

CBC09 ANNUAL CONFERENCE LATIMER PLACE, CHESHAM, BUCKS

SUMMARY NOTES

Looking back at our conference 27/28 November 2009, we can only smile. Wow! God showed up! From the God-inspired words spoken by each contributor, to the powerful worship led by Leigh Barnard and John Cunningham, and most importantly the unity of spirit between media practitioners and those passionate about the media, it gave us strength to face what lies ahead of us, confronting giants and encouraging each other in tough times.

We also felt that it was a significant time in the journey of CBC, most certainly a clarifying time for us as we look to the future, allowing God to shape and develop CBC into everything it should be to encourage, inspire and bless those who walk with us. Thank you for your prayers. We feel it is the beginning of something new.

"For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, nor did their own arm save them; but it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance because You favoured them." Ps 33:3

The following is a very brief synopsis of each of the contributors at the conference to give you a sense of what each was saying.

OLAVE SNELLING, CEO OF CBC – OPENING WORDS

The essential part of this conference, the essential thing for broadcasters, is that we hear what God is saying, that we have an ear to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

The Lord kept saying to Gideon of his army, 'No, there are too many. Fewer, fewer.' It is like that for us. As with Gideon's test for his army, only those soldiers who bend down to drink, scooping the water to their mouths with their hands, keeping their eyes fixed on the horizon to watch for the enemy, those are the ones God wants to be in the army. And let everyone who is here mean business with God. We are contending in the spirit for a breakthrough in this country - and what happens in this country affects the whole world.

Today, like Gideon, we want to bring you down to the water, streams of living water. Scoop up the water, drink and live. Let those in this country who mean business with God contend for this country.

We need to be a prophetic people who have an understanding of the times. As in the case of Gideon's army, God gave him a strategy. God has a plan. The Lord said to me: 'Go in and possess the land.' He keeps on saying it: 'Go in and possess the land.' What God is saying is 'Territory, territory.' As in the story of the twelve spies who went into the Promised Land and came back to tell of the giants they saw, we want to go with the two, Joshua and Caleb, who knew there were giants but were going in anyway, and not stay with the ten who were too afraid of the size of the giants alongside of whom they were as grasshoppers. We want to go in and possess the land and take the territory. We have all these forces ranged against us, but who can be against us, if God is for us?

We are here today because we want to confront those giants. We are here to contend in the Spirit. The Lord is doing something remarkable in this country. In a vision the Lord showed me that through Britain and the people that it touched in its history, God is sending that word of God to the uttermost ends of the earth, by all means including the media. And then the end. They that know their God shall do exploits.

SESSION 1 – WE SEEK STRATEGY

CHRIS COLE - HOST

If you do not know your calling on earth you are going to have difficulties in the coming season. If you don't know the reason you are here out of intimacy with God, then will you maintain the course? It's how you end this race, not how you start it. Don't let the ministry become idolatrous.

CHARLYNNE BODDIE (Charlynn Boddie Ministries)

God's still small voice. God speaks through his works, through nature and creation, through dreams and visions, through angels, the audible voice, the sanctified desires of our heart. Your calling goes along with where your questions are. Where are your questions, media leaders? There is your calling. Then there is that still, small voice.

There are the voices of ungodly reasoning, your flesh nagging at you. But the voice of the Holy Spirit will bring effective answer to prayer. When we listen to that still small voice we will get release in our lives, peace, order, conviction to do what the Holy Spirit asks us to do.

The wisdom from above is what the world around us is craving. Media leaders - you hear that still, small voice, and you speak out what He gives you to say, without hesitation and with conviction.

We were designed to change the atmosphere in this world around us. Each one of us has a prophetic voice inside of us, wisdom from heaven. Lord, what is your heart today? We have been designed to send out a heavenly signal that enables the world to know their Creator.

We do not serve a silent God. Wherever you go my Holy Spirit is in you and I want you to take that wisdom with you wherever you go. Prov 22:29

We must be men and women of excellence. Every single person here today has a sphere of influence. The world doesn't care what you believe in, but when you have excellence, they want to know where it comes from. When you are excellent, you get their ear.

Mediocrity has to stay well under our feet. There is incredible competition out there. The Lord gives us wisdom but we have to hear it and then obey it.

We should serve if we want to lead. If we choose servanthood over being served, love will come out of our mouths.

How many of you are ready to let the Holy Spirit have his way? Step by step. You don't have to climb the whole staircase today. If we will just listen, then obey what we hear. In that way, spheres of influence will be affected by the fire of God in you. What you've been given you must pass on. Gain by giving.

What or who is waiting for you on the other side of your obedience to the still, small voice? Will you choose servanthood of excellence rather than being served? Tune in and obey.

CHRIS COLE

Stop criticising what you see in the natural. You do not have a clue what some people have had to go through to stand where they are standing. Don't judge another man's servant. Sharing our brokenness is our real hope.

We are coming into a time when all hell is about to manifest. Heaven is going to invade.

DENNIS WRIGLEY (Maranatha)

What is the really crunch issue facing the church in communicating the Gospel today? I have no doubt at all that it is the issue of the authority of Jesus. If Jesus Christ is not Lord of all, he's Lord of nothing at all. You will stand before the Lord, or kneel before the enemy. There is no other way. If we get our understanding of the authority of Christ right, then from that everything else will flow.

The roots of this situation lie in the Enlightenment. This is the time when the authority of Jesus was undermined. Theists became deists. To understand how secular humanists have penetrated our universities, colleges and schools, go back to the Enlightenment.

Either we exercise the authority of Christ in the spirit or we are defeated. Those who stand and are counted have to pay the price. That's what the Cross is all about.

Secular humanists are telling young minds we've come from nowhere and we are going nowhere. That seems to me to be a definition of being lost.

Ez 2:11 Listen carefully. We are good at observing and proclaiming. But we are very poor at listening.

If we are going to be the body of Christ, then we must realise that the body moves, that the body heals. We have truly to be truly brothers and sisters. If we are to recognise the battle we are facing, we must recognise that we are members of an army and He is the great commander.

If Christians in this country had spoken with one voice on all the key issues of the last 12 years, whether on abortion or the Equality Bill, we would have won on every occasion. When the people of God listen, they will hear. When we hear and articulate what God is saying, then people will hear the voice of the Lord.

We are deafeningly silent on all the major issues of today. Time is running out. We are facing the biggest crisis this nation has seen for 400 years. We have got to be prophetic, to be salt and light. We have got to exercise authority. Either he is Lord or he is nothing. As Charles Wesley said, we have got to look at impossibilities and cry: It shall be done.

CHRIS COLE

Every one of us has purpose and destiny. As broadcasters we have to empower every living stone to reach his or her destiny, to say that if you connect with the Father as Jesus did, then your influence will grow. This is our time to rise, if we know him as Jesus did.

OLAVE SNELLING

The Lord says: I am building my Temple with living stones. The work goes on outside the Temple precinct, the chiselling, the chipping, the shaping, the dust, the clamour. We are all in that position. And I tell you, the process is painful. I was told to go into the Temple precinct. I came into the awesome presence of the living God. He said: I am building my Temple with living stones, and see how they fit together. Perfect. Utterly perfect. I never want you to worry about the lives that I am putting alongside yours. Never ask about the lives with which I am juxtaposing your life, because I am building my Temple. And it is perfect.

SESSION 2 – GOD HAS A PLAN – A Voice to the Nations

REVD CANON JONATHAN ALDERTON-FORD (CBC Trustee / Archbishop's Council), HOST

A small piece on a chessboard can have greater influence than bishops and queens.

JOHN BELLAMY (Cross Rhythms)

Jesus is revealing himself as lion. He is king and he is revealing himself. We have been mining for silver, but now God is saying he wants to mine for gold. God says, tell my UK leaders 'Warfare'.

Jesus is saying, as that lion heart, he's about to break through. 'Rise up, O, Lord, and let your enemies be scattered.' Get ready. We are about to rise up, but we don't know where - we've never been this way before.

God has to deal with our belief that there is a security in riches.

KEVEN BENNETT (Marketing Manager Premier Media Group)

There has been an Exodus in Christian broadcasting. We have gone to parliament to say, 'Let my people go.' National broadcasting has been the promised land for us. Many said it was too big, you'll never achieve it. There are giants there. But we're crossing over. UCB get their national DAB licence in December. We are crossing over together.

This has got to work, to be funded to gain an audience, because it is for his glory. There will be many temptations to compromise. But we must make sure we don't become just like the rest. We need the prayers of the church.

CHRIS COLE (God TV)

We have put a strong emphasis on youth. Rory and Wendy Alec started God TV on a prophetic word.

Fresh bread is going out from Premier, UCB and others. Hundreds of thousands of people have received the fresh bread of the Gospel that's empowering them to live their lives. None of us is doing this perfectly, but we are doing it faithfully.

If CBC is going to do anything, it's going to build collaboration where all of us know that we are called to do it by God. God TV has grown in 14 years to the size that it is on a prophetic word. We have to recapture a sense and be faithful to the prophetic word God has given us individually and corporately and not let go. It will sustain us in the tough times.

When you watch God TV, please see it in the spirit. When we look at each other's ministries, see them as God does. We have to leave a legacy for youth if we are to capture the nation.

JONATHAN ALDERTON FORD (HOST)

Never give up, never give up, never give up.

MARK SMITH (Alive Radio, Community Station)

Launched Community Radio for Dumfries Sept 1 2009.

Jesus spent times with the tax collectors and sinners. Jesus has called us to the ordinary people of our town, to the not-yet saved. We've put a lot of work into envisioning. Pastors we used to pray with, we now work together with to reach the town. We are placing the church in the middle of the media arena and seeing people's gifts blossom.

I can't understand why churches and pastors like myself, seeing the opportunities given to us through community radio licences, don't seize the opportunity. We want to bless our community.

HARVEY THOMAS, CBE (Fellowship of European Broadcasters)

The first word that was committed to me when I became a Christian was 'Go into all the world and make disciples.' I have been to 120 countries.

God has a plan, not plans. In the 30s and 40s we had the pioneers. We found that radio could reach out farther than any missionaries. Now we have missionaries coming back from Africa to Europe. When FM came along local things began to grow. Now the whole world has become mixed up with mass migration. The regions began to pull themselves together and media began to merge.

The one thing we don't see in the Christian world is either a strategy or a plan. Everybody seems to have a ministry. Twice today we have heard 'Don't let the ministry become an idol.' It is God's ministry not ours. But most of us are so busy fighting for our individual ministries that the strategy has yet to come together.

We now have a situation where most of the big boys in global Christian radio broadcasting have presidents who are interested in global strategy. It's God's ministry, not our ministry that counts.

SOUNDBITES FROM QUESTIONS TO THE PANEL

Chris Cole

The model has to change from a gospel of the church to the kingdom to see community radio work.

Jonathan Bellamy

Most church leaders don't see beyond their own small areas to the whole of the city.

Harvey Thomas

Nobody trusts evangelicals. We are the most untrusted grouping in the world. People think we are not interested in people. All we really want to do is convert them.

Kevin Bennett

We have been too busy arguing with each other to present the central truths of the Gospel to this world.

Chris Cole

60 years of freedom has not enabled us to build a consensus. Outsiders may say we have squandered our freedom because we have not been under pressure to see the value.

The mainstream is hungry for authentic programming that will migrate.

The enemy has two strategies - broken relationships and sustainability.

SESSION 3 – CONFRONTING THE GIANTS

ANDREA MINICHELLO WILLIAMS (Christian Concern for Our Nation)

Obey the law, abandon principle? That we are even asking this question indicates how far the fettering of freedom has gone in this country.

Michael Savage was banned from Britain in July. The most listened to conservative talk show host in the United States. To be put on a list with drug barons, pornographers and terrorists!

The whole point about freedom of speech is that some ideas might be unpalatable. I have spoken to two Conservative candidates who have been clearly told not to say that they are Christians when they are on the stump.

In Great Britain the Bible has been the bedrock of our laws dating back to the Magna Carta. All about us we see evidence that our country's moral heritage is receding like the tide.

Wouldn't we expect the rock of Christ's church to stand unmoving, resolute? Sometimes we are more like a bunch of pebbles, distracted by our own squabbles. At its core our legislation is being based on human rights, rather than God's principles. When we abandon God's laws we find ourselves in social, legal and moral chaos.

Abortion. The sanctity of life line was crossed in 1967. The act allowed for the taking of life. In 1967 there were 6,100 abortions. By the year 2000 six million abortions had been performed. Now that is seven million abortions. The embryo is no longer protected, so then we get legislation to say we can experiment on the embryo. In 2004 we get permission to clone an embryo - man making man in the image of man. We take life, we make life, we fake life.

In 2008 the next line was crossed, the creation of animal/human hybrid embryos. The creation of fatherless children. Abandon the principle of sanctity of life and you end up in a legal chaos that has huge implications for all of life.

I have been battling breast cancer for years. I know of a woman who is carrying a baby inside that has had the breast cancer gene screened out. That means I could have been screened out. But I would want to say that I would want to live for 40 odd years with or without breast cancer.

Marriage in law - abandoned in principle. Cohabitation rights begin to be recognised. Then the homosexual lobby comes in and says our rights should be recognised because our love is the equivalent of heterosexual love. This gives rise to new legislation. Family is now redefined.

People are now saying we should open up the churches for same sex marriages - with a conscience exemption. Help me message that - help me to message the issue.

Today they are wanting to liberalise the law on euthanasia. There is now a presumption against prosecution for those who assist in suicide. This is crossing the line.

Crossing the lines means we end up losing liberty.

The equality act means we are now unable to discriminate in terms of sexual orientation. Catholic adoption agencies have been forced to close. It will be unlawful to require church staff to be heterosexual.

This very weekend we have a teacher who went to visit sick children in their houses. A little boy who had already given his life to the Lord was close to dying. She prayed for him and was suspended.

I give thanks to the media who shine a light on these things. Help us to speak truth into these very difficult issues of this time. Be salt and light, particularly as we move towards a general election.

TIM FINCH (OCM Films Ltd)

When you make a declaration to go, God will take you.

GARETH LITTLER (C4CB) HOST

People are beginning to experience the first persecution in a generation.

REVD GEORGE HARGREAVES (Leader of the Christian Party)

The media is now setting the agenda. The media did not report our demonstrations over the Racial and Religious Hatred Bill until the government was defeated.

The mainstream media has an agenda. And it's not to proclaim Christ's lordship.

We debated the death penalty and decided to have a referendum - let the people decide. But by the time we appeared on the BBC, they said our policy was to hang 'em high. We're talking about fighting the giants and they don't come much bigger than the BBC. We said we have a right to fair play and you have not been fair to us.

We have to be wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove. We are fighting the giants.

We are looking for another 120 candidates who want to stand.

Political parties are not governed by the Advertising Standards Authority.

We want to get the whipping situation in Parliament changed. In business that kind of coercion would be illegal.

We can fight back. We can make a difference if we stand up. Their agenda is to marginalise us. But by standing up and putting our hats in the ring we can take on the giants. We have to set our own agendas, and not just to follow them. Let's make news and break news.

OLAVE SNELLING – CLOSING ADDRESS

Joshua 14 - 'Here I am this day 85 years old. And yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me. Now therefore give me this mountain!' **GIVE US THIS MOUNTAIN!**

DINNER / GOLD EXPLOITS AWARDS – APPLAUDING EXCELLENCE

WILLIAM WAGNER (CCFON)

As you build your media institutions imagine Noah building an ark before a storm that nobody believed was coming.

The sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of worship no longer serve as benchmarks. Instead we are told that each is a matter for debate. And Christians are not invited to the debate.

We continue to slouch towards Gomorrah at an ever increasing pace. If they can ban Michael Savage today, they can ban you tomorrow. Government actions throughout the world seek nothing less than to profane all things sacred.

The opposition seeks to remove the Christian worldview from the market place of ideas and the policy-making process. You may be all that stands between that happening and not happening. You have a destiny. And God is calling you to embrace it.

'For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.' God has a plan for your life.

Will you recognise God's ringtone when he calls?

This is the strategy for embracing your destiny when God calls you to confront the culture.

1) Have them see evidence of a heart beating for Jesus. Lay down our lives for others. Do others see evidence of a heart beating for Jesus when they see me? Get into the Word each day. Start with 15 minutes and work it up to an hour.

2) Bring all aspects of our life under God's dominion. Offer your bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God. Be transformed. Get rid of your secret sins before the Devil uses them to destroy you. Don't participate in activities of this age and culture that take you out of the game. We can't morally confront a culture if we are double-minded. This is our watch. What are you going to do with that one single life.

3) Stand for truth. Choose your beliefs well, for you will live with them and die for them. If you get rid of God's moral standard, then you will lose liberty very quickly if you let governments decide what the standard should be and they make it up as they go along. Broadcasters must ask those tough questions that shine a light so that others can see. We must have the courage to stand up and always be willing to state the truth.

4) Persevere and support each other through trials. If you stand up for truth, trials are going to happen. In the UK: wear a cross get fired. Can I pray for you? get fired. Christ, he went to the Cross. We have to stick together in tough times. If you're going to get persecuted in a tough way, it's better you have friends around you. Keep each other accountable. I meet with another lawyer weekly and we ask these tough questions: 'Have you been a man of integrity in both your personal and public affairs this week?'

If it's dark out there it's because there's no light shining. Your destiny is to be hope for those who have none, to shine a light in the darkness.

Do not live for too little a purpose. This is not the time to be an ordinary broadcaster. Embrace your destiny. You will face your own giants, but look on it as a target that's too big to miss. Go into battle, but always let them see the love of Jesus in your hearts. We know how the story ends!

SAT 28 NOV - ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER IN TOUGH TIMES

PASTOR CELIA APEAGYEI-COLLINS (Rehoboth Foundation)

God takes pleasure in the praises of His people. We are going to leave here and believe God for different things for the media.

Our teenagers are being disciplined by MTV. MTV is a worship system. It is a house of prayer. Of whatever god that is. We also have a sound to produce. The sound of victory goes ahead of us. God's strategy is to let the singers

go forth. When Jehoshaphat went into battle he sent the singers ahead of him and then took the spoil. I want to see the airwaves filled with the sound of prophecy.

Right now there is spoil waiting for us. We just need to war differently. There is territory waiting for us. We need to rise up and create a counter-culture. We need to create a climate. If we are going to win and take territory we have got to learn how to control the climate, because climates determine what grows there.

When you walk your streets, praise walk. Worship reveals what God has done and what God will do. It is important that when we spy the land we see, not just what is, but what ought to be. The nations will hear and tremble. The church is here to overcome.

May God give you in the media something that replaces the current culture. And may God give you *partners* from the new generation. May God open all of your eyes to see who your successors are. *Send your sound into the future. Leave a legacy.*