

THE ASSOCIATION OF CAMPAIGN EVANGELISTS (ACE)

HISTORY, AIMS, GUIDING PRINCIPLES & VISION FOR THE WAY AHEAD



PART 1 – DESCRIPTION & BRIEF HISTORY

- 1.1** ACE is a network of Christian ministers with a particular calling to evangelism, primarily through the means of Gospel campaigns, in areas of the world where there is a strong need for the Gospel to be preached.
- 1.2** ACE evangelists put a particular, but not exclusive, focus on countries within the 10/40 window. Bringing the Gospel to unreached tribes, peoples and regions of the world is a key part of the calling and vision of ACE.
- 1.3** ACE places a strong emphasis on identifying, training, and giving opportunities to young evangelists starting out in a campaign ministry. Experienced evangelists in ACE are encouraged to consider taking a young evangelist with them on a mission trip, giving them training and feedback and, if appropriate, giving them preaching opportunities.
- 1.4** ACE is a network, not an organization. It is a loose association of different ministers and ministries who wish to fellowship and co-operate around the goals mentioned in 1.1 above. The network is not registered in any country and does not have a central bank account.
- 1.5** ACE was founded by Richard Gunning (RTU Ministries) from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Whilst preaching at a summer convention in Sarons Dal, Norway in 2001, Richard sensed the Lord speaking powerfully to his heart and calling him to establish a network of evangelists who would co-operate together and hold multiple campaigns in unreached areas of the world. The first ACE conference was held in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 2002. ACE has continued to meet annually since 2002 in the month of September for yearly conferences.
- 1.6** The roots of ACE can be traced back to the ministry of the late Dr Aril Edvardsen, founder of "Evidence of Faith World Evangelism" (in Norwegian, "*Troens Bevis Verdens Evangelisering.*") Richard Gunning attended the Evidence of Faith Bible School in Norway 1982 – 1983 and later became a close co-worker for many years with Dr Aril Edvardsen, travelling with him to different nations to hold pioneer Gospel campaigns. In the early years especially, the membership of ACE has consisted predominantly of ministers and evangelists from the Scandinavian countries. Many current ACE evangelists have a connection, in varying degrees, to the ministry of the late Dr Aril Edvardsen and his ministry organisation.
- 1.7** Due to its roots and history, ACE has historically drawn most of its members from the Scandinavian countries. However, evangelists from other nations and regions of the world are most welcome to apply to attend ACE conferences and other events. There is no restriction on geographical location that prevents any evangelist applying to attend ACE conferences and events.
- 1.8** To encourage an international identity, the conferences, events, and board meetings are all conducted in the English language.
- 1.9** Evangelists from outside Europe who wish to consider forming a "sister" network for evangelists from another continent or region of the world are encouraged to contact the chairman of ACE in the first instance and lay out their vision for such a sister network. ACE is open to co-operating with sister networks based in other parts of the world outside Europe and to helping such networks become established. We are open, for example, to seeing ACE – USA, ACE – Asia, ACE - South America etc. in the future. We believe that such sister networks can best be established by experienced ministers resident in those regions who have a connection to ACE and have attended ACE conferences.
- 1.10** The seven core values which characterise ACE:
 - Honor:** We seek to honour and respect one another, and we look for the best in each other.
 - Generosity:** We are generous towards one another.
 - Love:** We show love and kindness towards each other.
 - Truth:** We speak and live in truth and keep the commitments we have made.
 - Faith:** We walk in faith in God, He is the provider of all our needs.
 - Encouragement:** We seek to continually encourage each other.
 - Integrity:** We are men and women of integrity and want to be people others can trust.

PART 2 – THE LEADERSHIP OF ACE

- 2.1** Soon after ACE was launched in 2002, Richard Gunning asked Rickard Lundgren (Sweden) and Harald Mydland (Norway) to join him on an ACE leadership board. Over the years the membership of the board has gradually changed, as some members have stepped down and new board members have been appointed by the current board members. Current members of the board are, Jonas Andersson (Sweden, Chairman), Richard Gunning (UK, Founder), Hans Martin Skagestad (Norway) and Rubens Cunha (Brazil). Past members of the ACE board are, Mikael Boman (Sweden), Karl Hargestam (USA), Rickard Lundgren (Sweden), Harald Mydland (Norway) and Martin Goodchild (UK).
- 2.2** In 2017 Richard Gunning felt that it was time to pass on the baton of leadership and Jonas Andersson (Sweden) was appointed as the new chairman.
- 2.3** Membership of the board is open to any evangelist in good standing who has regularly attended annual ACE conferences. New members are asked to join the board by the invitation of the current board members. Elections are not held for the board or chairmanship of ACE. A board member may step down from the board if he/she feels they have fulfilled their role, or that they no longer feel able to continue to serve on the board. From time to time the board may ask a member of ACE to attend a board meeting, to give their input and also to allow the board to see if the evangelist would be a suitable future addition to the board.
- 2.4** The chairman of ACE is appointed by the other members of the board. The chairman may serve in that position for as long as they feel that they have the drive and vision to lead ACE forward in the plan and will of God. If the board members feel that the chairman should step down this should be raised at a board meeting and prayerfully discussed. The chairman plays a key role in ACE in drawing up the agenda for board meetings and calling and chairing the meetings. Other board members assist the chairman in the running of the network, organising the annual conference, and may submit relevant items for discussion to the chairman for inclusion on the next agenda.
- 2.5** The chairman or any board member should only be forcibly removed in the most exceptional of circumstances. This can be done by a board member calling an "extraordinary" board meeting, followed by a unanimous vote from all the other board members for the chairman/board member to leave the board. It is hoped that all board members will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and sense when their time on the board has come to an end.
- 2.6** Board meetings should come, if at all possible, to unanimous decisions on all items on the agenda. Where there is disagreement on any matter, the board members should take good time to pray and seek the will of God and come to a unanimous decision. Only in the most exceptional of circumstances should a vote be taken. In the event of a split decision the chairman will have the deciding vote.
- 2.7** Board meetings will be called by the chairman and dates and times agreed with the members of the board. The board will normally have one physical meeting per year, plus other online meetings which the chairman feels may be necessary and calls.

PART 3 - THE ANNUAL ACE CONFERENCE

- 3.1** The main event in the ACE calendar is the annual ACE conference. This is a three-day event, historically it has been held from Thursday evening to Sunday morning at the end of September. As this is the only occasion when ACE members come together, it is important that evangelists wishing to be involved in ACE give a very high priority in their calendars to attending the annual conference. There is no compulsion whatsoever on evangelists to attend the annual conference, but members who consistently do not attend may eventually be considered by the ACE board to have lapsed their membership of the network and may therefore not receive invitations to future events and conferences.
- 3.2** The venue, exact dates, and programme for the conference are arranged by the board of ACE.
- 3.3** The annual conference should be self-funding, i.e. those wishing to attend should cover all the costs of their travel plus meals and accommodation at the conference venue. ACE is unable to provide financial support to anyone wishing to attend any ACE conference or another event. ACE does not financially support the ministries of its members, unless one member of their own freewill, decides to donate to another member's ministry. ACE members are responsible for financing their own campaigns and outreaches, The ACE network does not financially support any member or their ministry.
- 3.4** Conference delegates are expected to attend the full conference and not arrive late or depart early, except in the most exceptional of circumstances. Delegates are expected to reside in the conference hotel or designated accommodation during the conference; this is to encourage fellowship and networking and to help the conference run smoothly and on schedule.
- 3.5** The programme typically will contain the following elements: worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship, presentations from different fields where ACE evangelists are holding campaigns, visiting speakers, personal testimonies, discussion groups, workshops, and planning meetings.

- 3.6** The board may ask a member of ACE to speak on a particular topic of interest to other ACE members. The member asked to speak should be careful to respect the following guidelines.
- They should read and agree with the ACE statement of Faith (appendix 1)
 - They should not mention or speak about any doctrine which they know, or suspect, may be divisive or controversial, and which may not be generally accepted by all mainline Pentecostal/ Charismatic Christians.
 - They should stick closely to the subject they have been asked to speak about.
- 3.7** ACE members asked to present a “field report” about a particular country on which they are focused at the ACE conference should respect the following guidelines:
- Present a basic report about the target nation in question.
 - Give brief details about the country, number of believers, unreached tribes etc.
 - Give brief details of how you are reaching that nation/state.
 - Give brief details of how other ACE evangelists can get involved or assist you.
 - Avoid crossing over into a PR presentation of your ministry in general.
 - Be honest and accurate in any statistics or figures you present.
- 3.8** Any member of ACE attending an ACE conference, or any other ACE event, should not sell or distribute any books, ministry materials, or any other item without the clear advance permission of the board of ACE to do so.

PART 4 – GROWING THE ACE NETWORK – RELEASING YOUNG EVANGELISTS

- 4.1** From its beginning in 2002, ACE has always placed a strong emphasis on identifying, training, and releasing young campaign evangelists. Over the years many successful campaign evangelists have been given a start, or a helping hand into ministry, through evangelists in ACE.
- 4.2** Experienced evangelists in ACE are always encouraged to be looking out for younger people with a calling and potential to develop into campaign evangelists. We welcome such young people at our conferences and events and will gladly organise special workshops etc. which will be of particular value to those who have little or no experience, but who sense a clear calling to campaign evangelism. Experienced evangelists who identify such younger, or inexperienced people, should contact a member of the board and request that such a person be invited to the next ACE conference or event.
- 4.3** We encourage experienced evangelists to be open to the possibility of inviting a younger evangelist to join them on a campaign trip, to give them opportunities to perhaps, do a “warm up” or participate in some other meaningful way in the campaign. In this way we help to fulfil the final command of our Lord Jesus to “make disciples.”

APPENDIX 1 – THE ACE STATEMENT OF FAITH

Members of ACE come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and it is understandable that there will be differences on points of doctrine within the network. The statement of faith below sets out the essential and core theological beliefs of ACE and which we expect all members to agree with.

THE GODHEAD

We believe in the Biblical revelation of one sovereign, triune God, creator of the heavens and the earth, and revealed in Scripture as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE

We believe in the divine inspiration and infallibility of Holy Scripture as originally given, and its supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

MAN

We believe that God originally created man in His own image to enjoy eternal life together with Him, but that man sinned and fell, and that all mankind is now sinful by nature and in a totally lost estate, making necessary the new birth.

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. We believe in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miraculous ministry, His atoning death on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His abiding intercession, His exaltation at the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and great glory.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit and in His present work to bring conviction to sinners, sanctifying the believer, and in giving gifts to the church.

SALVATION

We believe that salvation and forgiveness of sins is by faith in the atoning sacrifice and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross and His subsequent resurrection from the dead.

THE ORDINANCES

We believe in baptism by immersion for repentant believers. We believe in regular observance of the Lord's Supper. We believe in ministering to the sick for divine healing.

THE CHURCH

We believe in one holy universal church, which is the body of Christ to which all true believers belong.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

We believe in the vital necessity of the Church fulfilling Christ's great commission to go into the entire world and preach the gospel to all nations.

THE HEREAFTER

We believe in eternal life for the believer in Jesus Christ, and in eternal judgement of the unbeliever in the lake of fire.