

SACLA – Daily Reports From Tracks

Friday

Church Leaders Track

SUMMARY STATEMENT

1. Having made the journey through these last four day's themes of Repentance, Hope, Unity and Commitment to Action, it is good for us to reflect on the challenges we faced, and which brought us learning.

Three stood out – Unity, Leadership and Youth. No matter which of our seven giants we chose to address at a local, regional or national level, one will have to deal with issues concerning Unity, Leadership and Youth.

Clearly we discovered a richness in being one and again owning our oneness in Christ. Nevertheless, leadership of local congregations will have to embrace a wider expression of the unity of the church, as a value, before they will find the courage and determination to pursue it. There is a long journey for most of us to undertake in building trust and respect between ourselves and others of different Christian traditions. If we fail to do the work required, no hope will be given to our cynicism and despair, and distrust will grow. The net result will be a voiceless, useless Church. The "giants" will defeat us simply because we will remain a house divided amongst itself.

Also challenging us is the apparent reluctance to assume leadership roles and functions in our churches, and this has resulted in a leadership vacuum. Black leaders leading, and white leaders learning to work with black colleagues, are more the exception than the rule. This, too, weakens the Church's power and witness.

The third major challenge is the role of youth. Will they be given the respect their vibrant faith in Jesus deserves; will leaders listen, be available to, mentor and learn from young Christians, and will they be empowered as mutual leaders in our churches?

2. Because we are one, and committed to the practical unity of the Body of Christ, we commit ourselves to:
 1. Continuing to listen to the stories of others with compassionate attention and to continue to tell our stories with vulnerability and faith, believing that such interaction will lead us to fuller repentance and to experience forgiveness and healing.
 2. Receiving, expressing and transmitting hope by working together as local churches, building friendship outside our denominational boundaries and across cultural and racial divides.
 3. Empowering and mentoring the youth in being real players in the decision-making processes of our local churches.
 4. Becoming leaders who live with integrity and godliness, who express accountability and accessibility to others, and who work for the eradication of the "giants" identified at SACLA, namely:
 1. Poverty and unemployment
 2. HIV and Aids
 3. Crime
 4. Violence
 5. Prejudice
 1. Racism
 2. Sexism
3. Throughout the track – around the tables and in the writing on the wall – was the echo of values lost or at a low ebb. The youth visit left an indelible point [on the wall!] that church leaders leave much to be desired as role models. Values of integrity, honesty, faithfulness, accessibility, sexual purity, godliness in speech, lifestyle and accountability are more noticeable by their absence.
4. It is hoped that learnings made here at SACLA will be witnessed to and passed on to others who sent us here, inviting them to own the unity of the Body of Christ, the task of leadership, the responsibility of setting examples also. "Giants" will come and go – the enemy is like a prowling lion – but the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. The light that repels darkness is always full of grace and truth.

Education Track

Report to come

Science, Technology and the Environment Track

Estimated number of delegates for the day: 35

Objectives for the day:

- 1 Complete Group assignment to secure commitments for the future and capture this in commitment a statement.

- 2 Ask each member to give 1 to 1.5 minutes feedback on their experience and personal commitments arising out of SACLA.

Processes used (e.g. speakers, small groups, etc):

A dynamic group process was used to develop the commitment statement starting with individual work – followed by group synthesis and a final full plenary synthesis. Every person at the track spoke and testified to what God had done for them in the last session. The volunteers who had supported us were thanked and we prayed for them in their future work.

Recurring and/or emerging themes both in terms of the overall theme for the day and the giant/s as dealt with):

A recurring them was that God had worked in the lives of the people who participated in a profound way.
People had found the track's work accessible and enjoyable.
Pastors and non-scientists found they could work effectively with scientists.

Important conclusions reached so far:

Incomplete

Civil Society, Social Development, Health and Medicine Track

Estimated number of delegates for the day: 150

Objectives for the day:

To commit ourselves to action

Processes used:

- Speaker: Lorenzo Davids.
- Workshop time to summarise our commitments.
- Special ceremony of commitment and anointing service.

Recurring and/or emerging themes:

Important conclusions reached so far:

Emerging commitments or action steps:

Small feedback forms distributed and filled in; reworked at home; try to get people together in areas to sustain work and commitments.

Any special moments and/or testimonies that came to your attention:

The service was wonderful – a humbling experience!

Politics and Government Track

Report to come

Arts Entertainment and Media Track

Estimated number of delegates for the day: 80-100

Objectives for the day:

- Commit to Action — Personally and corporately.
- Strategic way forward.

Processes used

Speakers: Graham Vermooten — An encouragement to each communicator.

Michael Mol shared regarding his journey in the media and encouraging each person to go on.

Dave Pass — Moving into the promised land: Be Bold

Ds Mostert — Prayer a foundation.

Small Groups — Commitment to individual commitment time.

Recurring and/or emerging themes in terms of the overall theme for the day, the giants as dealt with or other inputs:

See statement of intent for Aids, Media track for the rest.

Important conclusions so far:

Emerging commitments or action steps:

Any special moments and/or testimonies that came to your attention:

Transformation Track

Report to come

Youth Leaders in High Schools and Churches Track

Opening statement to Plenary by Youth:

We are facing a number of giants, any one of which could destroy our country, but if combined with one or more other giants could completely devastate us.

These problems are too big for us if we are divided, but if under God we are united, then we will have, with God's power, the ability to bring these giants down.

God calls us to a deep, all-embracing unity so that we can identify with and feel each other's pain, and in the fellowship of Christ embrace those among us living with the daily horror of these problems.

We want to be real Christians in the real South Africa, and we will no longer ignore the devastation in people's lives all around us. We are God's instruments of healing in a land in desperate need of healing.

Statements:

Please will you stand if ...

... you or a loved one is living with HIV or Aids, or if you have lost someone from Aids this year.

... you or someone you know has been sexually abused or raped this year.

...you or a loved one is unemployed, or goes hungry for lack of food.

... you or a loved one are a victim of a crime that has changed your life severely.

... you or a loved one are the victim of a violent act or acts this year.

... you have been discriminated against because of the colour of your skin this year in a way which has dehumanised you.

... your family relationships have broken down to the point of separation or divorce.

Closing Confession:

I confess my blindness in not seeing other people's needs; my judgementalism and pride which causes me to consider myself better than others.

I confess my lack of compassion which has left people isolated and lonely and even excluded from the Church; and my lack of action in the face of great evils which has allowed our land to be threatened by the giants of HIV and Aids, Crime, Violence, Poverty and Unemployment, Racism, Violence against women and the breakdown of families. I repent of wrong attitudes which regard others different from me as inferior, and which has allowed others to become victims of these giants.

We commit ourselves to helping those in need instead of looking the other way, and to loving others unconditionally as Christ has taught and shown us, and to obey all He tells me to do!

Business and Labour Track

Report to come

Justice, Safety and Security Track

Report to come

Children's Ministry and Family Issues Track

Report to come

Tertiary Students and Young Adult Track

Estimated number of delegates for the day: about 340

Objectives for the day:

- 1 Commit delegates to action.
- 2 Coming up with programmes of action to address these giants.

Processes used:

- Speaker.
- Small groups.
- Regional meetings (provinces).
- Drawing up of action plans.

Recurring and/or emerging themes:

1. The need to work together.
2. Promoting individual commitment, which, when combined with other people's commitment, will change the nation.
3. Establish regional networking teams.

Important conclusions reached so far:

- To work hand in hand across denominational boundaries and race.
- Set up a network of communication.

Emerging commitments or action steps:

Concluded with a prayer around a cross. Papers were pasted on the floor in the shape of a cross. Delegates used water paint in which to dip their hands and leave their prints on the cross. This was to symbolise that we are all one in Christ and united through the cross.

Any special moments and/or testimonies that came to your attention:

Delegates realised we are all one in Christ and that he died for each one of us. Together we can fight the Goliaths.

Further Commitment to action

HIV/Aids

Points on HIV/Aids

- Networking

That includes leaders of regions with common vision and working together across all barriers.

- Caring

Serving and promoting extended family with love. Caring for the people who are affected and infected, as well as accepting them and extending to them evangelism and discipleship.

- Attitudes.
- Destigmatisation
- Education and Training
- Developing Bible studies, workshops, create mentorship programmes and involvement of young adults.

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CRIME

- A community policing forum which involves:
 - Community leaders and Church leaders;
 - Police (Sector Policing);
 - Local authorities.
- Prayer groups with all partners and prayer chains.
- Form cell groups to integrate the criminal back into society.
- Alternative activities, sport, Christian discos and Gospel gatherings (use police resources).

Contact person: Loveness Chauke

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POVERTY

Young Adults track

Poverty and Unemployment

1. Sharing of skills database:
 - Database of volunteers with available skills to be offered to uplift the poor:
 - o Teaching, farming, marketing, literacy;
 - o Developing the informal sector.
2. SACLA representative task force to approach government and private sector to facilitate partnerships to appropriate grants/resources, and then disseminate to the poor.
3. SACLA forums to be created locally on which representatives from every local church should sit across socio-economic, racial and class divides.
4. Churches to teach on:
 - o Classism;
 - o Tithing, generous giving;
 - o Biblical principles surrounding poverty.

Contact person: Markham Adams

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SEXISM

1. Serving supper – male to female – affirm each other.
2. Teaching with the need to repent. (Male/Female should not be seen as sex objects but equal.)
3. Correct interpretation of Scripture – Education.
4. Burst the stereotypes, e.g. teach that there are males who can cook, and women who can change tyres.
5. Be decisive and address sexism as a major.
6. Both men and women are equally qualified to lead and head the way. The Church must practise this in every way possible.

Contact person: Stelle Viljoen

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RACISM

1. Build relationships across the racial, denominational lines.– To learn about culture, lifestyle, etc.
2. Engage the Church leadership to change incorrect teaching, denominational structures, etc, that are not conducive to freedom from racism.
3. Give space for a TRC-type process to happen within the Church especially among our generation.
4. Education – Educate ourselves about racism and its causes.
 - Have education system include something on racism
 - Transform the education system so that it provides a different mindset to that of racism.
5. Prayer network among the leadership.

Contact person: Cathy Bollaert

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FAMILY IN CRISIS

1. Plan family outings for families that normally do not get together, especially at different social levels.
2. Ensure that prayer is an important part of everyday family life.
3. Place emphasis on pre-marital and post-marital counselling.
4. The church family can provide male and female role models and mentors to children, teenagers and youth.
5. Encourage families to help each other when faced with difficulties such as finances, truant children, and relationships

Contact person: Grant Stewart

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3.4 Day Four Friday

Theme: Commitment to action

Speaker: Pastor Sam Njela

3.4.1 Highlights

Delegates met in small groups according to the passions (HIV/Aids, crime, racism, unemployment, sexism, and poverty. National co-ordinators were appointed to ensure that communication lines remain open among delegates, even after SACLA, as well as keep everyone informed and get each groups working.

4.0 Concluding activity

Delegates left palm prints on a big cross on the ground made of paper. This was to commit each person to taking action, individually, and do something about the giants. It was also done to symbolise that we are all one in Christ, united by the cross.