

# CONGRESS OF EVANGELICALS IN THE CARIBBEAN

## Closing Plenary, October 29, 2009

Bishop Gerald A. Seale © 2009

### ENIGMA

<b>ORGANISM</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
<p>Born in Holy Spirit – what a moment!                      Inextricably linked to Holy Spirit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Laying on of Bishop’s hands in confirmation</li> <li>- Baptism in the Holy Spirit</li> <li>- Entire sanctification</li> <li>- Quickening at new birth</li> </ul> <p>Samuel Ngewa – organism more important                      Without organism the result is dead legalism</p>	<p>Exploding growth of fledgling Church                      Acts 6 – appointment of deacons                      Acts 15 – First Global Conference                      Apostle Paul appointing elders                      2000 years of institution building                      Management of resources                      Policies and procedures                      Roman Catholic Hierarchy                      New hierarchies in Evangelical Movement                      Without organisation result is confusion</p>
<b>LOCAL</b>	<b>GLOBAL</b>
<p>Born in a local context                      Best known aspect                      Delivery of astounding array of ministries                      Local – discipleship, fellowship, ministry</p>	<p>Global mandate: Matthew 28:17-19; Acts 1:8                      Christopher Columbus                      David Livingstone – commerce, Christianity, civilisation                      William Carey: “Young man, sit down: when God pleases to covert the heathen, He will do it without your aid or mine.” – 40 translations of Bible, college, ending widow burning.                      Response to mandate, “Both”</p>
<b>VISIBLE</b>	<b>INVISIBLE</b>
<p>Cathedrals and chapels                      Hospitals and schools                      Orphanages                      Radio and TV Programmes                      Pervasive ministries                      Hebrews 10:25, Not forsake assembling</p>	<p>The persecuted Church                      Matthew 7:21-23, “LORD, LORD ... depart ... I never knew you.”                      2 Timothy 2:19, God knows who are His                      The wheat and the tares – look alike but will be separated at harvest</p>
<b>UNITY</b>	<b>DIVERSITY</b>
<p>One Church – many congregations                      Jesus is monogamous                      Ephesians 4:3-6, one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father.                      Basis: Ephesians 4:2, “Lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love”                      Gethsemane prayer – John 17:20-23</p>	<p>Body, building, bride, flock, vine                      Trinity – Father, Son, Holy Spirit                      Human – body, soul, spirit</p>

## DEFINITION

Church: a universal community of people in blood covenant with God by faith, being disciplined to be radically different and impacting the society in which they live.

### UNIVERSAL COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE

Ecclesia: “coming together” or an “assembly of people.” Secular use = political

Charles Ryrie, “When the Greek word is used in the New Testament, it takes on much richer and fuller aspects to that basic secular meaning. For example, the people themselves, whether assembled or not, are the *ekklesia*.”<sup>1</sup>

Donald Guthrie adds, “We conclude, therefore, that by *ekklesia* Jesus is not referring to an organisation, but to a group of people whom He considered to belong to Him and of whom the disciples were in some way representatives.”<sup>2</sup>

Fellowship: the community of believers is enriched spiritually, materially, emotionally, socially, intellectually and psychologically.

### In Blood Covenant with God by Faith

Example of blood covenant

Human and animal blood insufficient – God supplies His Son

We supply nothing but accept by faith

### Being Disciplined to be Radically Different

Paul captures the essential outcome of discipleship: “All come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

Paul: “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:12-14).

Romans 12:2, renewal of the mind – changed mindset

### Impacting the Society

Thessalonica: “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too” (Acts 17:6) – caused a radical social upheaval. Jews had caused riots in various parts of Roman Empire for previous decade. A charge of sedition and possible treason.

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<sup>1</sup> Ryrie, Charles C. 1999. *Basic Theology*. Chicago, Moody Press, p.456

<sup>2</sup> Guthrie, Donald. 2005. *New Testament Theology*. Secunderabad, OM Books, p.712

EXAMPLE: Right Excellent Samuel Sharpe

EXAMPLE: His Grace David I, King of Scots

There's a village in Texas with a population of about five hundred. One description of this village is that it has a city limits sign at each end with not a whole lot in between.<sup>3</sup> It would be a tragedy if that should describe the sum total of the impact of our Christianity on the societies in which we live and move and have our being.

## CHURCH ASSEMBLED, CHURCH DISTRIBUTED

<b>ASSEMBLED</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTED</b>
Scripture Ordinances Governance Edification Persecution changes look of Church	168 hours per week – how many assemble Powerful organisation - Veil of Temple torn - Ephesians 3:14-21 - No Jerusalem Temple – we are temple, we take God's presence - We are the Ark of the Covenant Distribute salt and light Incarnate the Word of God

Sir Winston Churchill, address to Canadian House of Commons in December 1941, "There is no room now for the dilettante, the weakling, for the skirker or the sluggard. The mine, the factory, the dockyard, the salt sea waves, the fields to till, the home, the hospital, the chair of the scientist, the pulpit of the preacher – from the highest to the humblest tasks, are all at equal honour, all have their part to play ..."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Egner, Dave. 2008. "Not Much In Between." *Our Daily Bread 2009 Annual Gift Edition*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, October 6

<sup>4</sup> Humes, James C. 1994. *The Wit and Wisdom of Winston Churchill*. New York, HarperCollins Books, p.128