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Christian Leaders, Scholars and Next Generation Convened for Combined Conversation on Spirit-empowered Christianity in the 21st Century

Dallas, TEXAS – Over 75 prominent International Christian leaders, scholars and next gens convened in Dallas this week at the **Empowered21 Combined Conversation**. This significant assembly served as the precursor to an international event in Tulsa, Oklahoma on April 8-10, 2010 called the **Empowered21: Global Congress on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century**.

“The combined conversation was a unifying and intimate time for these three groups of world leaders. It is obvious there is a desperate cry from the next generation for spiritual fathers and mothers to help them fulfill their purpose. Likewise, Christian leaders desire to impart the legacy of Spirit-empowerment to spiritual sons and daughters. This inspirational time of dialogue and worship was a wonderful expression of what **Empowered21** can do for the Spirit Empowered Movement. We are finalizing plans for the Global Congress in April and I believe this event will be a catalyst for carrying the fire of the Spirit into the coming generations,” said Reverend Billy Wilson, who chairs **Empowered21** and is the executive director of the International Center for Spiritual Renewal.

Since December 2008, **Empowered21** (www.empowered21.com) has conducted 14 unique conversations with over 400 leaders, scholars and next gen leaders/students from 45 nations. Recently, **E21** has concluded three African conversations with over 100 leaders from 11 African nations. Other **E21** conversations have taken place in cities across America and in Nigeria, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Hong Kong, Germany and Chile. The next conversation will take place in Costa Rica.

Sujo John, 9/11 survivor and International Evangelist, said, “At this critical time in world history, God is preparing the Church to be released into a new dimension of influence, power and authority. The **E21** conversations are an acknowledgment of our acute need for God’s direction to reach this generation. I am honored to be a part of **Empowered21**.”

This group of extraordinary International Christian scholars, leaders and next gens are conversing, identifying trends and sharing emerging perspectives and insights on how the next generation will handle the deep issues facing Christians today and inspiration for the future of the Spirit-empowered movement.

Mart Green, President of Mardel Christian and Education said, "The level of engagement from these Christian leaders, scholars and next gens in Dallas was very invigorating, encouraging and inspiring. We are seeing that this next generation desires a relationship with spiritual mothers and fathers, infused by the Holy Spirit, to empower them to reach and impact a hurting and lost world."

These conversations held throughout the world have included a leaders' track chaired by Dr. Jack Hayford, former president of International Church of the Foursquare Gospel in Los Angeles, California, a scholars' track chaired by Dr. Vinson Synan, Professor of church history and Dean Emeritus at Regent University School of Divinity and a next generation track chaired by Rob Hoskins, President of OneHope and member of the Oral Roberts University Board of Trustees.

There are a number of anticipated outcomes from these conversations on Spirit-empowerment and **Empowered21**. Questions and solutions for the future of the Spirit Empowered Movement will be brought forward. 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.

Participants included Green, Hayford, John, Synan, Wilson, Ronald Bennett of the Association of Related Churches, Corinthia Boone, Freddy Boswell of SIL International, Billye Brim of Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks, Rebecca Brimmer of Bridges for Peace, Byron Copeland of Gateway Church, Jeff Deyo of Pure Worship Institute, Craig Dunnagan of Integrity Media, Dick Eastman of Every Home for Christ, Mauricio Elizondo of the National Hispanic Council, Gene Evans of Full Gospel Fellowship of Churches and Ministers International, David Ferguson of Intimate Life Ministries, Alton Garrison of Assemblies of God USA, Nick Garza of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, Scott Gillum of Church of God of Prophecy, Becca Greenwood of Christian Harvest International, and Larry Hart of Oral Roberts University.

Also participating was Monty Hipp of C4 Group, Ken Horn of Pentecostal Evangel, Jeff Jenkins of Global Advance, Stephen Jenks of Eagle's Wings, Steven Land of Church of God Theological Seminary, James Leggett of Holmes Bible College and International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Jelani Lewis of Gateway Church, Ramona Lewis of Bridges for Peace, Edward Long of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Ron Luce of Teen Mania Ministries, Robert Madu of Trinity Church, Thomson Mathew of Oral Roberts University, Chris McDowell of BOSS The Movement, Denise McDowell of BOSS The Movement/Rhema Christian Center, Jay Mooney of Assemblies of God USA, Keith Morrison of Gateway Church, Preston Morrison of Gateway Church, Katrina Mueller of Gateway Church, Ben Pirtle of Gateway Church, and David Roebuck of Dixon Pentecostal Research Center, the Society for Pentecostal Studies and Lee University.

Additional participants included Timothy Ross of The Potter's House, Mark Rutland of Oral Roberts University, Charles Scott of Pentecostal Church of God, Inc., Janice Scott of Pentecostal Church of God, Inc., James Shelton of Oral Roberts University, David Shibley of

Global Advance, Russ Spittler of Fuller Theological Seminary, Joel Stockstill of Bethany World Prayer Center, Dexter Sullivan of Oral Roberts University, Richelle Voth of Oral Roberts University, Chuck Warnock of Campus Harvest, Devin Webb of OneHope, Caleb Wehrli of Inspire International, Mark Williams of International Church of God, Ashley Wilson of International Center for Spiritual Renewal, and Lisa Wilson of International Center for Spiritual Renewal.

Empowered21 is being formed by the Commission on Holy Spirit Empowerment in the 21st Century. The Commission is facilitated by the International Center for Spiritual Renewal in cooperation with Oral Roberts University. **Empowered21** will be held April 8-10, 2010 in Tulsa Oklahoma. 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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