



A glimpse of the...

GLOBAL
PROCLAMATION
CONGRESS
for
PASTORAL
TRAINERS

June 15-22, 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

A ministry of RREACH

Countries Represented at the GProCongress





The Global Proclamation Congress Overview

My dear friend,

In 2010, RREACH launched a 10-year human capital campaign called the Global Proclamation Commission. The mission: 100,000 more and better-trained pastors by 2020, contributing to our vision of spiritual health for One Billion Individuals by 2030.

As part of this campaign, we spent more than four years planning for the Global Proclamation Congress for Pastoral Trainers. We prayed that the right kind and most number of participants would be present. We cried out to the Lord, who accomplishes all things for us.

God moved in a mighty way in Bangkok, Thailand, June 15–22, 2016, blessing the historic Congress. More than 2,500 participants from 101 countries gathered in a unity of purpose: to accelerate the training of pastors globally for the sake of delivering spiritual health worldwide to large numbers of individuals. Four great realities drove us to action:

- (1) The world population has reached 7.4 billion people, and efforts to reach them with the Gospel must accelerate along with population growth.
- (2) Each day, 50,000 new believers are baptized, creating a need for 1,000 more trained pastors to shepherd them well.
- (3) In the next four years, 5 million new faith communities are to be planted. Yet, up to 70 percent of them could fail in the first year.
- (4) While at least 2.2 million pastoral leaders are functioning as shepherds, only 5 percent of them are trained for pastoral ministry.

The GProCongress stood apart as the first large-scale, global and strategic conference focused solely on pastoral training. For the first time, pastoral trainers from both formal and nonformal sectors were gathered in large numbers to build community, explore opportunity, discover resources, and exchange encouragement.

The Global Proclamation Commission for Trainers of Pastors

This global gathering—a connecting, resourcing, and strategy-building event—served as a launching pad for what is to come: the acceleration of quality pastoral training over the next four years. Delegates were asked to affirm that during this time, each would train, on average, 25 pastors per year and also raise up two more pastoral trainers per year.

We are well on the way to accomplishing this great work. So far, delegates have pledged to train nearly 100,000 pastors in the first year alone.

Praise be to God, and thanks be to you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ramesh Richard'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

ramesh richard, phd, thd
president, RREACH
professor, Dallas Theological Seminary



The CORE of the GProCongress

Community, Opportunity, Resources, Encouragement

Biblical preaching and interpretation. Engagement with the arts. Pastoring in persecution contexts. The topics were abundant and diverse, and in every area, men and women involved in all types of pastoral training around the world were able to discover the CORE of the Congress: community, opportunity, resources, and encouragement.

The participants took to heart Dr. Richard's exhortation: "This is a working Congress, not an inspirational event. It is a working, planning, thinking, praying event." Each morning began with prayer and exposition of 2 Timothy. Plenary, praise, and panel sessions followed. Each day, participants gathered in the exhibit hall, eager to meet with their strategic table groups. Each afternoon, they divided out into eight tracks moderated by experienced leaders, and they drilled down to specific issues and innovations in eight areas of pastoral engagement: **biblical, theological, spiritual, missional, cultural, educational, obstacles, and opportunities.**

Over the next four years the strategic follow-up plan of the GProCongress, the Global Proclamation Commission for Trainers of Pastors, will continue to act as a conduit between formal and nonformal training initiatives and will open avenues to champion best practices, address key challenges, grow strategic affiliations, and highlight new opportunities, all within an increasing global awareness. This process will ensure ongoing implementation of the four CORE goals well into the future.

The CORE Goals

Build Community

- Establish new connections across the pastoral-training spectrum
- Build bridges between the historically separate formal and nonformal training sectors
- Form expanding "communities of interests" around relevant issues in pastoral training, with membership that traverses organizational/national affinities and the "profession vs. experience" divide

Expand Opportunity

- Revisit current ministry models and explore potential partnerships
- Hear already-developed solutions to common challenges and "catch up" to where pastoral training is going
- Actively participate in the roundtable of contemporary ministry architecture (after centuries of leadership primarily comprised of missiologists, missionaries, theologians and organizational leaders in world evangelization)

Discover Resources

- Document personal, organizational and institutional resources available for local, national and regional pastoral-training initiatives
- Learn "best practices" for strategic execution, capacity building, educational methodology and curricular content
- Connect with those who might have vision and financial resources for pastoral-training needs

Exchange Encouragement

- Recognize and identify with the global presence and effects of pastoral training
- Experience powerful celebration, instruction and networking that will motivate ministry endurance and multiplication
- Bond with colleagues from all over the world who don't question the value of what they do



Personal Glimpses



“A strong church that will have impact will empower people.”

“Our influence must outlive our ministries.”

—Bishop Mosa Sono,
Founder & Senior Pastor, Grace Bible Church,
South Africa

“In my opinion, the outcome of the Congress surpassed many times the predictions and efforts. Even if just 25 percent of the participants remain faithful to the resolution of the Congress, the effect on the church and church planting in the next ten years is going to be substantial. I am so glad that I was part of it.”

—Dr. William Subash,
Professor, South Asia Institute of
Advanced Christian Studies,
India



“A society that leaves aside the teachings of the Word of God—or worse, the God of the Word—is one that is classified as an unhealthy society.”

—Dr. Jesus Sampetro
Cofounder, Global Leadership Consulting,
Venezuela



Testimonies

“The Congress has given me a wonderful opportunity to encourage others and to be encouraged to train pastors. I want to thank Brother Ramesh for letting God use him and for having such a Congress.”

—KD, pastoral trainer, Central Asia

“I found with my group that they are so encouraged to have some sort of structure and some sort of support from such a huge Congress. They feel they can benefit from the plans and goals and so on, and they’ve never actually done this before. It’s a totally new thing for them to actually sit down and plan and put some figures in and some goals in, and they’re so excited by it. ...And they were excited because they were the ones that came up with the solutions.”

—Louise Jane Cunningham, Coach, Australia

“Our people are looking to politicians to bring change. But God in heaven is looking to you pastors and churches to bring change. You are the light. You are the salt of the earth. You are the health of our society.”

—Delanyo Adadevoh, Vice President of Global Leadership, Cru, Ghana

“I have been to several conferences in my pastoral life. Many gave theory and lots of irrelevant material. But the Congress has been an intensive, life-changing congress. It’s very transforming and has focused me and ignited me by equipping me to implement, to share the life of Christ practically. Very real, very personal and engaging.”

—Leonard Elisha Skumba, pastoral trainer, Zimbabwe

Interpreters: A Technological Pentecost

Eleven gray booths lined up inconspicuously against the right-hand wall of Hall 9 of the Impact Center. In these soundproof boxes sat individuals who, as a group, were a multilingual mouthpiece for each speaker. These interpreters overcame language barriers that otherwise would have made participation in the Congress impossible for nearly half of the 2,500 delegates.

It was a role that each one of these seasoned professionals took seriously. One of the Chinese interpreters summed up the responsibility this way:

As an interpreter, the most comforting thing is that we help the Chinese brothers and sisters get all the meanings the speakers intended to convey to the audience, with no discounts. Interpreters are a bridge bridging people from their country to the rest of the audience. Because of what we do, they can truly be a part of every meeting, understanding others and being understood.

...One sister said I caught the flow of the speakers and gave them the same power and moving of the Holy Spirit as the speaker did to the English speaking audience. I thank God for that.

Another one of the talented linguists said he glanced down the row of booths while he was on break and teared up as he saw the speaker's message translated simultaneously into 11 different languages. He felt as though he were watching a "technological Pentecost."

Unity is a vital part of the body of Christ. It's the central focus of our Lord's prayer in John 17:20-21:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

Tools, resources and encouragement extended far beyond one language's reach as this interpretation team facilitated conversations between those who otherwise would have no mutual understanding. This trend will continue throughout the GProCommission through the ongoing interpretation help at GProConneXt.com, bridging the gap between people who speak different languages.



Global Communion Service: A Glimpse of Heaven

Pastor T sat at the airport, a bead of sweat dripping down his face. The flight to Bangkok would leave within the hour. He had endured two long journeys and immense adversity from embassy officials to gain a visa for Thailand, yet here he still waited, desperately, for it to arrive.

Pastor T knew God was calling him to go to the GProCongress. God had shown him the cost of untrained pastors in his area. He knew Bangkok was where he must go to increase the health of the churches in Cameroon, even if the only person from his congregation to understand his persistence and sacrifice was his wife.

Ten minutes before takeoff, his visa came.

When he arrived in Bangkok, Pastor T met others like him who labor on this earth for their love of Jesus. He met Pastor A, who trains pastors in rural India where no work or tithes are available to support their ministry. He met Pastor J, who trains pastors to mediate reconciliation in a country scarred by genocide. He met Pastor M, who was dismayed that some of the pastors he trains in his area of Kenya didn't even have a Bible.

On Sunday morning, Pastor T entered the expansive exhibit hall for communion. These pastors he had met and many other men and women like them filled the space wall to wall. There were two Nepalese pastors just released from jail, a Thai woman who cares for 153 orphans, and a Chinese woman who teaches the Gospel through her English school. There were leaders of seminaries, pastoral training resource distributors, volunteer coaches, staff, funders and facilitators. Thousands of saints from a hundred countries and many tongues.

The words to "How Great Is Our God" rose in a multitude of languages, unified by melody and praise. A roar of voices ascended, declaring:

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and might and honor and glory and blessing. (Rev. 5:12)*

Tears flowed and cheers rose, as they shouted:

*and behold, a great multitude . . .
from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb. (7:9)*

Pastors, trainers, believers, saints—with love from on high, these served one another the body and blood of Christ.

Pastor T had come for connection; he experienced a glimpse of heaven.



Follow-up: Building Strong Steel Girders



If Jesus is the foundation and capstone of the Church, then relationships are its steel girders. Thus it was no accident that the reunion lunch of graduates from the Dallas and national Global Proclamation Academies (GPAs), held at the Miracle Grand Hotel in Bangkok midway through the GProCongress, overflowed with joking and camaraderie. Rather, this outcome was the intentional design of RREACH and the GProCommission to *connect, unite, and strengthen* 100,000 pastors worldwide.

These graduates not only increased their ministry skills during their respective GPAs, but they also formed deep, lasting friendships through cohorts that support one another, facilitate larger growth, and span long distances. This same kind of steel-girder connection, on a larger scale, was a primary goal for the GProCongress and its integrated, four-year follow-up.

Unlike participants of other conferences, who go away from the event with ideas and a few business cards, those who came to the GProCongress go forward into the next four years as part of a strong, global framework. The relationships that began during the intense week of strategizing will continue to connect them to each other and to a network of resources, unite them in purpose and vision, and strengthen their spirits to complete the mission.

The Global Proclamation Commission for Trainers of Pastors

The next four years will see the continued building and maintaining of the infrastructure of these vital relationships through GProConneXt.com, a robust online networking platform. Already, many participants have connected online, downloaded resources, and posted updates regarding their pastor training pledges. We expect the momentum to grow.

We have created online communities of interest for knowledge and experience sharing. We have provided translation tools for conversations, and we are adding resources regularly for the benefit of all. Coaching relationships for strategy and accountability that began during the Congress can also continue online, helping both individuals and groups find ways of implementing the vision in their unique contexts.

We are invested in ensuring that the network stays strong. Therefore, we are reaching out to the community at regular intervals to stir up the flames and help participants remember their commitments, our unity of purpose and our connection as friends.

With this effective follow-up, we will pursue our measureable outcome: 100,000 connected, united, and strengthened pastoral leaders and 20,000 more pastoral trainers ministering in 200 countries by 2020.







ACCELERATING CHURCH HEALTH WORLDWIDE



**“PASTORAL HEALTH AFFECTS CHURCH HEALTH.
CHURCH HEALTH AFFECTS SOCIETAL HEALTH.”**

-Ramesh Richard



REACH

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