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**THE FOURTH CAREER**  
**Launching into the Future at Eighty**  
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I find it quite fascinating to have arrived at the point in life where I am passing my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and entering into a Fourth Career. It is reassuring to know that this has some good biblical precedents. In fact, two of the most famous people in the Bible really just got going at 80. Moses, for example, started his Third (and most productive) Career at 80. Joshua took over from Moses and led the children of Israel into the Promised Land when he was 80. I am excited about moving into the new assignments that God has planned for my future!

**Digging New Wells**

One of Chuck Pierce's specialties is to help keep the body of Christ flowing in the stream of God's timing. He has taught us that the year 2010 in our Roman calendar falls into the Hebrew year 5770 which is named "*Ayin*." Of the several prophetic meanings attached to *Ayin*, the one from which I have received the most direction is "digging new wells." As I have meditated on this, I have come to realize that digging new wells might necessarily require leaving some of the old wells behind.

At my age, and with a track record of over 55 years of ordained ministry, it is obviously the time to begin planning to finish well. I was shocked when I first learned that Professor J. Robert "Bobby" Clinton, who has researched the lives of thousands of Christian leaders, came to the sad conclusion that only 25 percent of them actually finished well. Needless to say, I want to be one of that 25 percent!

**Leaving Old Wells**

In order to do this, I obviously have to dig some new wells. However, first of all I have been using this year of *Ayin* to leave some of my old wells. This became important to me soon after I turned 70 when I first heard my friend, John Kelly, say, "There is no success without a successor." At that point, to be honest, I had not given much serious

thought to who would, in my case, need to be *several* successors. But I did begin praying about it and, along with Doris, actively seeking God's direction.

Speaking of successors, let's flash back for a moment to Moses, whom I mentioned as beginning his Third Career at age 80. Moses thoroughly trained Joshua as his successor. When Moses died, Joshua took over in a seamless transition and, at age 80, moved on to complete the task of locating Israel in the Promised Land. However, Joshua apparently had never heard that "there is no success without a successor." He had not trained a successor so, consequently, when he died confusion set in. We find in Judges 2 that when Joshua's generation passed on, the next generation threw Israel into a horrible tailspin, ending up with idolatry and anarchy when everyone began doing what seemed right in their own eyes. Moses finished well. Joshua did not.

I will refrain from giving details, but suffice it to say that over time, the Lord did show me a number of successors. I have turned over the Apostolic Council for Educational Accountability (ACEA) to Leo Lawson, the Apostolic Council of Prophetic Elders (ACPE) to Cindy Jacobs, the International Society of Deliverance Ministers (ISDM) to Bill Sudduth, the International Coalition of Apostles (ICA) to John Kelly, Wagner Leadership Institute (WLI) to Ché Ahn, and Global Harvest Ministries (GHM) to Chuck Pierce.

I did not leave these old wells because they ran dry, although I'm quite sure they would have if I had insisted on maintaining control. In every case, my successors, who are the age of my children, and who look to me as a spiritual father, have already instituted creative innovations that promise to take these several initiatives to new levels that I could never have dreamed of. One said, "Peter, honestly I had recently found myself on a plateau, but the changes you brought have given me a new lease on life and ministry!" I was thrilled! What words could be more satisfying to an apostle? I love to say with Apostle John, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4). By the way, that quote from Apostle John literally means "that my children are fulfilling God's destiny for their lives." Intergenerational impartation is a vital necessity for finishing well!

### **The First Three Careers**

As soon as I title a booklet like this "The Fourth Career," many will naturally ask me, "What are the first three?" That's a fair question, so here they are:

- **First Career:** Field Missionary to Bolivia, 1956-1971.
- **Second Career:** Professor in the Fuller Seminary School of World Mission, 1971-2001.
- **Third Career:** President of Global Harvest Ministries, 1991-2010.

Yes, there is an overlap between the Second and Third Careers because I was dual-tasking for a period of time. This, not surprisingly, caused a degree of irritation on the part of some of the Fuller Seminary leaders, and I recount a number of the interesting

details of this in my memoir, *Wrestling with Alligators, Prophets, and Theologians*, which Regal Books is releasing on my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, August 15, 2010. You will enjoy reading that.

### **Convergence**

I believe in what I like to call “The Clinton Theory of Convergence.” Bobby Clinton expounds on this in his book, *The Making of a Leader*. He happened to be my Teaching Assistant at Fuller while he was researching the book and after it was published he finally told me that I was actually the role model he had been using to develop his theory. In a nutshell convergence means that you finally get to the place where almost everything you do, at least professionally, is rooted in the gifts and the personality or temperament that God has given you. I reached convergence when I was in my early 50s, back in the 1980s. By then I realized that God had given me two predominant spiritual gifts, namely teaching (including writing) and apostle (which I first identified as the gift of leadership simply because I had not yet become aware of contemporary apostolic ministry). It is notable that apostle and teacher are two of the five equipping offices mentioned in Ephesians 4:12. Interestingly enough, no one has ever confused me with a prophet or an evangelist or a pastor, the other three offices listed there.

As I look back I see that the order of the use of my two major gifts shifted a bit as I moved into my Third Career:

- **First Career:** Teaching/Leading. My teaching at that time would be seen as *pastoral* teaching.
- **Second Career:** no changes, still Teaching/Leading.
- **Third Career:** Apostle (Leading)/Teaching. I found myself shifting from *pastoral* teaching to *apostolic* teaching in the Third Career.

### **Apostolic Teaching**

What do I mean by “apostolic teaching?” I mean sharing with the body of Christ, as accurately as possible, what the Spirit is currently saying to the churches (see Rev. 2:7). Apostles, of course, aren’t the only ones who hear what the Holy Spirit is saying. Every believer, in fact, ought to be hearing from God. However apostles, properly related to prophets, are the ones most apt to bring together the pieces of the big picture for the body of Christ in general. This is the kind of teaching I find myself doing more and more.

I realize that such a statement could sound arrogant to some. I clearly would not want it to go in that direction. After all, I wrote a whole textbook on *Humility!* However, I read the writings of apostles such as Paul and James and Peter and others and I am impressed by the extraordinary authority that permeates their letters to the churches. By this I do not mean to imply that any apostles following them could ever write additional Scripture under the special inspiration of the Holy Spirit as they did. Nevertheless, apostles today, with all their limitations and shortcomings, speak with a similar authority.

Fallible as it might be, their apostolic teaching is still worth weighing and taking into serious consideration for advancing the kingdom of God.

### **The Role of Prophets**

Let me insert a word about prophets. You may recall that I just qualified authentic apostles by using the terminology “apostles properly related to prophets.” This is absolutely necessary. The Bible says, “Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). The foundation of the church is not apostles, but apostles *and* prophets as it says in Ephesians 2:20. Regrettably, I must report that there are still some apostles today who have not yet come to terms with their prophetic counterparts, and to that degree their ministry has been limited. But I sense this is changing and that we are heading in the right direction. In my personal case, I receive some revelation directly from the Lord, but I would estimate that more than 50 percent of what I hear the Spirit saying to the churches comes through the prophets to whom I relate. If anyone questions this, I invite them to peruse my recently-published memoir in which I even have whole chapters named after those prophets (namely, Chuck Pierce and Cindy Jacobs) who have been most influential in my life and ministry.

All this brings me to the Fourth Career.

### **The Fourth Career**

I greatly dislike the thought of being “put out to pasture.” Part of my background is dairy farming, even going back to the days before we had a tractor and we worked the farm with horses. Normally when a cow could not give enough milk, we would sell her to the butcher. When a horse could not pull enough of a load, we would send him to the glue factory. However there were times when some in the family might come to regard a certain cow or horse as a pet. In that case, instead of disposing of them, we would agree to “put them out to pasture.” Even though they were no longer fulfilling the purpose for which they had come to the farm, we kept them alive. My hope and plan is that in the Fourth Career I will be able to continue active in fulfilling the assignments that God has given me for advancing His kingdom positively, and never need to be “put out to pasture.”

As I have been moving through these exciting transitions, I have begun contemplating the meaning of the word “emeritus.” For instance, Ché Ahn is now the Chancellor of Wagner Leadership Institute, and I have become Chancellor Emeritus. What does this mean for me? Admittedly, I haven’t checked it out carefully, but I have concluded that the word “emeritus” must mean “rocking chair” in Latin. I don’t like that thought very much. I don’t plan on relaxing on the front porch in a rocking chair. I much prefer an airplane seat. I’m currently working on four million frequent flyer miles, and five million sounds like a pretty good target to me.

All this is meant to convey that I do not intend to retire. Rather than *retire*, I want to *reload*. I expect the Fourth Career to be my most productive season of ministry yet!

### **Global Spheres, Inc.**

I briefly mentioned above that in 2010 I am turning Global Harvest Ministries (GHM) over to Chuck Pierce. This requires further explanation. In order to help make this as seamless a transition as possible, Chuck incorporated Global Spheres, Inc (GSI). He is President, I am Vice-President, and Doris is on the Board. Our plan is to dissolve GHM and turn its assets over to GSI on September 1, 2010. As we move into the future, both Doris and I will be under the alignment of GSI. This means that we can now add to the above list:

- **Fourth Career:** Global Spheres, Inc. 2010-

How do I see my future role? I believe that God wants me to continue to use my gift for apostolic teaching as widely as possible throughout the body of Christ in general, but especially within the spheres with which God has connected me. I plan to teach in Wagner Leadership Institutes in the US and in other nations, teach in conferences which Global Spheres will host, and accept invitations to minister in certain other schools, conferences or similar events. Writing is a vehicle for teaching, so I will be writing more books as well as occasional position papers and articles. I hope to catch up on the 21<sup>st</sup> century a bit with webinars like “An Evening with Peter,” and specially-recorded DVDs and CDs. I have already begun to post blogs on the Global Spheres website.

My subjects will revolve around the most crucial words which I perceive the Spirit is saying to the churches right now. Among them, at least at the moment, would be the Dominion Mandate, Kingdom Theology, the Great Commission, the Biblical Government of the Church, the Church in the Workplace, the 7M Template, Apostolic Alignment, Convergence, and several different aspects of the Transfer and Distribution of Wealth. I will also continue to highlight some of the themes I have been teaching for a long time such as Spiritual Gifts, Holiness, Spiritual Warfare, Power Healing, Intercession for Leaders, and the like. And then, of course, I will need to keep my spiritual ears tuned for hearing what new things the Spirit will be saying to the churches in the future.

In order to accomplish all of this I will naturally need to continue traveling. Currently I minister away from home around 150 days a year including 3-4 overseas trips. This year I will have ministered in Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia. As God provides strength, I anticipate that an itinerary like this will continue into the Fourth Career.

### **Apostolic Ministry**

Since God has given me the gift and office of apostle, I obviously will continue to use it in the Fourth Career. However, I will be employing the gift a bit differently. As we have seen, I have turned the apostolic leadership of the several horizontal networks I have been leading for years to the next generation. While this relieves me of the direct

responsibility of management, I have agreed to continue as an active member of each one of them. On an ongoing basis, I will support each organization by imparting whatever wisdom I may have accumulated to the new leadership by encouraging, fathering, and helping each of them to fulfill their divine destiny. In all of this I must be very careful not to take any action within or without the organization which could be seen as obstructing or inhibiting the new vision which my successor is casting for the future. I intend to avoid the pitfall of installing a successor and then attempting to control him or her through subtle, manipulative means. My joy is to see each one of them blossom in the unique gifting and calling that God has tailored to their lives.

One apostolic network that will remain intact during the Fourth Career is Eagles Vision Apostolic Team (EVAT)). This is a group of 24 recognized apostles who have desired to come under my primary apostolic alignment. Not only are they part of my personal inner circle, but many of them have formed close relationships with other EVAT members for ministry and personal support. We all honor dual or multiple apostolic alignment, so many EVAT members are aligned with other apostles as well as me. Their financial contributions to EVAT cover my salary and benefits. Because of the personal and relational essence of this network, I need no successor. When I am gone, EVAT will be gone. But while I am here, I will remain covenantally aligned with these, my closest circle of friends.

### **Kingdom Wealth**

Back in 2004 I believe that God gave me the revelation of what I like to call the “chain of kingdom wealth.” The chain has four links: (1) Providers, (2) Managers, (3) Distributors, and (4) Field Marshals. Since then I have become increasingly aware of God’s plan to release astronomical amounts of wealth earmarked for the extension of His kingdom here on earth. I have sensed God’s call to teach on the big picture of the Kingdom Wealth Cycle, and then to specialize particularly in the area of distribution. In order to implement this, I have incorporated The Hamilton Group, named after my four-times- great grandfather, Alexander Hamilton. I see my mission as “strategic philanthropy for apostolic distribution.”

Let me explain for the record that, in this *Ayin* year, I have made a partial transition with The Hamilton Group. Legally, The Hamilton Group was established as a “supporting organization” of Global Harvest Ministries. Meanwhile God showed Doris and me that our successor for the Hamilton Group should be Jill O’Brien, our close friend who has also been assigned to have a key role in the great transfer of wealth. Consequently, we are shifting The Hamilton Group to a “supporting organization” of Jill’s ministry, Kingdom Connections International. I refer to it as a partial transition, because I plan to remain President of The Hamilton Group for the foreseeable future.

I am also in direct contact with a number of what I like to call “wealth transfer brokers” through whom significant amounts of this wealth are likely to be released in the near future. As this develops, it, along with The Hamilton Group, may well demand a

large commitment of my time and apostolic leadership during the Fourth Career. We will see.

### **Six Divine Assignments**

Meanwhile, in summary, I feel I have a responsibility of implementing six divine assignments for the Fourth Career:

- (1) **Informing.** As I have said, one of the major roles of apostles is to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. This frequently involves helping the body of Christ go through certain paradigm shifts which typically tend to pull some out of their comfort zones, precipitating varying intensities of debate and criticism. Fortunately, I have developed enough of a track record for serving as a lightning rod in such cases that I now can take most opposition in stride. I am quite thick-skinned. My goal has always been to conclude episodes of disagreement with a win-win situation, rather than allow the contention and divisiveness that too often retards the advance of God's kingdom.
- (2) **Imparting.** In natural life, children of functional families invariably reflect traits of their parents which, according to behavioral scientists, have nothing to do with genetics. This is what I mean by impartation. As a spiritual father, I see one of my roles as imparting positive spiritual characteristics to those who have chosen to follow my apostolic leadership.
- (3) **Activating.** All believers function as members of the body of Christ according to the spiritual gifts that God has chosen to give them. Unfortunately, too many believers are relatively dormant because they have never discovered or activated the gifts that they already have. I want to use whatever time I have left to help activate as many as possible. I have books and a 135-question questionnaire dealing with 28 spiritual gifts that can greatly help facilitate this process.
- (4) **Empowering.** Once people activate their spiritual gifts, they must find ways and means to use them in the nuclear church or in the workplace or both. They also must understand how to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that they have access to the divine power needed for their ministry in the body of Christ to prosper. A key to making this happen in the lives of the majority of believers is for them to understand that the role they have in any of the Seven Mountains is a God-given ministry which must be fulfilled with excellence so that their sphere of influence for God's kingdom measurably increases as time goes on. I believe that I can help this to become a reality through my gift of teaching, and I will strive to do so.
- (5) **Equipping.** The Bible says that God gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for *equipping* the saints for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11-12). The Greek word translated "equipping" is *katartizo* which means setting a broken bone in place or aligning the spinal column as chiropractors do. A more literal translation in Ephesians would be "aligning" the saints for the work of ministry. Since I fit two of the five categories above, namely apostle and teacher, I take seriously my assignment for equipping or aligning. My Eagles Vision Apostolic Team (EVAT) provides alignment for a number of apostles. Global Spheres is a new and growing initiative offering further alignment. I strongly admonish every

apostle to be properly aligned with prophets. I urge all leaders with whom I am connected, whether in the nuclear church or in the workplace, to establish alignment with apostles. Proper alignment also provides much-needed accountability structures for dealing with errant leaders in the New Apostolic Reformation.

- (6) **Encouraging.** Not surprisingly, over my first three careers I have developed certain spheres of influence nationally and internationally. Wherever I travel in the world these days I encounter individuals whom I may not know or remember but who tell me how much my conferences or classes or books or DVDs have influenced their lives and ministries. Now that I have begun blogging and Facebook, I have become increasingly aware of this phenomenon. As part of the Fourth Career, I believe that God wants me to allocate a larger proportion of my time to encourage people like this than I have done in the past. My first priority, of course, is to encourage those who have aligned with me apostolically in EVAT, in ICA, and in Global Spheres, but I hope to go beyond those boundaries as well.

### **Until When?**

How long my Fourth Career will last only God knows. I believe that He will give me the strength, energy, and mental alertness that I need as long as I need it. Why not go back to Moses again? He lived to be 120. In fact a good case can be made that God's original plan was that normal human beings are designed to live to be 120. "And the Lord said, 'My spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years'" (Gen. 3:6). It's biblical, so why not try it? Why not set a goal to live to be 120, or die trying?

No matter how long the Fourth Career actually lasts, I believe it is going to be very enjoyable. I hope to have plenty of time to spend with the family. As a starter, this October Doris and I plan on taking all of our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren on a Caribbean cruise to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary! And the day after we arrive back in Cape Canaveral, some of us are even planning a Florida alligator hunt! I'll betcha that neither Moses nor Joshua ever got around to doing that!

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