**PENTECOSTAL/CHARISMATIC KOINONIA 2014 : A Report on Pentecostal/Charismatic Engagement with the Greater Christian Community, with a Focus on North America**

Presented by David Cole, PCCNA Liaison to the Greater Christian Community (appointed by PCCNA Executive Committee as of November 1, 2012; contact/biographical information on reverse side of this page)

Current activities and initiatives that merit consideration of further awareness and/or involvement from our Pentecostal/Charismatic family:

**Empowered21—**George O. Wood has been unanimously appointed to serve alongside Dr. Billy Wilson as Global Co-chair of the worldwide Empowered21 initiative that celebrates and encourages the practice and growth of Spirit-empowered Christianity. Dr. Wood succeeds Jack Hayford, whose greatly appreciated leadership will continue as he serves as an honorary member of the Global Council. Empowered21 will continue its work across the continents in preparation for a Global Congress in Jerusalem in 2015.

**Assemblies of God**—The Assemblies of God will celebrate its 100th anniversary with events August 5-10, 2014 in Springfield, MO, which include an AG Centennial, a World AG Congress, and a Global Church Planting Summit.

**Global Christian Forum—**A Theological Working Group has been appointed to articulate theologically the history, experience and significance of the GCF. Its task is to take into account the GCF journey and experience from its formation to its current engagement with global Christianity. The Pentecostal scholar Dr. Wonsuk Ma serves as convener of the group. The Theological Working Group's task is shaped by some key questions facing the GCF including how does the forum understand itself ecclesiologically, what is its significance for the global church and how should it serve the various parts of the global church, including its Ecumenical and Evangelical/Pentecostal communities.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—**this week of special emphasis on Christian unity takes place all over the world each year from January 18-25. It has been instrumental in gathering diverse groups of Christians together for prayer, Scripture reading, preaching, worship and fellowship. Sponsored by groups such as the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, Evangelicals and Pentecostals have often not been highly involved in these annual celebrations. But in recent years increasing numbers of Pentecostals have been prominently involved in participation and leadership. A large worship service took place on January 22 at Capital Christian Center in Sacramento that involved Pentecostals and other Christian communities. Speakers included Dr. Cecil M. Robeck, Jr., and Fr. John Crossin from the ecumenical office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. A similar regional gathering took place in Springfield, MO, at Evangel Temple, involving the participation of members of an ongoing area Pentecostal-Catholic dialogue. Liturgical materials are developed for usage every year as different nations are invited to put a drafting committee together. This year’s materials for the services around the globe were prepared by an interdenominational group from Canada.

**Society for Pentecostal Studies**—the 43rd annual meeting of SPS takes place March 6-8, 2014, in Springfield, MO at Evangel University, in conjunction with the centennial celebration of the Assemblies of God. This year’s theme is “Hermeneutics and the Spirit.” For more information go to [www.sps-usa.org](http://www.sps-usa.org).

**Christian Churches Together in the USA**—last month in New Jersey the annual CCT meeting focused on issues related to mass incarceration. Several Pentecostal denominations continue their participation in this organization and its interdenominational initiatives. ([www.christianchurchestogether.org](http://www.christianchurchestogether.org))

**Evangelical-Catholic (Canada)**—in addition to the ongoing dialogue between representatives of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (including Pentecostals) and the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops, new regional conversations include one taking place between Evangelical and Catholic Christians in Saskatoon. This two year old effort includes dialogue and worship between twenty persons (ten Catholics and ten Evangelicals from various churches, including Pentecostals). The joint statement they are working on has been summarized thus: “We confess our common faith, we acknowledge our differences and we affirm our common mission.”

**Evangelical-Catholic (U.S.)—**this decade-long conversation (which includes Pentecostal participants) has produced a document that is being prepared for publication. The current conversation focuses on Catholic and Evangelical views on the doctrine of Justification. Subtopics for upcoming sessions: Original Sin and its effects within the economy of Salvation (2014), Initial Justification (2015), The Relationship between Justification and Sanctification (2016), and The Relationship between Justification and Final Judgment (2017).

**International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue**—this summer the dialogue takes place in Los Angeles, focusing on the subject of prophetic utterances, including the gift of prophecy and the occurrences of dreams and visions. The Pentecostal paper will be delivered by Dr. Cecil M. Robeck, Jr. The teams will take advantage of the opportunity to attend services at West Angeles Church of God in Christ, and also visit the Bonnie Brae Street home which was at the heart of the Azusa Street revival.

 **United in Christ**—Catholic Charismatic leader Matteo Calisi has helped to facilitate a number of initiatives that have brought Protestants and Catholics together in celebration of the work of the Holy Spirit. The key Canadian partner in these initiatives is Catch the Fire (formerly Toronto Airport Church), and the U.S. office is in Dallas, TX. Events in recent months have taken place in Texas, North Carolina, and Toronto, Canada.

**David Cole—background and contact information:**

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Ordained minister, Open Bible Faith Fellowship, Canada, 2011-present

Licensed/ordained minister, Open Bible Churches, USA, 1984-2011

Fuller Theological Seminary PhD in Theology (1998), MDiv (1986)

Oral Roberts University MA in Theological and Historical Studies (1992), BA (1980)

Current and Recent Ecumenical Activities:

Pentecostal Co-Secretary on Steering Committee of the International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue Sixth Phase, 2011 to present; Participant in Fifth Phase, 1998-2006

Chair of Evangelism Committee and member of Program Committee, Christian Churches Together in the USA, 2008-2010

Chair of Ecumenical Studies Interest Group, Society for Pentecostal Studies, 2006-2008