



PRESS RELEASE

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Richland Hills Church to Host Second-Annual Ministry Impact Conference Hundreds of Ministry Leaders Expected for One-of-a-Kind "United" Event

Fort Worth, TX (August 15, 2004) Following the success of last year's Ministry Impact conference at Crossroads Christian Church in Grand Prairie, Texas, Provision Ministry Group has announced that "Ministry Impact '05: GO" will be held at the Richland Hills Church of Christ in Fort Worth, October 26-28.

Over 300 Christian leaders attended Ministry Impact '04, and as many as 500 ministers and elders are expected for this year's event, which is being hosted by the largest a capella church of Christ congregation in America.

Ministry Impact is the only conference of its kind, designed to train and inspire leaders from the independent Christian churches and a cappella churches of Christ. Other conferences have focused on the topic of unity between the two groups, which were legally separated in 1906, but Ministry Impact is not a "unity" event; it's a united event. It is a one-of-a-kind, once-a-year opportunity for Christian church and church of Christ leaders to come together for ministry training.

Since 1906 believers from both streams of the Restoration Movement have written papers, preached sermons and hosted debates on the subject of unity between the churches of Christ and Christian churches. After nearly 100 years of talking about unity and praying about unity, Ministry Impact provides ministry leaders with an opportunity simply to be united. This year's conference theme, "GO," was inspired by Christ's Great Commission in the gospel of Matthew.

Rick Atchley, senior minister at the Richland Hills Church of Christ, made his support for

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unity clear when he spoke at the 2003 North American Christian Convention – an event primarily attended by Christian Church members. There he told nearly 10,000 cheering attendees, “I plan to devote the second half of my life to seeing reconciliation among the a cappella and instrumental churches of Christ and Christian churches.”

Now Atchley and the church he serves are making good on his promise by preparing to welcome hundreds of Christians – both from a cappella churches like their own and churches from which they have long been estranged. By doing so, they hope to become more successful at fulfilling the commission that inspired this year’s conference: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

More information about “Ministry Impact ’05: GO” can be found at the conference website, www.MinistryImpact05.com.

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