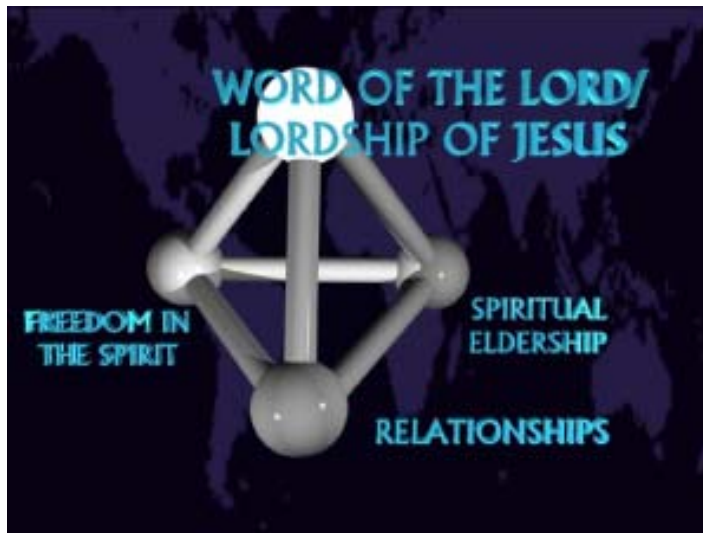




## ILT meets via GENESIS by Barbara



Who would have thought ten years ago, five years ago, or even two years ago that the International Leadership Team (ILT) of the University of the Nations would be meeting simultaneously in Lausanne, Switzerland and Kona, Hawaii, connected via GENESIS, a video-conferencing ministry of YWAM? Someone had to envision it, and that vision is now reality, with the joint sessions that began on Tuesday, March 4, in this historical meeting. Morning sessions in Kona join with evening sessions in Lausanne for teaching, discussion, planning, and prayer times.

On Tuesday morning, Loren Cunningham, President of the University of the Nations, addressed the two-continent-team of International Deans, Centre leaders, and College Reps on the issue of spiritual eldership, teaching from Ephesians 4:1-16. Loren first addressed this issue with YWAM's Global Leadership Team (GLT) which met in Nanning China this past August.

Recounting the word of the Lord in 1975 to both himself and Howard Malmstadt (International Chancellor for the U of N) concerning modular education, Loren emphasized the importance of "unity," represented by the various team members in both locations, and "diversity," represented by the modular form of education as well as the geographical diversity of training programs.

Then, using the analogy of a three-sided pyramid, the strongest of structures, Loren taught on the word of the Lord to him which came during a time of fasting and prayer last summer, concerning the importance of the Trinity, and how the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is to be a model for leadership in Youth With a Mission.

He spoke about the importance of and interaction between three areas of spiritual leadership, illustrated by the pyramid structure above: Freedom in the Spirit, Relationships, and Spiritual Eldership.

Quoting from Acts 17:27, Loren noted that God made nations so we could seek Him, and reminded the group that the essence of true spiritual leadership is submission to Christ. "Autonomy, a word YWAM has used frequently in the past," he said, "is not a biblical concept for leadership." He went on to speak about spiritual eldership.



“This[spiritual eldership] is not about gender or age,” Loren said. “It is about maturity in the Lord.”

Referring to the passage in Ephesians 4 concerning the five-fold gifts (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher) Loren stated that spiritual elders must be able to lead by teaching, not by position, title, or job description. “All of the five-fold gifts have a teaching component,” he pointed out.

Continuing in that vein, he then showed how biblically, spiritual eldership must be the source from which administration, legal, and financial matters must flow, not vice-versa. The Word of the Lord and the Lordship of Jesus in our lives and ministries must be rooted in the healthy blending of freedom in the Spirit, Relationships, and Spiritual Eldership.

The ILT will continue to ponder, meditate, and pray on this issue throughout the week of meetings which conclude on Saturday, March 8.

*Barbara Overgaard is the Managing Editor of YWAMconnect*