriate and culturally sensitive communication media.

This is why the International School of Communications and the Asia Pacific/World Mission Communication Center must be closely aligned. We need each other! Pursuing education doesn't stop once graduation takes place for the person completing a Master of Divinity degree or a Master of Christian Communication degree. Maturing in biblical theology and in communication education must continue *throughout* the career of the pastor as well as the media producer. Effectively communicating the biblical message of Christian hope to the largest number of people possible is at stake!

THEORY AND PRACTICE

Biblical theology and communication theory must be married to practical ministry in the local churches and in the media departments of companies and organizations.

APNTS, through the International School of Communication and partnering with the Asia Pacific World Missions Communication Center can produce graduates who are educated in solid theory and trained with practical ministry skills. Graduates of the FISC program can and will be prepared to accept projects immediately when they move to a new ministry assignment. Their excellent communication theory and principles have been processed through the practical application of the multiple intern assignments in the World Mission Communication Center. They are prepared to script, shoot, promote, distribute and use media ministry tools and the reasons why these tools, approaches and strategies are used. These students who will leave the Seminary with a degree and with experiences and skills to use media tools for ministry purposes on the first day on the new ministry assignments! We can do not less!

I believe that every person going into ministry in today's world, anywhere in the world, should have at least SOME background in the practical use of media tools in ministry...from using radio and television and internet, to PowerPoint or church presentation software. It seems to me in today's world, we need to send out every minister from APNTS with at least a cursory knowledge of how to use these tools in church settings.

I can see a time when the Seminary sends out pastors and youth workers trained in media production who can provide the Regional Communication Center with everything from raw footage to finished podcasts and video productions that find voice beyond the local church to impact multiple churches on the region on which they serve. Think of the implications of this vision for communicating the gospel across the cultures!

I also believe the FISC could have a significant impact on distance education, supplying a resource to other institutions around the world, and in turn, the FISC be supplied by teaching resources found in other areas of the world. The videoconferencing system on the APNTS campus is now being used! The FISC can increasingly prepare teachers and staff to utilize the video conference system for distance education in a much more comprehensive and profound way.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

I am thrilled to participate in a God inspired dream that has the potential to impact the world for Jesus Christ! Our needs are great and our faith is strong! Some of our immediate needs include:

- International Conference Center (NCEE 4th floor, \$50,000)
- Faculty Development Funding (\$20,000/ year, total of \$80,000 for four years)
- Four FISC Offices and Facilities (NCEE 4th floor, \$20,000)
- Student Scholarships (\$3,450/ one student/year)
- Individualized and Upgraded Media Lab (NCEE 4th floor, \$10,000)
- Strengthen Library Resources (\$30,000)
- Lectureships and Visiting Professors (\$10,000 / year)
- Hosting Regional Conference in Christian communication (\$20,000)

BIG DREAMS! GREAT FAITH!

These are big dreams requiring great faith! Our hope is in a Big God who inspire His people to respond to His plans! Our response must be, “YES.”

Yes, we must develop a spiritually mature, academically trained regional communication faculty who collectively has the expertise in the various areas of media studies. This faculty will be an asset to the global faculty of the Church of the Nazarene.

Yes, we must strengthen the graduate communication curriculum, diploma, and certificate programs so they that are theologically correct, biblically centered yet culturally sensitive in the twenty first century.

Yes, we must actively recruit promising graduate students from across the region.

Yes, we must host regional conferences for Christian communications that advance communication ministry and scholarship in Asia Pacific region.

Yes, we must prayerfully find local, regional, and global partners who share our vision, dream our dreams, provide the needed funds, and establish endowments to promote media and communication education in a Christian contest for the Asia Pacific region.

Yes, we must! Yes, with God’s enabling grace and divine guidance, we will!

THE DESPERATE NEED

Why? Because the Church of the Nazarene in the Asia Pacific region and the broader Christian Church is in desperate need of committed and gifted graduates to be media-minded ministers and future media producers, who communicate effectively by

ways and means that are relevant in the twenty-first century.

We give, support and sacrifice for the International School of Communication because we seek no less than the very best education possible in shaping the emerging servant leaders who understand how to communicate effectively to their present generation.

Collaboratively and collectively, we want to ensure that well trained, highly qualified, culturally sensitive, spiritually mature and spirit-filled Christians communicators depart from the Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary to pastor our churches, teach in our schools, lead our denomination and influence media organizations nurtured in the best of the Wesleyan-holiness theological tradition and the best in communication theory and practice.

We can do no less, IF we believe, really believe, in:

The Great Commission--to go and make disciples in the nations;

The Great Commandment--to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbors as our self; and

The Great Conviction—that there is only ONE God and ONE mediator between God and man, the person, Jesus Christ.

A GOD INSPIRED DREAM

The International School of Communication on the campus of the Asia Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary can be mightily used of God in the making of Christlike disciples in the nations. This is a big, God inspired dream!

Lord, bless this dream and may we see this God inspired dream come true by your inspiration, grace and guidance! Amen and Amen!

