

# *EXPECTATIONS!*

## *Looking Ahead to a Consolidated University*

Educational institutions in general succeed by predicting trends and acting before action is necessary. Successful colleges and universities began training students in various fields of disciplines for a world that doesn't even exist yet. By doing so, they shape the future...and their methodologies and practices remain relevant. For the new Evangel University I see a window of opportunity, or better said, a convergence of favorable factors unfolding in our world that position a spirit empowered university for amazing success and global impact.

One of those many favorable factors is globalization. The world is a much smaller place than when I stepped onto the campus of CBC in 1992. The trends suggest that our increased connectedness will continue to make the world feel smaller. This may seem like an insignificant detail to any other university, but for a university that has the opportunity to be a flagship training center for the fastest growing arm of global Christianity, the opportunities for global impact in vocational ministry and in the market place are so many they are hard to quantify.

With that global backdrop, we cannot ignore another favorable factor...the Pentecostalization of the church. Harvey Cox, the Hollis professor of Research at Harvard's Divinity school until his retirement in 2009, raised eyebrows over a decade ago, when he declared Pentecostalism the fastest growing movement on the planet and even further raised eyebrows when he said the outpouring at Azusa will one day be viewed as significant as the Great Reformation.

You may ask... "What does this have to do with consolidation?" The world is quickly becoming a place that will be asking for the kind of graduate that a consolidated Evangel will be uniquely equipped to provide. Our heritage, our theology and the rich tradition of the three schools, position us to respond to the future world demand for Spirit-empowered leaders.

Future trends suggest a world crying for leaders that have more than an excellent education. It will long for accountants, doctors, lawyers, teachers, pastors, and missionaries who walk with a sixth sense...spirit empowerment. I am convinced a consolidated Evangel could provide both...a world-class education with a distinctly Pentecostal experience.

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*Consolidation is contingent on approval from the Higher Learning Commission.*