

**PREPARING STUDENTS FOR WORKS OF
SERVICE**

**COMMISSION 2008
OFFICIAL REPORT**

**A MISSIONS MOBILIZATION CONVENTION FOR
EAST CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**Presented by: COMMISSION 2008 DIRECTORS
FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN UNIONS (KENYA)
P.O. Box 781, Ruaraka 00618 - Kenya
Tel: +254-20-2357279/80
Mobile: +254-722-564851; +254-733-614340
E-mail: commissionc@gmail.com**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Commission is a Missions Mobilization, information exchange and networking conference for the Eastern, Central and Southern Africa organized and hosted by Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) Kenya every three or four years.

Commission seeks to bring students, graduates (Associates), church leaders and other mission practitioners (theological schools & para-church organizations) together to think through and engage on issues encapsulated in God's mission hence creating a missional orientation among the delegates.

Commission 2008 was the seventh of such conference, 20 years after the first Commission conference. It took place at Kabarak University in Nakuru, 29th December 2008 to 4th January 2009 and brought together 2469 people from 18 countries.

The thrust (emphasis) for Commission 2008 – Upholding Kingdom Values as we go – was expounded through bible expositions and built on by other plenary, seminar and the Bible study sessions. This blend helped the delegates to reflect and evaluate their lives particularly in their participation in world missions as it were given that this concept of Kingdom values is the root determining the authenticity and credibility of our missions. In effect and from observation and delegates' feedback, the program content for Commission 2008 was rich and diverse. It addressed cross-cutting and contemporary issues in our world today (details under the program content of the report). Further the delegation was a good mix; students and graduates/professionals, young and old, people from across cultures, a mix of international and local speakers etc. This enriched interactions making Commission a great place for information exchange and sharing appreciating global diversity.

Further, Commission 2008 provided for a time of counseling and mentoring sessions to help the delegates' thought process and explore further their impressions at Commission and this was indeed insightful for NEXT STEPS. The exhibitors, designated mentors and speakers facilitated these aspects with appreciable success. At the close of the conference there were 1400 commitments of people signing up to varied commitments to world missions. One spectacular scene at this Commission

was the countless number of people estimated at over 80% who responded to the altar call for prayer. It was quite phenomenal. We are committed to follow through these commitments and create a community of people involved in world missions in whichever way possible and practicable to them. The strategy in place for the same is summed up later in the report.

All the aforementioned happened because of: the prayers of God's people, a good and early planning which started in January 2006, a dedicated staff team, a team of over 120 volunteers (students & associates) who gave their time, equipments and office space for planning meetings. We also had the privilege of working with a committed Kabarak community staff team. They displayed enormous goodwill right from management, donations (in form of finances, services and in kind). Different individuals, churches, and organizations gave a hand of partnership and joining all was God's favor.

It is in this strength that we present this report with grateful hearts for your support and partnership.

Commission 2008 cost was Kshs.15,740,253 (US \$ 209,870). (See the audited Financial report for FOCUS for the year ended 31st Dec. 2008). Your kind donation made it possible. Thank you and we will keep you posted on the progress of the Follow-up ventures of Commission.

THE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Every three or four years starting 1988, Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) organises a mission convention called 'COMMISSION' that brings together students, graduates and church leaders from across east, central and southern Africa. Commission 2008 was the 7th of such conference, 20 years on.

In the broad sense, the issues covered during 'COMMISSION' include:

- ✓ An assessment of prevailing realities in the mission field.
- ✓ A presentation of God's purpose and expectation for the church.
- ✓ An exposition of how missions are organized and carried out.
- ✓ A motivation to students to see their role in the global missions' enterprise.
- ✓ A call to students and associates to definite commitment to the theology of mission and practice.

The overall objectives of *COMMISSION* and which formed the basis for Commission 2008 are:

- ✓ To present to the students and graduates the call of God to World Missions helping them discover God's call for them.
- ✓ To create a positive attitude towards missions among the students and graduates and develop an awareness of un-reached peoples and a commitment to reach them.
- ✓ To stimulate more prayers and financial giving towards missions.
- ✓ To link missionary organizations, churches and bible schools with prospective missionary candidates among the students and graduates.
- ✓ To discover and nurture prospective missionary candidates.

The anticipated outcome and achievement of Commission 2008 were that:

- ✓ As a **mission training** forum, the delegates would be better equipped on mission issues and empowered for action in the mission enterprise.
- ✓ As a **mission mobilization and awareness creation** forum, at least 20% of the delegates will be stirred and rallied towards mission involvement with

- all the delegates being made aware of the global needs and rationale for involvement.
- ✓ As a **mission information exchange and sharing forum**, the presentation on the issues at hand in the world missions would be well articulated and that delegates would be better informed of these realities and given an opportunity through the program to engage them.
 - ✓ As a forum for **networking and partnership in mission**, delegates will appreciate the interplay of roles by varied players - who are largely exhibitors and supporters of Commission (churches, mission agencies, other organizations and institutions,) – to build synergy and enhance efficiency in missions engagement with mutual respect and support.

In every Commission, we have experienced God's presence, leading, resourcing and drawing of his people to listen and Commission 2008 was not an exception as is outlined in succeeding parts of this report.

PLANNING FOR COMMISSION 2008

As a matter of best practice, birthed at inception of Commission conferences and nurtured over the past commission conferences, prior planning spanning over two and half years has been an icon of the conventions and this ensured quality program content and guaranteed prudence and excellence in service delivery which is one of FOCUS organizational core value.

Commission 2008 planning began in earnest in January 2006 and the secret of commission success has been contributed to significantly by following factors besides early planning:

- ✓ A cross-sectional consultation with key players in the world of mission – Church leaders, other students’ movements, mission practitioners and experts, among others.
- ✓ A dedicated staff team in engaging issues, research, service delivery and quality assurance
- ✓ A great number of volunteers from among Associates, students and churches and other partner organizations.
- ✓ Understudy strategy on other groups and students movements and flexibility of the planning team as regards bounced ideas.

The aforementioned greatly influenced Commission 2008 outcome.

I. Planning Team

This is a team that oversaw the overall planning of Commission 2008. It consisted of the Commission 2008 Desk (Directors and Registrar) plus a team of Committee conveners. We had five committees mandated with key priority areas for the conference namely: Logistics, Venue, Program, Media and Follow-up.

2. Delegates Mobilization

FOCUS Kenya engaged all systems in order to mobilize students, graduates, Church and organization leaders to attend Commission 2008. Every possible method was used - mass media (radio), personal visits and talks in Christian Union/ church gatherings, brochures, handbills, letters and emails sent all over the continent and beyond, and the internet (www.focuskenya.org). We had a publicity video produced by the Media Committee which proved extremely useful. Praise God for graciously helping us to mobilize 2,469 people from 18 countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi, DRC, Congo, Malawi, The Gambia, Cameroun, Nigeria, South Africa, UK, Norway, America and Australia) to Commission 2008.

The distribution per categories was as follows:

| Category | Expected numbers | Number attended |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Kenyan Students | 1800 | 1710 |
| International students | 200 | 169 |
| Associates/church Leaders | 800 | 430 |
| Children (Associates, staff) | 100 | 60 |
| FOCUS staff & speakers | 100 | 100 |
| TOTAL | 3000 | 2469 |

3. Venue: Kabarak University

Commission 2008 was held at Kabarak University and her sister institutions – high and primary schools, situated 180km from Nairobi. This was the second time Kabarak hosted the conference. The venue has proved an ideal Commission venue with the institution’s staff going out of their way to make our stay comfortable. Delegates loved the serene, out-of-city environment. Overall, the Kabarak Community hosted us very well. Due to the lack of a big enough hall for the plenary sessions, we hired a **mega-tent**; sitting about **2,500** people, which comfortably accommodated the delegates. Generally, the tent served us very well in spite of a number of challenges such as visibility and heat.

PROGRAM CONTENT OF COMMISSION 2008

I. Thrust

Several prevailing realities provided the thrust for and shaped the thoughts which designed the program content of the convention. Key among these included:

- a. The increasingly notable shift of the center of Christianity from the global North to the global South. We sought to explore among other questions: To what extent can it be said that the Church in the South is well equipped to face this challenge? When we talk about being “equipped”, it is equipped in whose terms?
- b. 3rd generation Christianity in the South and the apparent increasing nominalism among majority of Christians. Is there any disillusionment that is setting in among Christians as far as Christian faith is concerned? How does this reality impact how we do mission within and without our context?
- c. The question of justice (or is it injustice?) in most of the Southern countries at state level. Good governance seems to be so elusive. How should the reality of “the Kingdom of God” impact on such nations, and the world at large as far as justice and governance are concerned?
- d. Motivation for ministry involvement: gospel or money? There is a growing concern that an increasing and significant number of Christians seem to engage in God’s work for the wrong purposes or with wrong motives: search for money (wealth), power and influence, etc. Could it be that most Christians have a wrong discipleship towards and concerning God’s work? Could it also be that people have a wrong understanding of God and Mission? Could it be that people are living in delusion and deception, as far God’s mission is concerned? Or is it a factor of human sin that skews people towards this direction?

2. Theme and Emphasis

The conference was organized under the theme: *As the Father Sent Me, So I Send You* (John 20: 21) and particularly sought to address this theme by examining the values that God’s people are expected to carry and exhibit as they carry out the mission of Jesus, hence the emphasis: *Values of the Kingdom of God as We Go!*

3. Bible Expositions

Rev. David Oginde of Nairobi Pentecostal Church, Valley Road, Nairobi was the conference Bible Expositor and main speaker. He took the delegates through a 5-day exposition series with an aim of challenging each to develop a biblical theology of “The Kingdom of God” and how this impacts the way we do missions/ministry. He in particular noted that the kingdom of God is not a ‘democracy’ but a ‘monarch’. This reality has great and far reaching implications when it comes to serving God and carrying out his purposes here on earth because the kingdom has its ethics, values and principles, which are non-negotiable. If anyone purports to work for and on behalf of the kingdom, then he must be willing to abide with and uphold certain ethics, values and principles. He further implored the delegates not only to uphold these values while doing ministry, but in our daily walk with God and our interaction with the wider community.

4. Plenary Sessions and Speakers

The following issues were discussed at the plenary level facilitated by the following speakers:

a. Mission and Family – *Mr. & Mrs. Tom and Helen Malande (Kenya)*

The couple (together with their firstborn son) made a strong case for the place of family in furthering God’s mission. It is in the family that children are born, nurtured and socialized into becoming the carriers of God’s kingdom. This is a central and core role of the family, a role that every existing or aspiring family must gain consciousness about so that our mandate as carriers of God’s kingdom is realized and not hindered by ethnic attachments. “As people of God we must therefore make the epoch breaking transition to family from ethnos to a trans-ethnic surrogate family of God and from there minister as a family (see I Corinthians 16: 15, Luke 1: 5 – 6).

b. Justice and Governance: The Church’s Mandate – *Hon. Rev. Mutava Musyimi (Kenya)*

The speaker challenged the delegates to take personal responsibility as Christian to engage matters and quest for justice and good governance. Drawing from his own example, he pointed to the need for personal engagement within one’s sphere of influence instead of pointing fingers to the political leaders. It is the duty of every citizen, and much more the Christian, to put into accountability the leaders of the

day and participating in putting into place structures and systems that support good governance and justice for all.

c. Mission and Environment – *Prof. James O. Kiyiapi (Kenya)*

The speaker made a strong case for environment as a mission issue by underscoring the important role of environment in development for inter and intra-generational equity. The failure for proper environmental management is clearly seen in the environmental challenges witnessed all over the world, key among them, climate change, deforestation, pollution, land degradation, etc. Environmental conservation and management, the speaker asserted, is not a side issue for Christians. There is a urgent need to integrate environmental sustainability in our belief and value system.

d. Mission and Ethnocentrism – *Mr. Antoine Rutayisire (Rwanda)*

Drawing from his own experience, the speaker took the delegates through a breathtaking session on the threats of ethnocentrism (comparing and judging ethnically different others from one's own ethnic glasses). He underscored the need for rediscovering the gospel of reconciliation. Such gospel affirms the fallen-ness of all humanity and the common need of all humanity for salvation and restoration only through Jesus Christ crucified. It is through Christ that we all gain a "new identity" thereby belonging to one ethnos – the people of God, an identity that redefines our new social relationships.

e. Mission and the Local Church – *Rev. Oscar Muriu (Kenya)*

Rev. Muriu raised the stakes high when he traced three epochs in the history of the church, namely: *Pax Romana*, *Pax Britannica*, and *Pax Americana*. The fourth epoch, he suggested, now lies in Africa, *Pax Africana*. He suggested several models for mission doing and support within the "African moment and context" noting that probably the one huge and strong resource for the African church is her youthful people. Other resources that the African church can and must utilize in its Christian mission is hospitality, time, energy, lifestyle, and relationships,

f. Mission and Training – *Rev. Femi B. Adeleye (Nigeria)*

In order to do mission effectively in the world we are living in, with the excellence that God deserves, training is not an option for any Christian believer. The challenge of living in a google or yahoo driven world is that one can often be tempted to live a google or yahoo driven life. However, one needs to know that it is not possible to replace a Holy Spirit driven mission and work with Information Technology. Christian mission is not about downloading "how-to" formulas from google or yahoo. It is about letting God shape and sharpen us whether through formal, non-formal or informal means. Any one who desires to remain in service of Christ must

constantly remain a student. A student is constantly under training. Some people use the Holy Spirit as a weapon against training. This, the speaker noted, is ignorance and mediocrity because God has not given us the Holy as a hiding place for laziness and incompetence in ministry. Training is about being equipped with the necessary skills in order to engage God's work meaningfully and effectively.

g. Mission and Career – *Mr. John Ng'ang'a (Kenya)*

The speaker discredited the popular understanding that dichotomizes life by designating different compartments: secular and spiritual. According to him, every Christian is a full-time Christian, whether working for church or in a secular setting. The challenge is on the Christian to realize that God places us in different places so that we can be his full-time ambassador in our everyday duties, whether as pastors, teachers, farmers, engineers, lawyers, or whichever profession/occupation one finds him/herself in. In deed, ones career is a vehicle for serving God, not a means of enriching oneself.

h. Mission and Post modernity – *Rev. Joel Edwards (UK)*

After helping the delegates to clearly understand the concept of postmodernity, the speaker argued with passion that post modernity presents equal challenges and opportunities to the Christian faith. One key quest for post modernity is the quest for authenticity. Christian mission has the best of opportunities to present Christ in a post modern culture because of the authentic nature of the gospel itself. This is because Christian mission is about proclaiming and demonstrating the Good News. There is therefore urgent need for Christians to present Christ with credibility while at the same time proclaiming and demonstrating the Good News and engaging in spiritual and social transformation.

i. Mission and Development – *Dr. Joshua Wathanga (Kenya)*

If Christians will embrace transformational development as a core component of Christian mission, it will be when we take seriously the theology of Creation: God owns the earth and has entrusted it to mankind as steward (Ps.24: 1). We must therefore work and productive and allow other to do the same. We must multiply and grow things for this is the theology of creation. We must also look carefully at the theology of the Fall. It led to distortion of all things – relationship with God, with the creation, with the family and with one another. It is because of the fall that some people dominate others and become selfish and unmindful of those who are not like others (Prov.13: 23). Therefore those who make wealth make it for very selfish reasons: to protect their own interests.

j. Mission and Partnership – *Prof. Mark Shaw (USA)*

The speaker noted that partnerships in world evangelization are not new, but they are becoming more and more frequent. They are a biblical idea, but they are also pragmatically useful for furthering the mission of the kingdom. He observed that not all partnerships succeed, however, and care must be taken both in creating and maintaining effective partnerships. If partnerships will be meaningful and effective, then the partners must consider each other “equal” in the partnership. Even though say partners may be endowed differently in terms of human and financial resources, it is very necessary that the two partners treat each other equally. He observed that other important ingredients for any successful partnership include an assessment of compatibility between both, anticipation of potential problems and how to resolve them, preparing a written document as the basis for partnership engagement, agreeable long range goals and activities, a functional leadership to steer the partnership, and an ongoing evaluation of the partnership.

k. Response and Commitment - *Pastor Calisto Odede (Kenya)*

This session gave the delegates an opportunity to formally and consciously respond to God. The speaker made a passionate appeal to the delegates to be part of what the Lord was already doing in different parts of the world by availing themselves to be used of the Lord. We thank God that at least 700 delegates made specific commitments to be involved in practical cross-cultural and contextual missions, while more than 1,600 stood up for prayers, seeking God’s guidance and anointing in response to mission opportunities and needs.

5. Seminars

Seminars gave an opportunity to the delegates to delve in specific issues that they are passionate about and therefore helping them clarify their specific area of calling. Most of the more than sixty invited speakers turned up and this made the seminars meet their objective. They were designed into two broad categories;

a. Track Seminars

These sought to cluster a wide range of related issues falling within a broad theme. The rationale is to address as many areas and dimensions of the theme under investigation as possible. They encompassed the following broad areas:

- Prayer and Mission
- Discipleship and Mission
- Issues and trends in Mission
- Mission Mobilization

- Mission Involvement
- Practical issues in Missions
- Students and Missions
- Frontier Missions
- Practical/Creative Ministries
- Mission Training
- Integral mission/Social Action
- Missions and Development
- Mission and the Family
- Counseling
- Integral Mission
- Sexuality

b. Block Seminars

The Block Seminars were designed to offer a “mini-course” on the area they are addressing. They targeted a specific mission frontier or issue in order to allow for an in-depth coverage. The intention was that the participants can pick specific areas of further engagement after Commission. They included:

- *The Local Church*: The Local church is the place where God calls, equips and sends people “for the work he has called them for.” (Acts 13:1-2) What is the place of the Africa Local Church in world mission today? How can we develop our members to be “mission-minded”?
- *Islam*: It is true that Islam is one of the fastest growing religions in the world today. But it is also true that many Muslims are following Christ. How can we better understand Islam so that we can engage its followers meaningfully to follow Christ? Does Islam have some agreements and/or disagreements with Christianity? How can we develop ministry among students with a Muslim background or in an Islamic context?
- *Youth Ministry*: Kenya and most African countries are largely “youthful” in the sense that majority of the population are young people. Imagine what kind of society the world would be if the young are intentionally and strategically targeted for Christian nurture, discipleship and socialization? What approach should such thinking take?

- *Business as a Mission:* Majority of Christians are involved in business – small, medium or large, others are in the professional circles. Most are quite successful albeit in a world of competition and corruption. How can one remain on the cutting edge while still maintaining high professional/business ethical standards? Using the business/professional influence, how can one deliberately further the values of the Kingdom of God within and without the business/profession circles?
- *Postgraduate Studies:* Culture and its assumptions are reflected and largely produced by the university. Most often than not, secularists and atheists dominate the discussions and forums that debate and popularize such culture. What is the place of Christian mind in engaging such ‘forums of thought’ and/or issues? What such forums of thought are at our disposal? How can the Christian graduate and faculty demonstrate that s/he takes university seriously in our Christian witness?
- *Children Ministry:* To what extent can it be said that every Christian family in Kenya and Africa at large is abiding with the command of God in Deut.6:6-7 and Prov.22:6?
- *Cross-cultural Missions:* By design, it does appear God would want us not only to be involved in his service within the confines of our culture but also (may be a lot more) across the cultures (*cf.* Acts 1: 8). Jesus ministry was cross-cultural. Paul too is a great example. What facets of culture are critical for us in seeking to engage society? We cannot over-emphasize cross-cultural issues and need for meaningful ministry since we encounter new cultures and sub-cultures every more often.
- *HIV and AIDS:* HIV & AIDS is a global pandemic affecting society including the church. What is the church’s witness in HIV & AIDS prevention? What are the current attitudes to HIV & AIDS? How can we make a difference?
- *Mission and Development:* Are we often concerned with the issues that make our communities lag behind in terms of development? We sometimes project the blame to other people, but how can we be involved as Christians in the development of the communities that we come from or we would like to be associated with. Is it any important for Christians to be involved?

- *Mission and Globalization:* As we live in a world that is increasingly becoming a global village, mission practitioners and scholars have to grapple with globalization if we are to maintain our cutting edge in mission by remaining relevant. In the first instance, mission activities in our urban centres in Africa demand a different strategy from those in rural places as world views of urban youth in particular now closely mirror those of Western nations. Secondly, the centre for mission sending nations is shifting to the global South. This necessitates adequate preparation for all our missionaries from Africa.
- *Christians and Politics:* What is the role of the Christian politicians as the voice of reason in the commonly considered 'dirty politics' and full of egocentric ambitions? What is the place of the church in politics- how can Christians be involved in non partisan politics yet influence political development of the nation by use of their democratic rights?

6. Small Group Bible Study

All the delegates attending the conference were put in small groups of between 5 and 8 people. Every morning, between 8.15-9.15 am, they would gather together around God's word to study and examine several values of God's Kingdom as brought out in the Bible Study guide, *Vessels of Honor*, produced by FOCUS for the Commission 2008 conference. The BS guide covers the following values: Trust and Obedience, Purity and Holiness, Integrity and Faithfulness, Courage and Boldness, Endurance and Steadfastness, Unity and Oneness, Justice and Fairness, Sacrifice and Selfishness.

7. Exhibitions

A total of 22 exhibitors – missionary organizations, churches and theological institutions were available throughout the conference to expose the delegates to the existing opportunities for mission involvement and training.

8. Other Components

- a. Networking

Delegates that were or intended to be involved in similar areas of mission met so as to have further communication and engagement of issues beyond the conference. Such meetings were happening at the same time as the exhibitions.

b. Mentoring and Counseling

The follow up team had a team of mentors and counselors that were at hand to help the many delegates in considering involvement in different areas of mission. The mentors and counselors were delegates that have either previously been at the conference or are already involved in Christian ministry. There was also gift identification that went alongside these with appropriate guidance.

c. Games

A variety of games were organized by the programs committees. The objective of the games was to have the delegates relax and also to have relaxed interactions between the delegates. The games took place on the New Year. This was a great opportunity to relax especially after the extended night for the New Year's Eve.

d. Sunday School

About 60 children turned up for their specialized sessions during the conference. The children program ran parallel to the general program of the conference. . The children were divided into three age groups of 3-6, 7-9 and 10-14.

FINANCES FOR COMMISSION 2008

1. Commission 2008 Financial Report

See the attached Financial Report for a detailed analysis of Commission 2008 finances.

2. Fundraising

Commission 2008 had a budget of Ksh. 23.44 million (US\$) for 3,000 delegates. In the run up to Commission the budget was revised to stand at Kshs.19,733,000. This was because we revised the expected number of delegates from 3000 to 2500. At the same time, Kabarak Community gave us a subsidy of Kshs.1.8 Million. We approached various churches, organizations and individuals to help us raise the required finances. We praise God and thank all who generously gave to help us raise Ksh. 17,758,684 (US\$ 236,782.5) inclusive of delegates' fees. The total expenditure was Kshs.15.740253 (US\$ 209,870), leaving a surplus of about Kshs.2.0 Million (US\$ 26,666.67) that will go towards Commission 2008 Follow-up venture.

Another highlight is that we raised Ksh.155, 000 (US\$ 2583) in form offering at Commission 2008 conference and Kshs.300, 000 (US\$ 5000) towards supporting other student mission conferences in Africa. This money (Kshs.455, 000) has been designated to establish the FOCUS Sudan Mission Fund and will include supporting their Mission Convention, helping them develop a Conference Management System and a reserve for a Missionary Staff.

OUTCOME OF COMMISSION 2008

Though it may still be early to document clear and sustained outcomes of Commission 2008 in terms of actualizing the commitments that delegates made during the conference, the forum brought out several significant missiological and theological issues. I will highlight a few:

- ☞ The Kingdom of God is not built on the tenets of a democracy where the will of the majority prevails by building consensus. On the contrary, the kingdom of God is a monarchy where the will of the King prevails. The people are the subjects of the King and therefore the King has absolute say on how the Kingdom is run.
- ☞ The concept of monarchy is rooted on the justice and love of God and not on the distortion arising from the fallenness of man. It is for the good of the subjects that God demands certain standards of morality, ethics, and behavior.
- ☞ There appears to be centers from and within which the Kingdom flourishes and finds direction: starting with Jerusalem and Middle East in general (*Pax Romana*) to Europe (*Pax Europa* or *Pax Britannica*) then to North America (*Pax Americana*). The center seems to have shifted to Africa and the rest of the Southern hemisphere, what might be called *Pax Africana*. Africa and the rest of the South must examine the models for advancing the Kingdom of God for in every epoch, there seems to be unique approach and models that have been used without compromising the content of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ☞ God has equal value and regard for every human being regardless of color, language, geographic location, literacy or economic status. This value and regard is rooted in the fact that human beings are created in the image of God and in His likeness. It is therefore a distortion of God's image when human beings discriminate against each other on the basis of language or ethnicity, or demonstrate selfishness by having inequitable resources distribution. Such a community does not reflect the Kingdom of God for the Kingdom of God has absolute regard for social justice.

- ☞ The concept of the Kingdom of God implies a community of people who belong to the said kingdom. Such a community must therefore respect each other, cooperate with each other, care for each other and consider each other as members of the same kingdom. It is only then that the community can lay a strong framework for interdependence, partnership and environmental care.

AFTER COMMISSION: THE WAY FORWARD

FOLLOW-UP STRATEGY FOR COMMISSION 2008

We are committed to see to it that the outcome and fruit of Commission 2008 is sustained beyond the Conference itself. We thank God that 1400 delegates made a written commitment for practical involvement in missions. Approximately 2000 delegates stood for prayers during the last night of the conference seeking God's strength, guidance and anointing as they engage missions through career, profession or Christian ministry involvement. A significant number were stirred to support mission work through prayer, financial giving and going to the mission field. Many students were challenged to review their mission strategies in their colleges. There are many other delegates who are still processing the Commission experience and the issues that were raised. We want to preserve these and many other outcomes of the conference.

We have developed a Commission 2008 Follow-Up working document, which we launched and shared with people during a Commission 2008 Thanksgiving service held on 8th February 2009. This document lays the framework on which we are engaging follow-up (see appendix A for a pictorial image of the same):

I. Students

The remarkable thing is that even before this document went out, students had already started actualizing their commitments at Commission in their colleges. A student at Kabete Technical Training Institute (KTTI) committed himself to share the gospel of Jesus with his fellow students once he goes back to college. As a result, 3 students so far have received Christ in their lives as Lord and Savior! Two students from Upper Kabete campus CU have started a yahoo group for sharing their testimonies on what God is doing in their lives as they respond to God's call.

In particular, we have asked students to do several things including (but not limited to): purchasing Commission 2008 Plenary DVDs and availing them to the Christian Union library, organizing debriefing forums for those who attended the conference, creating opportunities for testimonies during the CU meetings for delegates to share their experiences, incorporating Commission Topics (Seminar and Plenary) in their

program cards and inviting Commission Speakers to facilitate the same, forming Prayer Groups in small numbers to pray for world missions, participate in Mission and Evangelism Consultation forums organized by FOCUS Missions department to as part of ongoing mission training and reflections among other things.

2. Associates

The strategies for reaching to the associates are being pursued together with the Associates' Director. Already, the Kenyan Associates Easter Retreat is one major forum where Commission follow-up will be engaged. This year's theme for the retreat is *May Your Kingdom Come!* with a thrust on "Personal Responsibility in Pursuit of Justice and Governance." It is intentional that the retreat's theme echoes/mirrors the Commission emphasis (Values of the Kingdom of God) and that the thrust resonates with one of the plenaries at Commission. But even much more important is the fact that this is a current and serious issue particularly in Kenya. The key speaker was one of the Seminar speakers at Commission, who is also a Kenyan government minister.

The FOCUS Associates Social Action Mobilization Office (FASAMO) will also coordinate several aspects of the Follow-Up, particularly in engaging the professional groups and Campus based groups on relevant areas of involvement.

3. Churches and Organizations

We will partner with this category to provide mission exposure(s) to willing Commission 2008 delegates. In particular, two Short-term mission exposures to a section of the Kenyan Coastal region will be pursued in the April and August 2009 months. We shall also partner with one organization to provide a cross-cultural mission experience through a simulation program, *The Journey to the delegates*. We shall also seek to recommend and link delegates to existing short-term mission opportunities and mission internship programs that are run, hosted or coordinated by such organizations as exhibited at Commission 2008. We shall encourage Commission 2008 Exhibitors to stay in touch with the delegates who visited their stands with a view of nurturing prospective missionaries by giving relevant and updated information to them.

CONCLUSION

Considering the aforementioned, the following can be said of Commission 2008:

- ✓ A Reflective platform on critical issues on Mission by critical mass of over 2400 people.
- ✓ Information sharing and exchange forum resulting from a rich program content offered.
- ✓ A Networking forum for delegates and about 20 organizations exhibiting.
- ✓ Links for mentorship and counseling for delegates were enhanced
- ✓ Definite commitments for involvement by over 1000 delegates

Thank you very much indeed for your generous donation. We wish you God's blessings.