

#1977—November 15, 2009—“Highlights from Inauguration”—2

[Gauger:] This is *Moody Presents*, the flagship broadcast from the school that Moody founded, the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Hi, I'm Jon Gauger, welcoming you to a commemorative broadcast, where we're taking a look at the inauguration service held back on October 23 with the ninth president of Moody Bible Institute, Dr. Paul Nyquist. You can appreciate that it was a special occasion because of the 123-year history of Moody. We've only had nine of these inauguration services, only nine presidents. Lots of guests invited to speak. It was a full auditorium. Among those invited to address the congregation, Dr. Joe Stowell, who served as seventh president of the Moody Bible Institute. He spoke on behalf of the past presidents of MBI. Alive today are Dr. Michael Easley, who was the eighth president, Dr. Joe Stowell, of course, and then Dr. George Sweeting. As a former president, you can appreciate that Dr. Joe Stowell had some insider's advice for the new president, Dr. Paul Nyquist. Let's listen to his remarks. Again, this took place October 23 in the Torrey-Gray Auditorium of Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Joe Stowell.

[Stowell:] Dr. Nyquist, on behalf of the past presidents of Moody Bible Institute and your colleagues in the academic, let me welcome you to the high honor and privilege of serving Moody Bible Institute and leading it into what will be no doubt under your leadership its greatest years yet. Dr. Nyquist, we are all well aware with you of the phenomenal challenges in higher education, specifically Christian higher education, in these days. Global meltdown has compressed the economy, which has come to bear on our finances and the challenge of raising enough finances and keeping education affordable. We live in a world where cultures are disengaging from the values and truths that we think are strategically important. So on those days, Dr. Nyquist, when you look in the mirror and say, "What was I thinking?" please know there are a lot of us out there who are saying that once in a while ourselves. Misery loves company; it's going to be a lot of fun for us.

But at the same time, may your heart be filled with the reality that in spite of the challenges, the opportunities are unsurpassed. This is a wonderful generation. I grew up in a generation where it was a rule world, where being good was the big thing, and staying in the box. Whereas God's rules are always important, this generation has an unusual passion beyond that. I see in this generation an instinctive heart for Christ, a heart for the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, a love for justice. They come out of so much brokenness that they thrive in unity. This generation, Paul, may indeed be the first one to answer the prayer of Jesus that we live together as one.

So enjoy the high privilege of working with these students and the joy of having them rub off on some of us old timers a little bit as well. The wonderful opportunity of a globe that is so accessible, so fluid, so touchable and connectable. The opportunity of technology that, while driving some things that are the kinds of things that we're not excited about, it can drive the gospel and can drive the cause of Christ. I don't know that Christian higher education has ever had a more outstanding opportunity to impact this world for Jesus Christ like we have in our day. And on behalf of Christian educations, Dr. Nyquist, may I just remind you ... You don't need the reminder, but maybe I do. Remember that there is something more important than programming, curriculum, intellectual rigor, theological precision, doctrinal purity, and that is the passionate pursuit of a person, and His name is Jesus. That Christian education be characterized by His will and His ways and His wisdom. That when Colossians 1 tells us after a long litany of His unbelievable, unsurpassed credentials, Colossians 1 tells us that "in all things He might have the preeminence." I don't think schools get a hall pass on that. If He is

preeminent, then He must be preeminent. So may Jesus be preeminent in this place under your gifted leadership.

So, welcome to the fellowship of those of us who share the great honor of serving this generation for the cause of Jesus Christ.

[Gauger:] Dr. Joe Stowell, seventh president of the Moody Bible Institute, representing past presidents of Moody in his remarks to Dr. Paul Nyquist. In case you're just joining us, this is a commemorative look at the October 23 inauguration service for the newly appointed ninth president of MBI, Dr. Paul Nyquist. You know, Dr. Stowell used that phrase "the cause of Christ." That was a signature statement of his, and that "cause of Christ" has been looked at very, very carefully as Dr. Paul Nyquist has taken over. He used the inauguration service to unveil what he calls a vision statement, a summary of new directions for the Moody Bible Institute. Last week we brought you part of those remarks; now you'll hear part two of the vision statement from the newly appointed ninth president of MBI, Dr. Paul Nyquist.

[Nyquist:] A reminder of the impact of Moody Radio was evident recently when one of our Florida stations received a \$25 money order to help with the support of the ministry of that station. Now, that may not seem too unusual, but there is more to the story. The money order came from a homeless migrant worker who lives in his car, and in his car he listens to Moody Radio. He was so blessed by the teaching he heard on that radio that he chose to give some of what little he had to help support that station. On the back of the money order, the receipt that he received for that money order, he had these words written: "Thank you for your faithful service."

The same laser-sharp focus on the Word of God will also permeate our publishing arm. Moody Publishers has been a "name you can trust." When you pick up a Moody book, you know that it is biblically sound and reflects the theology of this organization that has marked it since the beginning. God has blessed that commitment. While other good publishers are struggling, our team has ended up in the black nine out of the last ten years, and they're ahead of budget again this year. In fact, one of Moody's books, *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman, is now number one on the *New York Times* best-seller list, the first time that that has ever happened for a Moody book. Technology will change as e-books and Kindle become more mainstream, but our purpose will not. Moody Publishers, along with Moody Radio and Moody Bible, will always be about the Bible. That's our biblical mission. And let me assure you—under my watch, that isn't going to change.

The second phrase in our vision statement reveals how Moody must change, because you cannot stay stationary in a rapidly changing world without becoming irrelevant. Hence, the second phrase: biblical mission, global vision. No one can discount the impact that Moody graduates have had through the years on this world. Ten percent of the North American missionaries that are serving in the world today received their training right here. Ten percent! Line up any ten North American missionaries around the world that are serving in the field, ask them where they got their schooling, and one out of ten will name this school. As one who has a passion for global evangelization, that statistic thrills me. But as I said, the forces of globalization, urbanization, secularization, and pleuralization are morphing this world into something entirely new, so we have to be training our students to minister effectively in the world that is coming, not the world that has been.

Therefore, our vision for the future contains two new commitments. First, Moody will seek to intentionally train students to minister effectively in a multiethnic, multicultural, multilingual, or

urban-oriented world. Our students come from all fifty states and from dozens of countries. Some of them have been raised in an urban, multicultural context. Most have not. Yet despite that background, this is the arena in which they are going to minister into the future, regardless of whether that is here in the States or overseas. God has given Moody the ideal location in downtown Chicago to provide that kind of training. From our launching pad here at 820 N LaSalle, our students within minutes can be in a rich variety of ethnic settings. While learning the Bible here on campus, they can be learning multicultural ministry in the city. I believe a key piece of this education in the future will be an upgraded language program, so that a Moody student not only gets solid biblical training and skills in multicultural ministry, but also fluency in at least one other language. If we can produce students like that, not only here but on all our branch campuses, there will be no lack of opportunity for Moody graduates.

Secondly, Moody will seek to firmly engage the global church in a reciprocating relationship so we can help each other become more effective at fulfilling the Great Commission. As you may know, over the last fifty to one hundred years the demographics of the church have changed. The church has moved from North to South and from West to East. While at the beginning of the twentieth century only one in four or one in five in the church were not of Anglo-Saxon white descent, today that number is close to four out of five. So the church today is truly global, very gifted, fast maturing. While Moody wants to continue to provide resources to the global church, we also want to learn from the global church. We can help them, but they can also inform us as we seek to train students to minister in a global context. So we want a reciprocating relationship.

Now, in order for all of this to become a reality and not just a dream, in order for biblical mission and global vision to happen, four stakes must be driven into the ground here on the home front. These represent not the substance of the vision, but rather the necessary means to fulfilling it. The first stake we're going to drive into the ground is an intentional strategy toward greater ethnic, cultural, and gender diversity throughout Moody. That means greater diversity in the student body, greater diversity in the faculty, greater diversity in the staff, greater diversity in the leadership. This won't be easy to do, but if we're going to be training students to minister in a multiethnic, multicultural context, we have to reflect that here. I know this is going to require ownership on the highest levels. While I cannot tell you today exactly how this all will be structured, I can tell you this: My office is going to own this initiative. It's that important to me.

A second stake we will drive in the ground is properly resourcing our current operations. We have a passionate, committed staff, and it is vital we run an efficient, lean organization. But every department needs enough bodies and enough tools to do their job well, so we're going to make sure that happens as we go through the strategic planning process. There may be changes organizationally, but the organization that moves forward will have the resources that it needs.

A third stake we're going to drive in the ground is having a selective but effective use of new technology to drive us forward. It's a high-tech world. Students expect it. Our ministry demands it. Efficiency requires it. Some of the most expensive mistakes any organization can make are in wrong decisions about technology. Yet we want to be among the leaders effectively leveraging new technology to help us fulfill our mission.

Finally, the fourth stake that we're going to drive in the ground here is developing agility as an organization. Because when the world around us is so fluid, Moody needs to be able to adapt quickly. Slow movers, like dinosaurs, will become extinct. Flexibility is the order of the day, not rigidity. So Moody needs to become nimble and agile or it will risk losing prime opportunities to expand Christ's kingdom.

Can all this happen? Can it? Well, if we simply rely on human flesh, it can't. Left to the flesh, this vision will just become a dusty document, quickly discarded. But Moody has not been built on the strength of man, and Moody has not been sustained over 120 years on the strength of man. No, Moody has been resourced by God. This is the advantage that Christ followers have over every other human institution: We have the divine factor, and it just doesn't level the playing field; no, it makes it an entirely new game. And our God, the sovereign Lord of the universe, makes us an incredible promise in 2 Chronicles 16:9. There He says to us, "The eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth, that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His." God is constantly looking for those people, and by extension, those organizations that He may strongly support. And what He is looking for is a heart that is completely His. The promise is clear. If our heart is right, the strong support will appear. And if God powerfully blows into the sails of good ship Moody, then this vision we described is not too big; it's way too small.

Let me thank you again for blessing me with your presence here today. It means so much to me. And may God continue to bless the school that D. L. Moody founded.

[Gauger:] Dr. Paul Nyquist presenting his vision statement at the October 23 inauguration service held on the campus of Moody Bible Institute. Dr. Nyquist, the ninth president of MBI officially as of October 23. You could hear the enthusiastic response of those present. It was only fitting that the morning be capped off with the singing of a hymn. A signature hymn for the Moody Bible Institute written by one of its own graduates, Thomas Chisholm, here is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

[music: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"]

[Benediction:] We will receive the benediction from 2 Corinthians 13:11: "Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in the peace and in the love of God. May the peace of God ... be with you."

[Gauger:] More than two thousand students, faculty, staff, and guests joining together to sing that signature hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," a fitting conclusion to the inauguration service for Dr. Paul Nyquist, ninth president of Moody Bible Institute. You've been listening to excerpts from that October 23 meeting. And a reminder that if you go to our Web site, moodypresents.org, you can hear online audio of our *Moody Presents* broadcast. We've got downloadable MP3s, podcasts, and printed transcripts as well at moodypresents.org. And when you're there, do check out the Hall of Presidents message collection we're making available still. This is a terrific, unique collection of messages, eighteen of them, on nine CDs, all nine Moody presidents. A rare collection, the Hall of Presidents. Again, you'll find complete information at moodypresents.org. I'm Jon Gauger, saying thanks so much for listening. Join us again next week when Dr. Paul Nyquist presents a message from the living, true Word of God right here on *Moody Presents*.