

CONVERSATIONS

Dr. George Flattery and J. Philip Hogan

International Correspondence Institute presents "Conversations" with president and founder, Dr. George M. Flattery. We invite you to listen in on a conversation between Dr. Flattery and one of his many friends from around the world.

George Flattery (GF)

I'm happy today to have Dr. J. Philip Hogan with me on this conversation and to talk about some of his past background as a missionary. He's now the Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions, well known all across the Assemblies of God and around the world, both by the Assemblies of God and throughout the evangelical world. I, of course, have worked with Brother Hogan a long time. Brother Hogan, it's really nice to have you here to do this for us and to talk about some things of interest to both of us. When did you first think about missions, and how did you get involved?

J. Philip Hogan (JPH)

Well, really, I was pastoring in the city of Detroit during the War. My wife and I began to feel that the Lord would have a change of ministry for us. He focused our attention on China, which was much in the news in those days, of course. We knew that the War would someday come to a close and that China would be probably the greatest "open door" as far as population and otherwise concern for missionary labor.

So, we made a commitment to the Lord and just started to trust in Him and walk in that way.

GF

You really began thinking about it before the end of WW II . . .

JPH

Yes, we did. During the War, we went to the University of California under the aegis of the Division of Foreign Missions and began to study in what was then a military language school, an oriental language school. By the time we got ready to go, we had had a pretty good look at the Chinese language.

GF

I was in a restaurant some time ago with you, in a Chinese restaurant, and you still spoke some of that. How well do you remember it?

JPH

Well, of course, I could fool a lot of people, but I couldn't fool many Chinese. In 35 years, you forget a lot of it. I've been back to China a time or two, and it's amazing how after I'm there and hear it, it begins to come back to me. But, I really have forgotten most of it.

GF

When did you actually land in China?

JPH

We went in January of 1946. They were bringing troops back in troop ships and taking missionaries out for another load of troops. So, we actually went on one of those early troop ships that went from San Francisco in 1946.

GF

What was it like to be in China during those days immediately following . . .

JPH

Of course, it wore all the marks of years of war and desecration, but it was China and we were happy to be there.

GF

You then left China in what year?

JPH

We left China in 1949. Of course, we stayed until the Communist takeover or almost, forced everything down to East China. I really worked in a port south of Shang'hai, an old port city by the name of Meng-po (sp?). I saw what was coming on, and I moved my family to Shang'hai. I had actually gone down to what was then the island of Formosa, because I didn't want to go home, I wanted to complete my missionary career for that term at least. I left my wife and daughter in Shang'hai, and while I was down in Formosa surveying the area, the city of Shang'hai fell. My wife and small daughter got on about the last American airplane that evacuated American people from China.

GF

Didn't you start an English-speaking school in Taiwan?

JPH

Yes, I did. I did this just out of some way to have my own children in school and I got together a little ex-patriot board. I think, in the beginning, we had seven kids. We rented a building, rented a teacher, and taught them with Calvert school books. Incidentally, that school has become the largest overseas American school in the world. Years ago, I went back there, and they had about 3,000 students. I got to snooping around the library and in one of the yearbooks, it said, "This school was started by an American missionary." They didn't even name me.

GF

From Taiwan, you came back to the United States and became a pastor again. Following that, you became a Secretary of Promotions. What year was that?

JPH

That was in 1951. I came back to the States, and my kids had been upset and in one school after another. I never really intended to get out of missionary work, but I felt I owed my family to settle down for at least a school term. So, I took a church in South Carolina and stayed there a little over a year. Then, I came back to the Division of Foreign Missions. That was in 1952. From that time on, I had been officially connected to the Division of Foreign Missions.

GF

You were working with Brother Noel Perkin.

JPH

Yes, I was, and what a privilege that was. ()

GF

I remember my association with you began not long after that. I was a teenage boy in bible college at the time. You needed someone in the Audio-Visual Department. You were Secretary of Promotions. So, I began to take care of that back in what we call the "cage." That was at 434 West Pacific when the General Council building was over there. I hardly ever saw you. You were coming and going, but we kept sending out those films. Then, a little later on, after I entered the ministry myself, you are the one who preached the sermon and laid hands on both Warren and me at the time, in Sikeston, Missouri, for our ordination. I've always wondered, did you ever regret doing that?

JPH

No, I certainly didn't. I do remember those years, of course. I remember those fledgling days of the Audio-Visual Department there in Headquarters. I remember you were there doing the menial tasks that I had you do with mailing film, cleaning, and all this kind of business. I do remember that ordination, that council meeting in Sikeston, Missouri, when you and Warren were ordained. I remember those years very clearly.

GF

Then, of course, I became a pastor in Texas and later on, went to the Division of Foreign Missions in 1966. Esther and I moved to Springfield in the summer of 1966; this was at your invitation. I still had six-months vocational requirement to fulfill during my doctorate in education. You had an assignment you wanted me to work on. At that time, we were working on taxonomies, you'll recall, how to organize data about different schools. So, I got involved in that. It was about that time that I made a trip overseas to survey some of the school work on your behalf and on the part of the Division of Foreign Missions.

JPH

I very well remember, Dr. Flattery, you calling me. I can recall those events very clearly. It was on a weekend, maybe on a Saturday. It was an evening, I was home in my study. I remember you calling me and saying that your doctoral requirements, you had to do something that had to do pragmatically with church work or church administration. Maybe, typically of me, good or bad, I'm not sure-- I remember kind of off the top of my head, I said to you, "Well, I have something that I've been wanting done that will fit this." We talked for a few minutes about a survey trip that had to do with correspondence courses and institutes around the world. Is that kind of the way you recall it?

GF

That's the way it more or less began. I wasn't really looking for a permanent position at the time. You'll recall that as well. I was just wanting to fulfill this requirement and, of course, you were very interested in education and wanted someone to get involved in this. So, that conversation led on. I think, when I first came, I had planned to stay six months. It's now nearly 15 years later. I'm still working for you. Those were some of the early moments in the history of ICI, and after coming to Europe, then I came back to you, and we began talking more about it. I pulled out of the files a

GF (cont.)

document that you probably haven't seen in a long, long time. That was the first memo that you dictated, a copy of it right there in front of you, concerning correspondence ministry around the world. We hadn't even thought of the name of ICI as yet. This is just an early document. I remember being in your office, and we had been talking about this, and you just quickly turned around and picked up your microphone and began dictating as though you had been thinking about it quite a while. This was the result of what you said. This is a very interesting memo. I don't know that we should read all of it. But, it started out by--or rather, the conclusion was that our ultimate goal would be to develop a worldwide, in-depth correspondence training program, where the church at whatever level it finds itself, can be served, and that young people in any culture anywhere can have an opportunity to sound biblical training.

JPH

I remember, it's coming back forcefully, clearly to me now. Actually, as you've said, I didn't really know how far it would go, nor did I have a finished concept in my own mind. I was just reacting to need, and I was very conscious that we were developing around the world various correspondence institutes, and I knew that we were probably duplicating some _____. We probably had people translating work into French or other languages that didn't know what each other was doing. It just became a burden to me to first of all, do survey work. This is really kind of what I had in mind when I sent you around the world that first trip.

GF

Well, I did do a lot of survey work. In fact, you may recall, I sat in different offices of different field directors when they were gone until we developed so many files that we just couldn't move those files around too much. Finally, we opened an office out at Mission Village in the old Mission Village warehouse and put a sign out on the door "International Correspondence Institute," and had a small office there. I worked with a desk in the Division of Foreign Missions typing pool for some time. I dictated literally hundreds of letters out of that office as we did some of the initial survey work.

JPH

Looking at this memo right now, one of the first things that strikes my attention, I'm kind of attracted to figures, is that I suggested we give you \$5,000 to

JPH (cont.)

start it with in those days. Of course, in 1967, \$5,000 was a lot of money for us. I expect that's the best \$5,000 we ever spent.

GF

Well, I'm glad to hear you say that. I was going to ask you how you felt about it now. One of the questions that I'm often asked myself and maybe you are too is that when we started, did you really think it would ever amount to anything is what maybe is implied, or did you ever think it would get to be this big, and how did you feel about it at the time?

JPH

Of course, I didn't and you didn't either. None of us knew how big it would get. But that's a miracle of following the Lord's leading step-by-step. You trust him to lead you. You take the first step and then that opens to the next step, and that's what finally came of it. I think that we had concepts, we knew, we were conscious of needs. We were just taking it a step at a time to fill those needs. That's what really eventually what led into this vast worldwide program.

GF

One of the things that I've always appreciated, Brother Hogan, about your leadership is that sense of the presence of the Spirit and leadership of the Holy Spirit to move us along. This is a management era, as you know, and I appreciate good management as I know you do. At the same time, I've always felt that you were sensitive to what the spirit of God is telling us to do. I think that this is probably a good example of what happened, that just step-by-step, the Spirit led us into things that were relevant to our particular task. This first memo that you wrote was approved by Foreign Missions board on July 12, 1967.

So, July 12, 1982, is our 15th anniversary. It seems like those years have passed rather quickly. It was in August that a full proposal I presented to you, 12 pages in length, you had had that approved and then sent me back to the drawing board, and this is the original proposal for International Correspondence Institute. I'll give you a copy in case you don't have one in your files. From there, of course, we moved on into various activities inside Springfield as to what we would be doing following that. In 1969, I went around the world. Do you remember that trip?

JPH

Yes, I do very well.

GF

. . . and took the family with me and . . .

JPH

I remember running into you in several places--Korea, Japan, and Africa. You were gone a whole year, and I was making intermittent trips. I remember running into you on several continents.

GF

Right, we met you in Manila and in Korea at the Far East Conference at the church of Cho Yonggi, and then of course on to Africa, and then Kumasi. I want to talk more about that trip on the next segment of our conversation, but we'll take a short break right now.

Brother Hogan and I are continuing our conversation my trip overseas in 1969. Brother Hogan, I've always wondered just how you viewed that trip. You know my family and I went around the world and visited a lot of countries. As we said, we met several places on several continents. What was your idea of the trip and its purposes?

JPH

Well, I can assure you, Brother Flattery, I was floored. Otherwise, I wouldn't have given you \$5,000 to go. Incidentally, as I've indicated, that \$5,000 back in 1969 would be worth quite a bit more money now. That's probably the best investment we ever made.

GF

We're really happy for it, and it really was a planting of a seed that has grown.

JPH

But I saw it, as I've indicated, I worried about duplicating efforts as an Assemblies of God missionary family around the world. I just wanted you to go around the world and find out what was being done and if there was duplication, and how this could be coordinated, because I had a feeling that we were segmented, a lot of people going different ways. I knew that, down the road somewhere, we would find out we were duplicating a lot of effort, which was unnecessary and expensive. That's really what I had in mind when I dispatched you and your family to go around the world.

GF

It was a very exciting time for us. The boys were in school, so they studied by correspondence as we traveled around the world. The family stayed basically in four or five places on that 10-month travel trip. I went to a number of countries, I don't remember exactly how many, it must have been 60 or 70, and visited with most of the field fellowships in Asia, Africa, Europe. I didn't go to Latin America on that trip. We didn't have very many courses. We called ourselves a school, but we just had GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE. How many places around the world have you seen GREAT QUESTIONS, and what's your impression of the impact now?

JPH

Well, I couldn't number the places around the world I've seen it or the languages which has been written. I would have to say that, and I'm picking this up from people other than Assemblies of God people. Everyone that, from other missions boards and other operations that have seen it, believe that this is the kind of _____ for evangelism by correspondence. Those courses were studied over and prayed over and, of course as you know, very largely developed by Louise Jeeter Walker, who is a primary writer and teacher among us and a pioneer. They were surveyed, they were made to be multi-cultural in their adaptation and in their illustration. I just think that they are the finest thing that's ever come down the pike as far as primary evangelization material by correspondence.

GF

I remember when we typeset the first lesson of THE GREAT QUESTIONS course. It was there in Springfield, Missouri. That was before we moved over here early in 1968, perhaps early in 1969. We were working late) Carl Malz and Jerry McClure and I in the print shop. We set and reset that lesson wanting it to be just right. Louise Walker has written the course, as you have said. When we finally got it just like we wanted it, I remember having to turn my head because a little tear was trickling down my cheek, and I saw Carl was moved the same way. We just sort of felt then that that course was going to have a tremendous impact around the world. We were a little embarrassed by our tears that night, but since that time, we've sent that course and courses like it to over eight million people in a most 60 languages. God has blessed us. Now, of course, we're developing other evangelistic material. You'll recall the investment that Light-for-the-Lost recently made to help us develop a

GF (cont.)

course for Muslims, and that course will be off the press very soon. We're calling it, WE HEAR FROM THE PROPHETS. We're interested in China, too. You're a former missionary to China, and we're wanting to develop a course now which will reach out to the Chinese. Do you have any thoughts, by the way, on what kind of a course would be adequate to reach the Chinese people today?

JPH

I think that as well as the basic truth that's in those courses are what appeal to the Chinese and would accomplish what we are seeking to accomplish among them. I want them to be sure that they are prepared in modern Chinese-script, which as you know, there has been a revision of the ancient old Chinese idioforms in the last 30 years. The new generation in China reads the same characters but modified somewhat.

GF

I think one of the problems we have is that a lot of people in China have never even heard of God, or at least they don't have any real conscious concept of God. I know some of the people that I talked with in there, you really start from zero. So, we're thinking about focusing on some material that will just basically introduce God and who He is to people who have had no background.

JPH

That is true of course. But, there is a tremendous vacuum in the Spirit in China right now, particularly among the young people. As you know, there are half a billion young people in China under the age, we'll say 25, who have grown up completely isolated from the outside world, with the exception of the last few years, which have been some encouragements from the outside. It is such an exciting, at the same time, such an unbelievable challenge that staggers you to think of one fourth of the world population who by all respects have had little opportunity to hear the gospel.

GF

We're very concerned about that, and I want to return to that a little later and talk some more about China. The overall purposes of ICI from the very beginning, we set the purposes as evangelism ranging right on up through college level material. And, I remember you were present in Nairobi in

GF (cont.)

1969 when we awarded our first degree to Paul Hodja (sp?). That was an exciting moment for me, how did you feel about it?

JPH

To correct you, Dr. Flattery, that was 1979. That was a highlight. It brought back to me memories of what we have been talking about, the early beginnings of ICI, and here we're witnessing a young man who has completed the course, the college level. The feeling that he's a harbinger of God knows how many thousands to come if the Lord tarries.

GF

One of the early issues we faced in the formation of ICI, and I know you dealt with this even more than I did from your position in directing the department. It was the idea of how would it affect the bible schools. Some people thought ICI's going to take over all the education work in the world in missions, and the bible schools are going to shut down. How did you feel about that at the time, on that particular issue?

JPH

Well, I knew immediately that we would face this issue because there's a little bit of provincialism in all of us, Dr. Flattery. We all sort of get our act together, and then we feel that a part of our work is defend our own work against anybody else. There is a kind of camaraderie among campus people as opposed to extension education people, and this is natural and normal. We had developed a very extensive program of bible schools and institutes around the world. A lot of people had put their lives into this. It's very natural that they would resist at least a little bit anything that looked like it might superimpose on their work. So, my simple feeling and approach to this was to tell these people, "Don't stop what you're doing, you're doing fine. If we do something better, you would be wise enough to see that there's something better for you, and you adopt it. But don't stop doing what you're doing. If there's a better program that comes along, then you adopt it." It's in that basis that we started developing curriculum material for bible schools.

GF

Well, to my knowledge, and I think that I know accurately, we have never shut down any bible school in the whole world since ICI started. In fact, one of

GF (cont.)

happy notes about ICI is that we have very close working relationships with quite a few of the schools around the world. For example, East Africa Advanced School of Theology, they use our entire curriculum, and we have a joint credit arrangement. Students who study there get credit with EAST and with ICI. So, certainly, there's no sense of competition between EAST and ICI because we're working together in a cooperative way. That's just one example. We do this all over the world. We have similar arrangements with Continental Bible College, with West Africa Advanced School of Theology, and with FEAST, and with Southern Asia Bible College, and many more. In fact, this is the same kind of arrangement we have with the Elam (sp?) Bible College in England, the Assemblies of God college, and also in New Zealand. So, we really have found a way to work together with the bible colleges. It's been a long time since I've heard any fears of that kind expressed. Have you heard anything like that in recent times?

JPH

No, any little bit of provincialism died long ago, and all of our people who are into campus ministry immediately saw that the material that was being brought out from ICI was of a quality and nature that would enhance the curriculum of any bible college. So, ICI, contrary to what a few people felt, has deepened and broadened and helped the ministry of the campus. Most people realize that the day is come you cannot any longer capitalize, land is too expensive, buildings are too expensive. There would be no way you could bring people to a fixed campus, all the people that need to be trained. This doesn't mean that we won't always be in campus ministry, there are some advantages to campus ministry that extension training can never cover.

GF

As I've always said, I spent about half of my educational life in resident training institutions, or a little more than half, and nearly half by correspondence. I went through grade school and high school and did my correspondence work as a boy. I really value both kinds of training and do not see them in conflict, but as supplementary. I'd like for us to talk a little bit about our move to Brussels. This was something that you foresaw and wanted to take place, and we began to think about that probably in 1970 or 1971, along in there.

GF (cont.)

On one of my trips to Europe, you had me travel Europe with Fred Catrell (sp?). That was in March of 1971. What was your basic thinking and feelings about moving ICI to Europe?

JPH

Well, by that time, we were looking for a center. We knew we'd have to have a city somewhere in the world. The guidelines in my own mind were simply this, that I wanted ICI because I felt then that it would be a worldwide concern, to escape any kind of cultural or ethnic drawbacks that might come from being located in any certain place. Above all, I didn't want us to have a "Made in America" label. It thought this would hinder it. So, if I remember, I assigned you and other people to look about international-type cities where we thought we could do this kind of work. I remember we talked a little bit about Beirut, Lebanon, which in that time was a kind of international city. We might have taken a little look at places like Singapore and otherwise. But, always in the back of my mind, was Brussels, because it was emerging in those years as a kind of an international city. Though we looked at a few other places, really the focus of our attention began to refine more and more until we then became interested in Brussels.

GF

Fred Catrell and I visited nine countries on that trip, and as you know, our report turned up information on several countries. We thought a little bit about London, too. But, I think it became clear soon that it would be Brussels. Brussels is an international city. We've enjoyed living here since 1972. The common market is here, SHAPE is nearby (the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers of Europe), and NATO is out near the airport. As you know, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. All of these things were factors as we talked about it after time. We moved here in July, 1972. I forget if it was just before the 4th of July, around the 4th of July. We arrived and had our first writer's workshop, just within days after we got here. We scurried around, found some typewriters, and we didn't have all of the instructional development that we now have. So, we just had to get going, and I want to continue this discussion in just a few moments. As we were discussing, Brother Hogan, the first writer's workshop started here right after we arrived in July of 1972. I

GF (cont.)

remember we came in with Alva and Louise Walker. Shortly after that, the Olsons came, and the McClures. We had a very small staff in those days. We just set up in the old building of Continental Bible College, up the road here not far from where we are now. The writers began, I remember that first Monday morning, I turned around, we wrote an outline on the chalk board, we didn't have all the instructional development processes we have now. Tony Palma and Hugh Jeeter and Brother Phillips from North Central Bible College began writing. That was our very first look at writing bible college courses. We soon outgrew that, of course, and had to have the building over on Avenue Brunard. You visited us there, I think, several times. I remember when we were in that building, we began to think about building the present ICI building. You saw that there would be a need, and so we began to talk about it, and we needed to buy property. You came over a time or two didn't you, during those times to look at the property?

JPH

Yes, I did. I'm anxious to say that it's a master stroke of genius that you did start in the beginning with functions rather than a building. You started with the writers immediately. To me, this has been one of the several genius concepts of ICI, that those people came over here and started writing a course, because we knew we'd have to have _____ material before anything else. That, also, kind of dictated the kind of a building we finally would emerge to. We began to see what our needs were, and since coming back here this time and spending a little time, I was just reflecting on it this morning how really functional this building is and how it has met the needs and how we haven't had to change it or reconstruct it or remodel it any way in this years. It was really conceived in a very final form in those early days. I did, I came over here on a couple of occasions. By that time, we were ready to look for land. I remember looking at a piece of land a little further up towards the city on Waterloo. Then, I remember driving past this site and I thought to myself, "That's way beyond anything we could ever afford." It was ideal, one of these places where you wish you could be there. You just put it out of your mind. You just thought, well, that could never happen. But, in God's own time and His way, it did happen. And we're here.

GF

When we began seriously planning for the building, I know we drew plans several times. The first time we drew any plans, we had a space located behind Continental Bible College, that was very early even before we came over. Then, we soon scratched that; we knew that it wouldn't be large enough on that lot. As it turned out, we finally drew five different sets of plans for this building. Each time, it was a larger building. So, I don't know, I guess we were thinking too small in those days. I remember the fourth set of plans just before we came to this one. That was in the Fall of 1973. We had anticipated a building that maybe would cost \$500,000, and even that seemed very large as I recall. When we got the first bid on it, it was well over a million dollars, more like \$1,100,000. I recall waiting several days to call in and talk with you and Brother McGlassen, because I knew it wasn't what was anticipated. It was too high. So, finally I did call in, I reached Brother McGlassen first. I said, "What's your reaction to this?" He said, "Well, right now, I don't have any reaction." So, pretty soon, you got on the phone, and in your own style, you quickly had a reaction. That reaction was that it was way too much. So, both of you decided at that time you would take it to the Foreign Missions board. I have a little anecdote to tell about something that happened between them and the Foreign Missions board, but before I do, I'd like to know what you were really thinking during those days.

JPH

Well, of course, as is always been the case, we are a hand-to-mouth operation and continue to be so, which is another way of saying that we are a faith operation. We didn't have the resources. I couldn't have laid my hands on \$100,000, I do not believe. I kind of had in the back of my mind, now as we talk about it, that probably we would spend \$300,000, and I thought well, that would give us building enough to last ICI for years. The way that God supplied the funds for that first initial capital investment is in itself a story stranger than fiction. Where the money came from and how it came in so that when we finally did dedicate that building that none of us believed we ever could afford, we dedicated it debt-free.

GF

We have always thanked the Lord for that, because we haven't had to raise money

GF (cont.)

at all through the years for that. Can you recall just a little bit of how the money did come in?

JPH

Well, among other things, at that time, we had a property in the city of Jerusalem. I saw that this property in Jerusalem was worth far more money. We had far more equity in it than we could justify what we were doing with it. Of course, to sell anything in Jerusalem is like being against apple pie and mother, but I felt that a good business dictated that we get some of that equity out. We could do everything we're doing and everything it looked like we were going to be able to do in Israel with far less expensive property. So, I went first of all to the Executive Presbytery and asked them for permission to put that property on the market. It rocked along for some years; we didn't have any sale for it. About the time we got ready for this building, we got sale for that property. I remember saying to the real estate agent who was then a lawyer in New York City handling the sale for us, I said, "There are at least two or three things that must happen. First of all, we must get the money out of Israel in dollars. That would take an act of God itself to get that money out of Israel in dollars. Secondly, I want to leave enough there so that we can continue to witness in Jerusalem." Because I had a very primeval feeling about what the Bible says about witnessing in the land of Israel. I didn't want to close out the little light we did have. Lo and behold, we turned up an interested party, and we also got permission from the government of Israel to get the money out in dollars. If I remember, what we cleared out on that case, and the story of how we did it and all the ramifications is stranger than fiction. We did get out about \$150,000, and about the same time, one of the major legacies we ever received came from a very fine elderly brother who had a lot of expensive land in southern California, down the _____ Valley. He was a lover of missions all these years, and he had always said to me, "I'm going to give my money to missions when I die." He did die, the Lord did promote him just the right time. The estate did mature, and we got about another \$150,000 out of that estate. That put us in business. That's how we really got started here.

GF

Well, it's been a miracle story all the way along. During those days when you

GF (cont.)

were talking with the Foreign Missions board and finding out how you were going with it, we were over here thinking about dedicating our land. I remember we had our ground-breaking ceremony. While I was on the way to the ground-breaking ceremony, I received a letter from Brother Greisen, who had been the Field Director for Europe, Eurasia, and working with you. He knew that our first bid was over a million dollars; he knew we didn't have the million dollars. He was on his way up to Scandinavia. He wrote me a letter from Scandinavia. I've always appreciated this, because he is as you know a man of faith, and he encouraged many young ministers along the way. He said, "Dear Brother George, love and greetings in the name of the One we all love, Jesus. The night before last, I got up at 3:30 to pray. It was impossible for me to sleep. I thought of the million dollars that you need and finally got up to pray. After prayer, I went back to bed and fell asleep. In other words, the million dollars will come in. Do not doubt at all, but believe God, and God will make it in due time. All will rejoice over the fact that God is with you." It wasn't long after that, Brother Hogan, just a few days, that I received word from Brother McGlassen. He said that the Foreign Missions board had approved for us to go ahead, and that was the realization by faith at that time of the vision that God had for us. It has always been an inspiration to me that Brother Greisen wrote that to me in the interval when the Lord awakened him in the middle of the night.

JPH

That's very typical of that wonderful man of faith. He was sensitive to the Spirit. He was a very great encourager of young preachers. There are scores, if not hundreds of fine mature men across the fellowship who received great inspiration in the early days from Brother Greisen; that's very typical of him.

GF

When I was on the phone with you and Brother McGlassen that day telling you about the high bid, you said you would go to the Foreign Missions board. I remember that you indicated or Brother McGlassen indicated that perhaps a word of wisdom would come from the board. You met with the board and, as I recall, Brother Hamill told the story about how they had had a bid that was way too high for his building of a new church and what they did is hire a new architect and

GF (cont.)

start over and got the price down. So, that seemed to be the word of wisdom, and you sent word over here, and we did the same thing. We got another architect, we started over, we got the price down, and we went on to build the building. Bob Combs came over from one of our churches on the West Coast to work with us. That was a great day in May, 1975, when we dedicated the building. You were the dedication speaker, and you'll recall that P. S. Brewster was here from the Elam Pentecostal Church in Great Britain. I remember back on Avenue Brunard, you came to visit us once. It was just before we moved in over here. So, you talked to our staff one morning, and you probably don't remember saying it, but you said, "When you get over there, you'll rattle around in that building for a while, because there are not so many _____." Do you remember that?

JPH

I don't remember that. I remember the occasion, but I don't remember what I said.

GF

Well, we did rattle around a little while, but not too long. Continental Bible College was in here with us for a while. Then, from that point on, they moved out, and we have filled the building until now, as you can see, it's pretty well used in every corner of it. It's been a great time working here in this building and seeing it all come together. Just a couple of historical notes. You remember we incorporated in 1976 in the State of Missouri, and we work here as a branch of that corporation. Then, we became accredited in 1977, January, 1977. We worked on that in 1976. Joe Kilpatrick came over in 1975 and Norm Correll, both of them are back working with you now. We formed our Board of Administration for the first time. The school really began to take shape in terms of the college division during those years. Since that time, of course, we've enrolled over 5,000 students, it's 5,600 in more than 102 countries in the English language. When we get it all translated into every other language, you can imagine what the enrollment might be.

JPH

I remember, Brother Flattery, during all of that, that there was always a kind of little friendly dichotomy between you and I, because you were playing the

JPH (cont.)

role not only of an evangelist, but of an educator. I kept saying to you, "Please, please don't get so excited about higher education that you forget evangelism." Every time I would get a report from ICI, I would see that you were pressing on in the college level, and doing so in the evangelism level, too, but I kept holding your feet to the fire because I didn't want the educator side of you to precede the evangelist side of you.

GF

Brother Hogan and I have been talking together about the history and role of ICI in world missions. It's really been a pleasure, Brother Hogan, to have you with us today, and we have a few minutes left to talk about some of the outreach of ICI around the world. You were just saying that you challenged me to keep evangelism in focus. Usually, over the years, I've had a rather practical solution, I think, to those challenges that you issue from time to time. That is, not to waste too much time fretting about it but to get on with a practical solution. We came up with a practical solution then and had two deans. One was the Dean of Evangelism, Norm Correll, and the other was the Dean of the College, Harold Cole. That gave us a proper emphasis on both aspects of the school. Later, of course, I went to your office, and we enlisted the help of Joe Kilpatrick, who was on your staff, and he came and joined our staff then. I'm not sure you anticipated that part of the answer.

JPH

Well, you have been a kind of an effective raider of, over the years, Brother Flattery, you have built your staff by soliciting people from other areas. The fact of the matter is, when you come to Springfield, all of my division heads kind of put up a warning signal and say that "Flattery's on the prowl, he's looking for personnel." It's all been in good taste and in fun. We've all known that the bottom line was that what you were doing was good for all of the other segments as well. So, we really haven't had any serious problems.

GF

Well, we've enjoyed it over the years, working with you and the field directors and have seen all those things materialize. We've gone because we've needed people of experience rather than always reaching for someone new. So, we reach out for those who have been involved around the world. Fort Worth

GF (cont.)

is a new development for us. We're going there and moving our U.S. office from Springfield to there. We feel that it will help to broaden the base of ICI, our base of support in the United States. What are your thoughts about the upcoming move?

JPH

Well, like everything else that's happened with ICI, it was begun as a concept in some people's minds. As you know, we were really flagged on this. The interest was stirred up about this by some fine lay people who wanted to help ICI. This has drawn us to the city of Fort Worth. It is necessary that we now, because of the worldwide outreach and coverage of ICI, that we do have an important base in the States. We can print and publish in the United States cheaper, ship from there better, overcome a lot of customs and shipping, and disbursement problems by shipping still out of the United States to the world than from anywhere else. It just becomes a matter of good business that we do do some logistical operations from the United States. I'm excited about it; it's a good concept.

GF

Our outreach has grown so much around the world, and this has made the necessity of expansion very urgent for us, and we're happy to be expanding by the move to Fort Worth. To talk a little bit about our outreach, you know we're in so many countries. Some of them are wide open to the teaching of the gospel, and many of them have missionaries in the countries, but there are some countries which are really not too open to missionaries going in with an American passport. Countries such as Ethiopia, or Burma, or Russia, Nicaragua, China. You might recall some of our early developments in Ethiopia. We're in there now, but would you care to comment on some . . . ?

JPH

Well, what you have said highlights the fact that there is a kind of a so-called "closed door" syndrome that runs around. People hear of other countries going through political changes which might be unfriendly to the West, or they're going through political changes that traditionally have operated with pressure against the church. People have a tendency to kind of just forget those countries and close them off. In fact, I don't talk about closed doors. That's something I erased from my vocabulary a long time ago, because as you've said, I know that

JPH (cont.)

the doors are never really totally closed, because you cannot close to the Holy Spirit. You may close to people who have a western passport, but that by no means means that the work of God ends in that country. Ethiopia is one of these countries. We did try to get in there on an official basis, and where we can, we operate officially. We're not tourist visa missionaries. We want to go where we can on an official basis so our people know how they're there, why they're there, they're not running from the police or running from immigration authorities and live and learn the language and plant the church of Jesus Christ. We believe that ideally where you can, this is the way to do missionary work. Where you cannot, you do the next best thing. The next best thing, in some of these countries, is ICI.

GF

We have a director in Ethiopia now and although we didn't get missionaries in there permanently, he is operated^{ing} the ICI college program. Some of the students come out of there and go to EAST, where we jointly work together with ICI and EAST, and a number of them are now graduating. Some of them are studying inside Ethiopia. Another instance that comes to mind, I went through Burma in 1977, and we wanted to start a college outreach in Rangoon. Rangoon is a dilapidated old city, as you know, and very poor. But, there's a real revival there. We began the school in connection with a school they started Evangel Bible Institute. We worked together with that. Just a few days ago, you would have been thrilled as I was, we had the desk piled high with final examinations we received from Burma, from these students who are studying at a bible college level. Even though we can't send missionaries inside there except just to pass quickly through, we are present there with the bible college program. I know you have a concern about such places as Nicaragua now. We do have a director in Nicaragua working with us even under those very difficult circumstances.

JPH

These are the kind of cases where ICI is most fitting. Recalling again in Burma, there are young people there who want advanced training. It's impossible to get personnel in who can teach them. In some of these countries, it's impossible for ~~him~~^{them} to get around within their country, such are the restrictions. You have to take the lessons and the material to them and, of course, you do this by the mails. This is where, in a sense, the mailman becomes your missionary, and ICI fits this very well.

GF

How do you see us fitting into the China situation, Brother Hogan, I know this country is very much on your heart as well as the rest of the world. We want to do all we can to help in that great land.

JPH

The two things that are uppermost about China right now, first of all, is to find, to discover, identify with that existing church. We now know that one of the very great miracles of church history has taken place and is taking place in China. In fact, Christian demographics are not indicating that maybe, unbelievably, the fastest growing church in the last 30 years is inside China, believe it or not. Unofficial as it is, we now know there are many, many more Christians in China than there was when I was there as a missionary 35 years ago. ICI fits that situation very well, because it not only offers basic evangelism, it offers a whole spectrum of Christian maturity. These people in those churches have been bereft of Christian teachers. Most all of the mature people were either imprisoned or killed. It is a lay movement, altogether a lay movement. All kinds of teaching material becomes uppermost for them. This is one place that ICI will fit the bill in a tremendous way. Secondly, with all kinds of audio and recorded equipment and the material, there is no dearth of Japanese transistor recordings and cassette players and radios and all this kind of business in China. Communication with ICI to the whole spectrum out there, with ICI becomes a very great opportunity.

GF

Well, I'm happy you mentioned the audio because we're making plans now as far as ICI's future, to do much more in audio and video. We've always envisioned this and wanted to, because we're a school, we're not strictly speaking a literature program only. We're schoolteaching by all media. We've been developing audio programs for illiterate people, about 80-90 percent of the people in many countries are illiterate. We're developing audio programs to reach out to them and also now video. We've just been talking while you're here about reaching out to Europe by helping the National Church of France to reach out across Europe to the French-speaking world. How do you feel about audio and video as a whole as far as communications media for the future?

JPH

Well, there's no question about it, that the Lord carries and the world stands, and historians are able to look back on these years, they will have to say that among the salient features of these decades is that this is the age of growing communication. Since the essential business of the gospel is that you communicate this news, then you are forced if you are honest to take advantage of every communication tool there is. That's simply all there is to it. How can they hear unless they are preached to? This is where communication material comes in.

GF

I mentioned earlier, Brother Hogan, that I felt that one of the characteristics of your administration is that you've been open to the move of the Holy Spirit. I've always appreciated that, because while we need to manage God's resources well and management is not contradictory to the move the Spirit, certainly they are complementary, still I think you've been willing at times to insert something into the stream of things which may be normal management-thinking people wouldn't think to do that. This is always, to my mind, allowed for the move of the Spirit in seeing things accomplished around the world. I feel that way about ICI, that this is really what has taken place in your administration with ICI. There were a lot of things that if we just thought of it in terms of organization and work flow and charts and other things, it might have seemed difficult, but always that sense of God's move was there. I know that in just recent times, I myself have begun to feel a tremendous burden inwardly, I think born of the Spirit, to do something about having a regular television commitment from our base here in Europe to Europe itself, as well as what we're doing around the world. It was a pleasure to have you here to talk with us about this and see that this ignited in your own heart. That, by the way, has been the way we proceeded all the way along, is to take that vision and dream that was born in our hearts and submit it to the various boards and committees and see the move of God as others have heard what we've had to say and given their approval and seen it move through the committees and see it come out in ministry and see great results from it. I feel like we have a great future just in these areas in reaching this continent as it opens up. What was your impression about the opportunities here in Europe?

JPH

Of course, every time I come back to Europe and spend any time here, I am overwhelmed as anybody who is alive to these issues. Though it's modern and it's sophisticated, yet it is without God. It is in a sense a kind of a post-Christian era, and this is just as deadly as far as eternity's values are concerned as the pre-Christian era, perhaps more difficult to reach because, in a sense, the gospel has passed by and been rejected. The statistics on places like France overwhelm you. The traditional so-called receiving countries like India, you wouldn't have any trouble talking to people about India as a mission field. Yet, you look at France, and the statistics in France are perhaps more devastating than they are in India. We just don't think of it in those terms because it's modern and many other reasons. I just can't pass through this whole continent again without feeling again the burden that many of you are feeling.

GF

In just a closing word, Brother Hogan, what would you say, how does the future look for ICI?

JPH

Well, it really has only begun. It's really only started. We're grateful to God for the advances that have been made, for the equipment, and for the people, for the offices around the world that are now installed, and for the start. But, against the whole, we're only scratching the surface. If the Lord tarries and the opportunities continue to exist, in another 10 or 20 years, ICI will take its place among the very great, most successful, total evangelism training programs that the missionary world has ever known. It is that now, so recognized by both most world missionary leaders, and I'm on a first-name basis with most of them. They rejoice with us and stand in awe of what God has done, and we believe that what we've started is only beginning.

GF

Thank you very much, Brother Hogan, for being with us and helping us recall the past history of ICI and look to the future. We appreciate all that you and the Division of Foreign Missions have done to make ICI the great outreach that it is around the world.