

# MY DREAM FOR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION ACROSS AFRICA



MY JOURNEY IN TRAINING PASTORS AND MISSIONARIES FOR AFRICA & THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KWAZULU-NATAL MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

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# BACKGROUND

It all began in 1980 when Bishop Stephen Bradley sent me up to Namibia to conduct a Bible School for our churches in Ondangwa. It was fantastic. I was exposed to life in Africa which I had never experienced before and to the desperate needs for the training of Pastors for Africa where the church was growing at a pace of 150 000 new converts every day but where 70% of the Pastors had received NO theological training. The need was massive.

I came home a new man with a fire raging in my heart. Immediately I turned to the man who had influenced me more than any other – <u>Rev Murdo Gordon</u> the principal at the Bible Institute of S.A. where I spent 4 phenomenal years of Bible training. Every term he would fly up and spend a weekend with me and slowly KMBC was dreamed into a reality. We put together the curriculum and it would run exactly on the lines of the Bible Institute but with key components:

- 1. It would be geared to *Africa* an African College for Africa
- 2. There would **not be a requirement for a matric exemption** but open to anyone with a heart for God longing to be trained in the Bible.
- 3. There would be **NO fees**. It would be a huge venture of faith, depending on God to meet our every need in the same way that Spurgeon had started in "Pastors College".
- 4. Great emphasis would be placed on *Missions*

There was a huge amount of criticism; I was accused of being reckless, it was an impossible dream... but **God** has performed the impossible. We opened our doors in 1986 with Mike Emslie and Lynne Cameron as our first students. Over the past 36 years, the Lord has enabled us to train over 350 pastors and missionaries, mainly for Africa, but also some of our students are now serving in Pakistan, Indonesia, Paraguay, Cambodia, England, Australia and New Zealand. It's been the most thrilling experience ever. **The Lord has done more than I ever could have dreamt of**.

In this article I want to share with you my thoughts on:

- 1. The <u>Call</u> to the ministry
- 2. The <u>Training</u> for the ministry
- 3. KwaZulu-Natal Missionary and Bible College

After serving at Holy Trinity Church (now Christ Church) for 25 years the Church very kindly offered to send Mary and I anywhere in the world for a Sabbatical. I asked if we could visit John Mac Arthur's College/Church in Los Angeles and Dick Lucas ministry in London. My dream for KMBC was being lived out there and, I saw how my dream: could be achieved. I can never thank Holy Trinity for that amazing gift.

# 1. CALLING MEN OF GOD

It is a trustworthy statement; if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach..... 1 Tim 3:12

# a. <u>A SERIOUS CALLING</u>

The call to become a pastor is a serious calling. That is made evident by the way 1 Timothy 3 begins. The Apostle Paul used the formula "it is a trustworthy statement" of "This is a true saying" five times in the Pastoral Epistles. (1 Tim 1:15; 4:9; 2 Tim 2:11 and Titus 3:8). Apparently, that formula identifies an obvious fact, so we see the early church held the conviction that when a man aspires to serve in leadership, he desires a noble task.

Those early Christians knew that leadership is an essential part of the Church life (Acts 14:23; 15:22-35; 20:28-31; Phil 1:1; Thes 5:23-13; Heb 3:7; 17, Pet 5:1-5.

God has always called upon leaders to guide His people. In 1 Samuel 13:14 we read. "The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart". God told Ezekiel, "I searched for a man.... who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found no one" Ezek 22:30.

Samuel Logan Brengie, an outstanding leader of great scholarship and spiritual power, said leadership "is not won by promotion but by many prayers and tears. It is attained by confessions of sin, and much heart-searching and humbling before God; by self-surrender a courageous sacrifice of every idol, a bold, deathless, uncompromising embracing of the cross and by an eternal, unfaltering looking unto Jesus crucified.

It is not gained by seeking greater things for ourselves, but rather, like Paul, by counting those things that are gained to us as loss for Christ. That is a great price, but it must be unflinchingly paid by him who would be not merely a nominal but a real spiritual leader of men, a leader whose power is recognized and felt in heaven, on earth and in hell".

So, God looks for the noblest of men because the call to church leadership is a serious one.

# b. A LIMITED CALLING

You'll notice in 1 Timothy 3:1 the apostle Paul wrote, "If any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do: (emphases added). The office of Church leadership – specifically a pastor or an elder is limited to men. That conclusion is supported by Paul's use of the masculine gender in the context.

Earlier in chapter 2 Paul; said "let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet V11-12. In the Old Testament we read of no female priests. Although women such as Deborah and Miriam occasionally spoke for God, none of them had an ongoing prophetic ministry. In the New Testament we do not see women identified as apostles, elders, or evangelists. Nor were any books of the Bible written by women.

God has given women a different role in the church. Men and women are equal in spiritual privilege, capacity, blessedness and promise. Both are able to serve the Lord effectively. But the responsibility of overseeing the church is limited to men.

# c. <u>A COMPELLING CALLING</u>

Paul used two forms of the word desire in 1 Timothy 3:1 "if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do". "Aspire" (Gk. orego) means to

"reach out" or "strength", and refers to external movement. "Desires" (Gk.*epithumeo*) means "a passionate compulsion", and speaks of an internal drive.

The pastorate is a calling to men who have a passionate desire to minister. I never compel anyone to go into the ministry. A man must sense the calling of God as a consuming desire in his heart. He is not fit for ministry if he has not sensed the call or if sin in his life is muffling that call.

Commentator Patrick Fairbairn said "The seeking here intended.... must be of the proper kind, not the prompting of a carnal ambition but the aspiration of a heart which has itself experienced the grace of God, and which longs to see others coming to participate in the heavenly gift".

Jeremiah 45:5 says, "Are you seeking great things for yourself? Do not seek them". I fear there are people today becoming church leaders for their own benefit. That was not likely to happen in Paul's day because the risks associated with ministry then included death, hard work, little to pay, and tremendous persecution.

The desire is not to be for the office or the title of overseer, but for the work itself. Paul ends 1 Timothy 3:1 with the words "It is a fine work he desires to do". If you merely want the position or title of pastor, your desire is wrong. Your passion should be for doing the work of God.

Biographer C. W. Hall quoted Samuel Logan Brengle as saying "The final estimate of men shows that history cares not for the rank and title a man has borne, or the office he has held, but only the quality of his deeds and the character of his mind and heart".

Ambition for office corrupts, but the compulsion to do God's work for the welfare of His church and the glory of His name is worthy of commendation. Paul was obviously that kind of a man: "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel (1 Cor. 9:16).

# d. A RESPONSIBLE CALLING

Paul referred to a church leader as an "overseer". The Greek word *episkopos* has also been translated "bishop" which is unfortunate because the latter carries modern ecclesiastical implications that are not consistent with the intended biblical meaning.

It is a great responsibility to serve as a Pastor. Acts 20 says overseers "Shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood v 28).

The position includes preaching, teaching, caring for and disciplining everyone the Lord places under him.

In Greek culture an episkopos was a city administrator or financial manager. But a better analogy for one who oversees a church would be the *episkopi*, leaders of a monastic group of Jews known as the Essenes or Qumran community near the Dead Sea. Those leaders preached, taught and exercised care and authority over their people – they had a broad range of spiritual responsibilities.

One should not pursue the pastorate lightly. The pastor must understand the responsibility of ruling, preaching, teaching, caring for, loving and building up leadership in the church. He must set a pattern for example. So serious is the responsibility the Hebrews 13:17 says "overseers must give an account to God for their work".

#### e. <u>A WORTHY CALLING</u>

The highest calling a man can have on earth is to preach the Word of God. Paul says a man who seeks to become an overseer desires "a fine work" (1 Tim 3:1). He aspires to a noble task. That is a high estimate of the pastorate. British pastor Martin Lloyd-Jones said, "To me the work of preaching is the highest and the greatest and the most glorious calling to which anyone can ever be called. The pastorate is truly a noble calling.

# f. DEMANDING CALLING

Paul also referred to the overseer's role as "a fine work" (emphasis added). A pastor is not merely an honored dignitary; the Lord has called him to a life-long task. Paul told Timothy. "Do the work of an evangelist". (2 Timothy 4:5, Ephesians 4:12 says church leaders are to equip the saints "for the work of service". Serving the Lord is hard work and requires diligence.

### g. <u>A HOLY CALLING</u>

First Timothy 3:2 begins, "An overseer, then must be above reproach". Only a holy man can fulfill the requirement of church leadership.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The call to church leadership is a serious, limited, compelling, responsible, worthy, demanding and holy calling. At KMBC we ought to be dedicated to training men and women of God who fit those qualifications. Our faculty ought to be all men of God, men of the Word and men of excellence who take seriously God's call to train the next generation of godly leaders to guide the Lord's church.

# 2. TRAINING MEN OF GOD

# **INTRODUCTION**

Our unprecedented times demand a unique, biblically orientated training ground for pastors. The 1980's are spiritually charged with opportunities to advance God's kingdom and with the expectancy of Christ's imminent return. But they are also filled with political, military and economic uncertainty. More than ever we are confronted by the darkness of Satan and hell. But ... if you have a new world you need a new Bible College.

Epochs like these have always provided the stage on which God performs great works for His own glory through a redeemable people committed to His eternal purposes. Never have the opportunities been greater, but never have the obstacles seemed as formidable as the church approaches the third millennium. With that in mind, the imperative to train up a new generation of godly leaders for Christ's church is critical.

In the context of Scripture's charge to church leaders (1 Tim 3) and the biblical mandate to run the race of ministry in winning style (1 Cor. 9:24-27). I share the following with you.

a. We pledge ourselves to adhere unswervingly to our founding purposes of training partners to shepherd and equip Christ's church. We came into existence to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ by equipping men to serve Christ and His body with excellence. We must never lose sight of that purpose, for we do not want to detour from our original biblically charted course.

- b. We pledge to keep ourselves faithful to its biblical foundations. Everything we say and do is based on God's inerrant Word, developed through the exegetical process and proclaimed expositionally. Our instruction must encompass the best of reformational theology. Our curriculum must constantly reflect scriptural absolutes so we never deviate from God's truth.
- c. We pledge ourselves to enrich our faculty leadership. Every member of the faculty fits a fivefold profile. They are all men of God, men of the word, men of scholarship, men of Christ's church and men of compassion. We must hold them and they must hold us accountable to those qualities so we will continually model the example of Christ and never of anyone else.
- d. We pledge to insist on an educational philosophy that is consistent with Scripture. The following guidelines will help shape that emphasis:
  - 1. Major on biblical certainty not doubt or theory.
  - 2. Strive for spirituality in our students, not mere intellectualism.
  - 3. Prepare men to serve the Lord, not merely to know about the Lord.
  - 4. Emphasize a methodical, disciplined approach to studying Scripture rather than using a haphazard approach.
  - 5. Encourage excellence and never accept mediocrity.
  - 6. Expect the faculty to be examples, not mere experts.
  - 7. Stress the imperative to function in the body of Christ, not merely function as an individual.

This educational philosophy will enable us to produce servants of Christ and avoid the constant temptation to train mere scholars.

e. KMBC pledges emphasize the well articulated goals. The personal goals are two-fold: spiritually we desire to cultivate a holy, intimate relationship between every student and God; socially we want to produce compassionate men who have gracious relationships with others.

The personal goals include equipping our men to study God's word with precision, speak God's message with power, serve God's purpose with zeal, shepherd God's flock with care, and fight God's battle with courage. Only by maintaining these personal and pastoral goals will we build the complete man of God.

f. We pledge to lead KMBC in the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, who held every aspect of leadership in balance. He walked behind as a servant, walked alongside as a brother, and walked ahead as a God appointed leader. Christ must always be acknowledged as the pre-eminent head of KMBC.

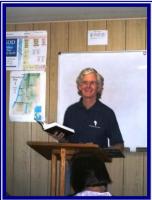
These six pledges must be non-negotiable. To deviate from them would result in subsequent self-destruction that has claimed many seminaries that once held to a like precious faith. With the strength of Christ, promise to protect our College from its foes and advance the cause of Christ through its contribution.

Carl F.H.Henry noted elder statesman of the conservative faith, recently challenged our generation of Christian leaders to shift our focus from the great achievement of evangelicalism in the past to evangelical courage in the future. Believing that "I find my sufficiency alone in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – and that by God's word have been equipped for His work. I am committed to obeying the Master and to serving the college with the same courage Paul sought to instill in Timothy, "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline "2 Timothy 1:7).

## CONCLUSION

I have given my life to this calling for the past forty years; training pastors and missionaries for Africa, with the emphasis being on the **Bible and Missions**.







I love what MARTIN KAHLER wrote:

"Missions is the mother of theology"

In addition, DAVID BOSCH wrote:

"Missions must neither be incorporated into the familiar theological stream as simply a dimension of each, not left as a quite separate subject. Instead missions needs to be both dimensional (ie. integrated into and in close dialogue with Biblical studies, Church History, Theology) and intentional..... we need a rediscovery of the missionary value of the church". Missions is foundational.





KwaZulu-Natal Missionary & Bible College ~The College with a heart for Africa ~

What a great name...... missions and the Bible are foundational. I began with our two students in 1987, no money and no Campus, but over the years our curriculum has evolved around these **six key** components:

The Bible, Learning from the Past, Practical Christian Living, Ministry Skills, Christianity in the World, and Missions.

#### A. OUR CURRICULUM: Subjects Offered

#### The Bible

All Old Testament Books All New Testament Books Biblical Theology – Systematic Theology Calvin's Institute Introduction to the Bible Old and New Testament Surveys Works of Jonathan Edwards Hermeneutics & Exegesis

#### Learning from the Past

Great Church Leaders of the Past Church History

#### **Practical Christian Living**

The Family Prayer Learning and Living the Christian Life Spiritual Maturity

#### **Ministry Skills**

Sunday School Counselling Personal Evangelism Pastoralia Youth Ministry Leadership Church Administration Preaching & Homiletics

#### **Christianity in the World**

Sects and Cults Ethics Archaeology Apologetics Philosophy World Religions

#### Missions

Church Growth Missiology Mission Biographies Developing a Passion for Pioneer Missions

# STUDY OPTIONS

- 1. **FULL TIME** Diploma in Ministry Diploma in Theology Diploma in Pastoral Theology
- 2. PART TIME Certificate in Theology Certificate in Ministry
- 3. **<u>DISTANCE STUDY</u>** Certificate in Theology
- 4. DIPLOMA IN MISSIONS One-year

As Spurgeon said of his "Pastors College":

"The College aims at training preachers rather than scholars".

Since our inception in 1987, by God's grace, we have stood true to our aims and objectives. These are to provide a college for men and women who long to be theologically trained, but who lack the education and/or the financial resources to study further. As a result they are often unable to obtain access to most educational centres. We believe that lack of funds and even a limited education should not be impediments to those who have a heart for the Gospel. We therefore have given the past 34 years to provide solid Biblical/theological training for those such people, training and equipping people for ministry, especially into Africa.

KwaZulu-Natal Missionary & Bible College (KMBC) is therefore a non-denominational, international, and evangelical College with the following goal:

To serve the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ by preparing leaders who accurately interpret the Bible, Live out its truth, and communicate its message to Africa and to the whole world.



### B. OUR CAMPUS

When I opened KMBC, I was also the rector of Holy Trinity Church so we were able to use all of the facilities which was wonderful. But slowly the Lord has given us such a lovely, warm campus. It al began with <u>Christ Church Sheffield</u> in England who gave us the money to purchase what is now Charles Simeon House. The <u>Heart of Africa</u> donates us money to erect the library and Gerda Dedekind Dormitory and Christ Church Pietermaritzburg very graciously allow us the use of Fred Pieterse House. All the lectures take place in 2 Park Homes so it is all perfect...... and we don't owe any money with all the maintenance being done by the students. Thank you Lord ...

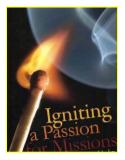


# C. <u>OUR LECTURERS</u>:

All our lecturers are godly, evangelical men and women and very kindly give of their time on a voluntary basis. As the principal, I also draw no salary; the only staff who receive a gratuity is the two secretaries and our wonderful cleaner. This is fantastic and keeps costs to a minimal. People are always shocked to hear how we keep going on such a small budget.

#### D. <u>FINANCES</u>

From our inception, thirty-four years ago, we have not charged fees or make any appeals for money. Amazing friends and the faithfulness of God continue to meet our every need – this miracle continues to overwhelm me at times. To God be the glory. I try to follow Francis Schaeffer's example when he started "Labri – *only make your financial needs known to God".* 



So the little spark, which was lit in 1980, has now grown into a raging fire. By the grace of God over 350 pastors and missionary have now been trained mainly for Africa, 120 new churches have been planted, 65 mission trips have been made into Africa encouraging our part students and equipping partners and now all my lectures and sermons over 40 years have been put on to the website, providing free resources to those in need.

As Spurgeon said

"No work can possibly confer a greater benefit upon mankind than the training of Pastors whom God has chosen".

# To God be the Glory

