



Executive Director's Communique February 2022

What is Pentecostal Training?

God has graciously brought us into the New Year of 2022. I am sure we all look forward to opportunities he will give us to serve and exalt him and to disciple our students. In this edition of *Communique*, I would like to provoke you to think about the meaning of Pentecostal training. My encouragement would be for you to meet with your faculty and administration to have an open discussion examining what it means to be a Pentecostal school training people to serve the local church, plant churches where they do not exist, and prepare some of our students to become teachers and administrators in our schools.

Three key questions for discussion are: What is training? What is Christian training? What is Pentecostal training?

What is training? Training is a good word because it speaks to both thoughts and actions. Sports trainers work with athletes to show them how to perform at a higher level than before they experienced specific instruction. The athletic trainer demonstrates what the athlete needs to do and then works with the individual until he or she applies what they have seen and heard. Modeling, repetition, challenge, instruction, and assessment are part of the training process. As a result of training, an athlete improves. Consider your work at the Bible school: do you simply provide content for the mind? Do you address attitudes, motivations, actions, and skills? Every person is unique, and we must honor their individual calling and giftings, but each student needs to commit to excellence, humility, teachability, prayer, serving others, and problem solving. Do you limit training to transferring information from your mind to theirs, or are you also shaping attitudes, behavior, and motivation?

What is Christian training? We are followers of Jesus, and we serve in Christian organizations. What makes our schools Christian? Compare your institution to a state or private university. What difference does “Christian” make in relationships between administrators, faculty, and students? How do all of us live not only in the classroom and chapel but in our offices, on the pitch, in the dorms, and in our homes? How does being a Christian affect my daily preparation, my effort to engage students as emerging ministers of the gospel, my expectations for their performance, and my ways of assessment? Besides a prayer at the beginning of class, how does your commitment to Christ impact everything you do in terms of training?

What is Pentecostal training? We are unashamedly Pentecostals believing in the need to be led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, open to the miraculous, and sensitive to the discerning voice of the Spirit. Pentecostalism is certainly more than evidential tongues in prayer and declarations of tongues with interpretation in corporate gatherings. It is more than loud and demonstrative enthusiasm. Filled with the Spirit our passion is to exalt Christ, make him known among every people group where he is unknown, pray for the sick, cast out demons, manifest the character of Christ, seek spiritual gifts that edify, and discern what the voice of the Spirit is speaking to us about our students. Be a Pentecostal educator full of knowledge, committed to training, and filled with the Spirit.