

# THE FIRST SCHOLARS CONVERSATION

FEBRUARY 16-17, 2009

ORAL ROBERTS UNIVERSITY

The first conversation of scholars took place on February 16-17 on the campus of ORU. After a very intensive selection process, 19 persons gathered for the sessions. Included in that number was Billy Wilson and Mart Green. Also, a few observers joined the group. The discussions centered on discussing questions about the future of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements (PCM) around the world and how these findings will affect Oral Roberts University as well as other renewal schools.

There were two plenary presentations; one by Vinson Synan looked at “the Fate of Past Renewals” in order to orient the group to better understand the future of the present renewal and to learn from the past. The other presentation by Todd Johnson consisted of a preview of his latest research on the worldwide PCM. His findings were exciting and challenging.

Major time was given to planning how we would proceed and in planning the other two sessions. It was agreed that each participant would write a paper that would be read at the General Congress in April, 2010 at ORU. In the next two sessions, each member will present a 10 minute outline and summary of his/her intended paper with time for questions and discussion. There will be about 10 papers in each of the next two conversations.

It was also decided that we would work towards publishing the papers in a book (or even a two volume work) with a major publisher. It was decided that Vinson Synan would edit the book.

Although some invitees, (including Grant Wacker, Steve Land, and Phillip Jenkins) were not able to come to the first conversation, the following attended:

Estrelida Alexander (Regent), Kimberly Alexander (CGTS), David Bernard (Urshan), Stan Burgess (Regent), David Cole (Eugene BC), David Daniels III (McCormick), Ralph Fagin, (ORU), Mart Green (Mardels), Larry Hart (ORU), Todd Johnson (Gordon Conwell), Byron Klaus (AGTS), Frank Macchia (Vanguard), Thomson Matthew (ORU), David Moore (Foursquare), Pete Sanchez (Integrity Music), James Shelton (ORU), Russell Spittler (Vanguard), Vinson Synan (Regent), Billy Wilson (Center for Spiritual Renewal).

