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PROMINENT CHRISTIAN LEADERS MEET IN HONG KONG, WASHINGTON, D.C., VIRGINIA BEACH AND OTHER CITIES NATIONWIDE TO DISCUSS NEXT-GENERATION ISSUES

Tulsa, Okla. – The recent national headline news of the conviction and sentencing of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff, LA doctors being questioned in the possible homicide of music icon Michael Jackson and the jarring indiscretions of South Carolina Governor and Republican Presidential hopeful Mark Sanford has communities nationwide questioning the physical, emotional and spiritual condition of our country.

The news in our nation can be discouraging day in and day out. However, the *Commission on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century (HSE)*, a group of extraordinary international Christian scholars, leaders and *next-gens* are convening and conversing in dedicated meeting tracks across the nation and internationally throughout 2009 and 2010 sharing insights on how the next generation will handle the deep issues facing Christians today and generating good news, hope, inspiration and spiritual direction for this next generation.

In May, while our nation's elected officials were debating political issues in Washington, D.C., and shortly after prominent Christian leaders gathered for the *National Day of Prayer* on May 7, prominent next-generation leaders from churches and ministries across the country met in our nation's capital, having their own spirited discussion in the *next-gen* meeting track.

This next generation track is being facilitated as a part of the Commission, and is being chaired by Rob Hoskins, president of OneHope and member of the Oral Roberts University Board of Trustees. The next generation track is focusing on how this generation will take *Holy Spirit Empowerment into the 21st Century* and how they are preparing today for that calling. The work of the Commission will help shape *Empowered21: The Global Congress on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century* (www.empowered21.com) to be held April 8-10, 2010 in Tulsa, Okla.

"I'm excited to be a part of these conversations—God is doing a new thing in this generation. They are hungry and looking for something they haven't found yet," said Cameron Strang, CEO of RELEVANT Media Group in Orlando, Fla., and member of Oral Roberts University's Board of Trustees. "I see a shift toward outwardly focused Christianity, sacrificial Christianity. It becomes not about what I can get from God, but about how God can use me to impact others. It's exciting to be a part of this new movement, and it's exciting to see what God is doing through the conversations happening through *Empowered 21*."

Most recently, Christian leaders from around the world met in Hong Kong at the end of May. "The Asian Conversation included a wide representation including denominational leaders, mega-church leaders, indigenous and cross-cultural missionaries and significant ministries that are reaching into China. We were very impressed by the articulate leaders that came together for this strategic discussion," said Billy Wilson, who chairs the Commission and is the executive director of the International Center for Spiritual Renewal and vice chair of the ORU Board of Trustees.

"We were also very impressed with the growth and dynamic life present in the Asian Church," Wilson continued. "In many ways, they are leading the movement with more people empowered by the Spirit than any other region on earth. We also were surprised that many of the same issues being faced by the emerging generations in the West are also significant for the church in the East. The Empowered 21 process we are in remains very relevant for all of us. Now is the time to find God's answers to the challenges we are facing so new generations can experience the power of the Holy Spirit and finish the task of world evangelization."

The Commission process also includes a leaders' track chaired by Dr. Jack Hayford, president of International Church of the Foursquare Gospel in Los Angeles and a scholars' track chaired by Dr. Vinson Synan, professor of church history and Dean Emeritus at Regent University School of Divinity. Select scholars will be presenting overviews of the theological issues and papers next April at the Global Congress. Interaction will take place as the ideas and positions are refined. This track will take place in Virginia Beach, VA at the end of July.

Each track for the Commission will meet three times this year for conversations in different regions of the United States. The conversation tracks will also be held internationally throughout the year. The culminating international event, **Empowered21**, will bring leaders, scholars, believers and youth from around the world to share insights and inspiration for the future of the Spirit-empowered movement.

There are a number of anticipated outcomes from the Commission and **Empowered21**. Questions and solutions for the future of the Spirit-empowered movement will be brought forward. New, contemporary vocabulary will surface and be adopted. Increased effectiveness in reaching and engaging new generations will be achieved. Increased unity between traditional Pentecostals/Charismatics and emerging churches will be realized and the continued growth of Spirit-empowered ministries will be encouraged.

"We need to keep experiencing God in fresh ways. We cannot live off of yesterday's anointing; we've got to have an anointing on our life today. We can't live off of the experiences of the last generation; we need to have our own experience with the Holy Spirit," said Mark Batterson, lead pastor at National Community Church in Washington, D.C. "So what is important for emerging generations is to honor the generations that went before them, learn from their experiences, but then have that hunger to experience God in a new way."

The May 7-8 participants included Strang, Hoskins, Batterson, Wilson, Ryan Delling of Eagles' Wings Ministries in Clarence, N.Y.; Reagan Dobbs of Acts 17 Ministries in Southlake, Texas; Mart Green, president of Mardel, Inc., EthonoGraphic Media and board chair of the ORU Board of Trustees; Becca Greenwood of Christian Harvest International in Colorado Springs, Colo.; Mike Guzzardo of Mike Guzzardo Ministries/Teen Mania; Peter Haas of Substance Church in Fridley, Minn.; Monty Hipp of C4 Group in Washington, D.C.; Sujo John of Sujo John Ministries in Flower Mound, Texas; William

Lamb of Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn.; Daryl Lobban of Church of God of Prophecy in Brooklyn, N.Y.; T.J. McCormick of Coastal Community Church in Coconut Creek, Fla.; Denise McDowell of BOSS The Movement/Rhema Christian Center in Lanham, Md.; Terry Wayne Millender of Victorious Life Church in Alexandria, Va.; Pete Morse of Substance Church in Fridley, Minn.; Pablo Perez of Encounter God Ministries/IHOP in Kansas City, Mo.; Darla Rakes of the Center for Relevance & Renewal in Winston-Salem, N.C.; Mike Rakes of Winston-Salem First Assembly of God in Winston-Salem, N.C.; and David Ramos of Faith Fellowship Ministries World Outreach Center in Sayreville, N.J.

Also participating were Trevor Reid of Church of God of Prophecy in Cleveland, Tenn.; Gene Roncone of First Assembly of God in Aurora, Colo.; Danny Sanabria of Park Slope Christian Tabernacle in Brooklyn, N.Y.; David Schmidgall of National Community Church in Washington, D.C.; Kim Sharp of First Assembly of God in Franklin, Ind.; Rob Sperti of Winston-Salem First Assembly of God in Winston-Salem, N.C.; Vangie Sperti of Winston-Salem First Assembly of God in Winston-Salem, N.C.; Joel Stockstill of Bethany World Prayer Center in Baker, La.; Maya Strang of Relevant Media Group in Orlando, Fla.; Dave Sumrall of Church of the Highlands in Birmingham, Ala.; Dale Wafer of Harvest Church in Washington, D.C.; Evangeline Weiner of Aglow International in Edmonds, Wash.; Ashley Wilson of Awakening America Alliance/International Center for Spiritual Renewal; Jason Yost of National Community Church in Washington, D.C.; Georgetown University students Krista Cortes, Katherine Rendon and Nathan Mallonee; Indiana Wesleyan University student Tyler Green; Southwestern Assemblies of God University student Hannah Griffin; and high school students Natasha Hoskins, Chris McDowell and Whitney Rakes.

The Hong Kong participants included Green, Synan, Wilson, Wayne Crook of Hong Kong City Church in Central, Hong Kong; Derek Dunn of City Harvest Church in Singapore; Jun Escosar of Every National Global Network in the Philippines; Wayne Graham of Strategic China Initiative in Durham, N.C.; Prince Guneratnam of Calvary Church/Assembly of God in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia; Curtis Jones director of Asian Center for Mobilization; Lai Yu Kai of the Pentecostal Church of Hong Kong; Reverend Tsang Shing Kei, superintendent general council of Hong Kong Assembly of God; Junghoon Kim of Harvest International Ministries in Pasadena, Calif.; Yengil Choe Kimpo of Full Gospel Church in South Korea; Wirachai Kowae of Bangkok Evangelistic Center in Bangkok, Thailand; Samuel Lau of Revival Christian Church in Hong Kong SAR, China; Luke Vandari Levis of Himalayan Mission of Katmandu Christian College in Nepal; Lung Kwong Lo of The Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shatin, N.T. Hong Kong; Donovan Ng of Kwong Pentecostal Holiness Church in Kowloon, Hong Kong; Michael Paderes of Every National Global Network in the Philippines; Cheolsu (Charles) Pahk, International Coordinator of WLI and HIM; David Sumrall of Cathedral of Praise in Ermita, Manila; Edmund Teo of International Christian Assembly in North Point, Hong Kong; Caleb and Sarah Wehrli of Inspire International in Tuen Mun, N.T. Hong Kong; and Timothy Wu of Bethesda Community of Hong Kong in Mong Kok, Kowloon Hong Kong.

The Commission on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century is facilitated by the International Center for Spiritual Renewal in cooperation with Oral Roberts University. For more information on Empowered21 or the Commission on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century, go to www.empowered21.com.

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