

EXPECTATIONS!

Looking Ahead to a Consolidated University

From the beginning of the founding of the Assemblies of God almost 100 years ago, taking the life-changing message of Jesus Christ to the nations was a primary motivation for a diverse group of passionate ministers to come together in one movement. Today, that commitment to the Great Commission to “reach the nations” wherever they may be remains at the heart of the Assemblies of God’s reason for being.

The formation of a consolidated Evangel University is a visionary step in facilitating our movement’s commitment to take Jesus to the world – across global, national, regional, language, generational, ethnic, professional, and socio-economic boundaries. Future graduates will be a strategic part of accomplishing that God-ordained global mission until Jesus comes.

Today’s world has become increasingly multicultural and spiritually complex. Evangel University graduates whatever their official academic degree program face the challenging opportunity of integrating faith into a context that is increasingly pluralistic, secular, skeptical – and even hostile – to traditional Christianity. As an alumnus of both CBC and AGTS and adjunct faculty at Evangel University, I have had the privilege of working in this reality with new missionaries, ministers and other professionals graduating from all three schools. There have been pivotal moments overseas that I wished my young colleagues could have had the advantage of experiencing the strengths of all three great institutions. Now the consolidated university will have the unprecedented opportunity to bring these distinct strengths together for the sake of the mission -to prepare students with the powerful combination of excellence in academic knowledge based on God’s Truth integrated with the empowerment of a practical Pentecostal theology in global perspective. Our mandate to share Christ with power in our present and future worlds will require every tool we can put in students’ hands -whether young people are called of God to vocational ministry or to live missional lives in other professional fields.

I believe a consolidated Evangel University will also serve a prophetic role. Missiologist Leslie Newbiggin challenged, “From whence comes the voice that can challenge this culture on its own terms, a voice that speaks its own language and yet confronts it with the authentic figure of the crucified and living Christ?” The consolidated Evangel University will be uniquely positioned with Spirit-empowered faculty and leadership mutually committed to The Great Commission to recognize, mentor and equip these kinds of “prophetic voices” for the future. Some “voices” will resound in the world of education, some in business, some in politics, some in new church plants, and some sharing Jesus with the most unreached peoples of the world. But all students of the consolidated university will have opportunity to be equipped to effectively confront their culture of calling with the crucified and living Christ in their generation.

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