

International Coalition of Apostolic Leaders

ICAL National Coalitions



International Coalition of Apostles National Coalitions



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Table of Contents

The Origin of ICAL National Coalitions 3

The Biblical Model for National Coalition 5

Modern Trends that Create the Need for National Coalitions 6

ICA's Perspective of the Nations of the Earth 6

The Purpose of National Coalitions 7

The Challenge of Forming National Coalitions 7

The Power of Agreement 8

Why Creating National Coalitions in the Nations Makes Sense 9

How National Coalitions Can Help Solve Problems with the Apostolic Movement in the Nations 10

The Operating Procedures of National Coalitions 11

The General Qualifications for ICAL Ambassadorial Apostles and Convening Apostles 11

The Relationship Between ICAL and its National Coalitions 13

How Interested Parties can start a National Coalition 14

Contact Information 14

Opinion Paper by C. Peter Wagner on Apostles 15



The Origin of ICAL National Coalitions

Apostle Mel Mullen sensed that God wanted to do something significant in his home nation of Canada. Having participated in apostolic ministry throughout his nation for a number of years making numerous connections, Mullen knew it was time to act.

In 2009 Mel began connecting apostles in Canada addressing the specific needs of his nation. Working closely with Apostle John Kelly and Peter Wagner, he assembled Canadian leaders much like ICAL had been doing for a number of years in the United States. Unknowingly, Mullen and the Canadian Coalition of Apostles were creating a model that other nations around the world could follow.

Meanwhile, Apostle John Macknamara had a similar vision for his nation of Australia. Since joining ICAL and observing its function, he desired to create similar apostolic connections for his country. He then organized a gathering of apostles from around Australia in 2009 and invited Dr. C. Peter Wagner to address the group.

Six months later, Macknamara invited Mark Pfeifer to address the same body of Australian apostles and add substance to the vision that was earlier cast by Wagner. Before the second gathering, an Executive Committee was selected from those who participated in the previous year's meeting. Mark met with this group and began formulating the foundation for the Australian Coalition of Apostles.

With the knowledge gained from Mel Mullen's experiences in Canada and seeing the emerging coalition of apostles in Australia, a foundational document was created called the *ICAL National Coalition Charter*. Drafted originally for the Australian Coalition, this document was later redrafted to serve as a foundational blueprint for other nations to follow, creating part of the manuscript you are now reading.

Thanks to pioneers like John Macknamara in Australia and Mel Mullen in Canada working with leaders like John Kelly, Peter Wagner and Mark Pfeifer, there is a model being created that other nations around the world can follow in creating their own *National Coalitions*. This model will allow the apostles of every nation to network together for the good of their homeland while being connected to a larger body of apostles worldwide. This emerging model is outlined in this document

The Biblical Model for National Coalitions...

The Biblical model for apostolic ministry is seen in the ministry of the Apostle Paul as he established and strengthens indigenous leaders to pilot the church.



Paul's first Tour of Duty: Paul was sent from the Church of Antioch in **Acts 13**. His apostolic travels took him from the Island of Cyprus northward into the highlands of Galatia. These were descendants of the people from Gaul (modern day France) and because of this, they had developed their own unique culture.

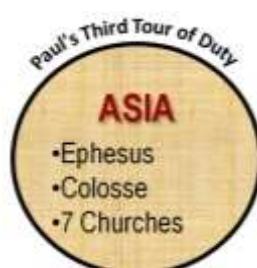
After establishing churches in this region, Paul handed over the leadership of these churches to indigenous leaders. In **Acts 14:23** it says, "*So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*" He understood that in order for the church to maximize its effectiveness in that region, it had to be led by leaders who were familiar with the culture.

Paul's Second Tour of Duty: The mass conversion of Gentiles in the early church put a strain upon it. The Jerusalem Council was convened in **Acts 15** to discuss the issues pertaining to Jewish Law and Christian lifestyle. After the meeting, Paul and Silas set out to deliver the agreed upon mandates to the new, Gentile believers.



After visiting the churches in Galatia, Paul's apostolic team travelled westward across Asia (modern day Turkey). When they came to the western shore of Asia, Paul had a vision at night of a man in Macedonia saying, "Come over and help us." Immediately, they embarked on their Macedonian campaign.

It is important to note that Paul's vision was of an indigenous man which also included an invitation from this individual to come to his land. Upon entering that region, Paul was careful to appoint local leadership in the churches he established. Later, while Paul was in Corinth waiting to hear news of how the churches were doing after his departure, Titus reported that they were strong and their local leaders were doing great (see **II Corinthians 7:6**)! Like before, using indigenous leaders to guide the church, even though they were not saved for a very long time, was an effective apostolic strategy for Paul.



Paul's Third Tour of Duty: Paul's third trip took him back to Asia, the land where the Holy Spirit had previously forbid him to preach (**Acts 16:6**). This time, Paul spent the next 2 years ministering in the city of Ephesus. From there, "*all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks (Acts 19:10).*"

It is safe to assume that the seven churches to which Jesus spoke in the 2nd and 3rd Chapters of the Book of Revelation were founded by people who had experienced Paul's ministry during his time in Ephesus. With this in mind, we see again how Paul used indigenous leaders to oversee the churches in their nation. In fact, this was precisely what he told Titus to do in **Titus 1:5** when he said to his son in the faith, "*For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.*" Only a

ICAL National Coalitions

fellow-Cretan could possess the necessary skills to build the Church of Jesus Christ on that unique, little island.

Without doubt, the apostolic pattern that Paul left the church was to establish indigenous leadership within regional churches and allow them the autonomy to affect their culture as each, individual group saw fit. This is the Biblical model that ICA is using to build up *National Coalitions* around the world.

Modern Trends that Create the Need for National Coalitions...

Because of an increase in nationalism and a negative view of colonialism around the world, we will see apostolic alignments become more and more geographic in nature!

Nationalism is the sense of pride that one has for his or her own nation. Millions of people around the world are embracing an identity apart from the geopolitical associations previously formed with other nations. A sense of pride in their own ethnic and cultural origin drives them towards independence. After the breakup of the Soviet Union, for example, many nations who were once a part of the Soviet Union broke free and formed independent states. The same thing has been happening with the British Empire for decades.

“Millions of people around the world are embracing an identity apart from the geopolitical associations previously formed with other nations.”

To a large degree, an increase in nationalism is a result of contemporary attitudes towards colonialism. Starting in the Fifteenth century as shipbuilding and navigation technologies increased, smaller, less advanced nations were colonized by the larger nations of Europe. These underdeveloped nations are seen today as having been exploited by these Western giants. As they were absorbed into ambitiously growing empires, many nations and people groups lost much of their ethnic and cultural distinction. This is considered an abomination by many modern historians.

“In other words, every nation needs its own coalition of apostles in order to meet the unique challenges that exist within them.”

The backlash of these contemporary attitudes is having profound effect upon the foreign outreach strategies of the church in the West. Since the major religion of the colonizing nations of Western Europe was Christianity, the association between Christian missionaries and colonialism is strong. The attempt of imposing ones culture (including religion) upon another appears to be cultural insensitive and condescending. A foreigner trying to teach people of another nation what gods they should worship and how they should live is considered another form of colonialism.

ICAL’s Perspective on the Nations of the Earth...

ICAL must work with apostles in every nation, understanding that indigenous leaders hold keys that will extend the blessings of the Kingdom of God in their respective nations.

ICAL National Coalitions

“The hope of any nation is found within the borders of that nation.”

The hope of any nation is found within the borders of that nation. Since apostles exist in every nation, (whether they use that title or not), it is a fundamental strategy of ICAL to find these leaders and serve them in efforts to connect them with other apostles in their nation for the purpose of extending the blessings of the Kingdom of God to their citizenry. When the apostles of any country synergize their efforts, Kingdom order is established and its benefits experienced by many.

The Purpose of ICAL National Coalitions...

ICAL National Coalitions are established in the nations of the earth to provide a platform for apostolic alliances that will expand the Kingdom of God uniquely in every nation.

ICAL has been a worldwide forum for apostolic connection since its inception in 1999. It has been a source of encouragement, enlightenment and advancement for thousands of apostles around the world. Now, in order to meet the specific needs existing in each nation, this vision must be extended and customized to serve the explicit needs of the apostolate that exists in each nation. In other words, every nation needs its own coalition of apostles in order to meet the unique challenges that exist within it.

Instead of depending upon foreigners, ICAL understands the need to empower indigenous leaders to accomplish the task of connecting apostles in their own nations. These apostolic leaders, in most cases, will be accepted by the people they serve easier than a foreigner would. With a natural repugnance and distrust of outsiders, the advancement strategies of the Kingdom are better accomplished by people living within the borders of a nation.

By establishing *National Coalitions* around the world, ICAL can expand its platform for apostolic connection to thousands of leaders while at the same time customizing it to meet the needs of individual countries.

ICAL recognizes the importance of apostles laboring in their own nations. We desire to empower them to create key alliances and form unique strategies to meet the needs of their own population. This is a necessary step for the work of the Kingdom of God to move forward in the 21st Century and to assure the viability of ICAL in the future.

“ICAL understands the need to empower indigenous leaders to accomplish this task in their own nations.”

The Challenge of Forming National Coalitions...

Historically, Christian leaders have not always worked well together. This problem knows no geographical boundaries as division among leaders is seen in almost every nation of the world.

Here are some of the challenges in forming *National Coalitions* worldwide:

- **Pride:** Simply put, pride stands in the way of harmony. Pride describes the belief that one's own ministry is more important or more "blessed" by God than others. A person thinking this way believes what he/she is doing is the most important work being done. Sometimes, as they see it, what they are doing is right while everyone else is doing it wrong.

- **Insecurity:** Insecure people have a tendency to gravitate towards extremes. Either they shy away from fellowship or try to dominate it. This hinders unity as balance in such matters is needed for people to work together for a common purpose.
- **Suspicion:** Trust is an essential quality of fellowship. It is also an investment; a conscious risk for the possibility of increased return. This is necessary in building relationships that will move the Kingdom of God forward. Suspicion destroys this process.
- **Jealousy:** This is the resentment that exists in a person's heart when another individual receives a blessing or achieves a goal for which the jealous person believes they are more qualified or deserving. Jealousy is one of the main deterrents to unity in the Body of Christ.
- **Selfish Ambition:** While ambition is needed for achievement, selfish ambition describes the person who is motivated to do something for their own benefit only. Selfish ambition is tested when desired goals are reached by someone other than the person who is ambitious to achieve them, even when it benefits the Kingdom.
- **Competition:** This describes the person who practices one-upmanship with his/her peers. It is an insatiable desire to compare one's own achievements with those of another. The hope in making such comparisons is the desire for superiority. When this motive drives a person's agenda, division and devastation will ultimately result.
- **Immaturity:** Most of the things listed thus far are signs of spiritual immaturity. Unity is hindered by leaders whose gifts have put them in positions that their character cannot keep. This is the case in many cultures where talent and celebrity are valued above character. Individuals are inevitably promoted in this environment based upon talent instead of maturity.
- **Independence:** This is the belief that a person needs help from no one else to succeed and can do the work of the Kingdom of God on their own. This, of course, is inaccurate.
- **Fear:** This is at the root of many attitudes that destroy unity. Fear of what a leader might lose drives many to isolation; losing a position, prestige, significance, congregants, fame, power, etc. Fear must be replaced by humility and love. When it is, a person will find great joy and satisfaction in the achievements of the team.



The Power of Agreement...

Leaders must remember that individual results are increased exponentially by the power of agreement according to Matthew 18:19.

When apostles come together for the purpose of blessing their nation, everybody wins! Individual achievements are not minimized in such an environment, they are maximized. Consider what God told Israel in **Leviticus 26:8**, “*And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.*” Notice that the ability of God’s people to defeat the enemy is in direct proportion to their willingness to work together.

The exponential power of this type of agreement is again mentioned in **Deuteronomy 32:30** where God said, “*How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up?*” God’s help is herein enacted by the ability of His people to

combine their efforts to defeat the enemy by the proliferating power of agreement. This should be the heart and desire for all God's leaders.



Take pulling horses for example. The concept of teamwork can be illustrated by their ability to multiply their effectiveness in pulling together. If one horse can pull 4,000 pounds and another horse can pull 5,000 pounds, how much weight will they pull if yoked together? The answer may surprise you. While logic might say that they can pull 9,000 pounds together, the two-horse team will pull their own weight plus the weight of their interaction. Therefore, yoked together, the horses can pull 13000 pounds!

Apostles working together to fulfill God's purpose for their nation will create synergy that will exponentially increase the effectiveness of individual efforts. *National Coalitions* give leaders the opportunity to achieve these types of results as they build together.

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it."

I Corinthians 3:9-19

Why Creating National Coalitions in the Nations Makes Sense...

On many levels, National Coalitions make sense. Not only do they pass the Biblical test but they also pass the practical test which makes them the next logical next step in advancing ICAL

Here are some of the ways in which the creation of *National Coalitions* in your nation makes sense:

- **Geopolitical Level :** While entering into a nation is sometimes difficult, if not impossible, for foreigners, nationals are already in place doing the work of the Kingdom of God. *National Coalitions* can instantly traverse any national border by recognizing these leaders.
- **Practical Level :** It is practically impossible for ICAL leaders to travel long distances and strengthen its members in foreign nations with any consistency. It is much more practical for ICAL to recognize leaders in those nations and empower them to create their own coalitions of apostles.
- **Structural Level :** Growth necessitates an increase in governmental structure (wineskin). The vision of ICAL as a global fellowship of affiliated apostles must include forming national coalitions in order to achieve our goals.
- **Philosophical Level :** ICAL's mission is to help apostles increase the measures of influence they have within their defined spheres. For those apostles defined by geographical boundaries, creating *National Coalitions* is necessary to facilitate this mission.
- **Spiritual Level :** Apostles who are defined by their geographical spheres have greater authority within those spheres than outsiders. ICAL recognizes this and desires to work alongside these apostles as they are empowered to create or become a part of their own *National Coalition*.

“Growth
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ICAL National Coalitions

- **Financial Level** : It costs less to assemble apostles within the borders of their own nation than it does for them to travel internationally and experience the benefits of ICAL membership elsewhere. This is why creating coalitions of apostles within the nations is so important.
- **Relational Level** : It's easier to build a relationship with people who are geographically close to you than it is to build a genuine relationship with people in distant places. *National Coalitions* can fill this gap.
- **Cultural Level** : The work of the Kingdom of God is best achieved in the nations of the earth by nationals than by foreigners.

How National Coalitions Can Help Solve Problems with the Apostolic Movement in the Nations...

The Apostolic Movement needs credibility and accountability worldwide. National Coalitions will help facilitate this by establishing a national apostolate where members can know those that labor among them (see: I Thessalonians 5:12).

“One of the problems that have plagued the apostolic movement is a lack of credibility.”

One problem that has plagued the apostolic movement is a lack of credibility. This is often the result of a lack of true accountability. A person using titles such as prophet and apostle without displaying the necessary gifts and skills of the position creates confusion in the Body of Christ. A disregard of proper protocol in bestowing these titles along with the unethical practices of people calling themselves apostles and prophets has caused much harm. Whether this is done through rebellion or the result of ignorance, these inconsistencies must be addressed in order to maintain international legitimacy.

Where there is a lack of accountability, illegitimacy reigns. The types of problems described above grow unabated in such an environment. A universal acceptance of Biblical standards is needed in order to stop the influence of illegitimate apostles and reveal the genuine apostolate in the nations of the earth.

Jesus commended the Church of Ephesus for testing those who called themselves apostles but were not (**Revelation 2:2**). In order for the apostolic movement to advance with integrity and effectiveness, this pattern must be followed. Authentic apostles need to know one another, trust one another and work with one another with humility and confidence in order to fulfill Christ’s mandate for making disciples of the nations of the earth. This connectivity will create such an authentic apostolic function that counterfeit apostles will be more easily exposed and segregated. In many ways, ICA, as an international fellowship, is equipped to help make this happen.

“Jesus commended the Church of Ephesus for testing those who called themselves apostles but were not (**Revelation 2:2**).”

Screening potential members for legitimacy and connecting existing members with peer-level accountability, ICAL can maintain a structure that will help bring legitimacy to the apostolic movement worldwide. Members of *National Coalitions* will recognize valid apostles in their nation while the members, themselves, will be affirmed by the International Coalition of Apostles. Having a structured

ICAL National Coalitions

wineskin such as this will go a long way in assuring the credibility of the New Apostolic Reformation around the world for years to come.

The Operating Procedures of National Coalitions...

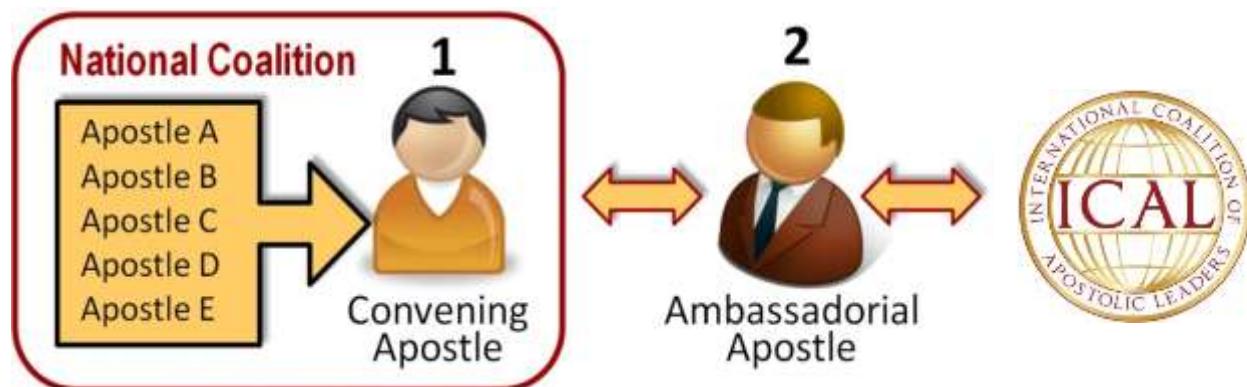
National Coalitions will maintain their own membership under the ICAL umbrella while enlisting the services of two main leaders – the Convening Apostle and the Ambassadorial Apostle.

National Coalitions are autonomous. They maintain their own membership, schedule their own calendar of events and create their own strategies for serving the needs of the people within their respective nations. Since every situation is different, it is important to allow each *National Coalition* to develop at its own pace in a way that best suits the context of the nation in which it exists.

Every *National Coalition* will be served by a **Convening Apostle**. This person will be responsible to serve the group by facilitating and moderating gatherings, overseeing administrative functions and duties, representing ICAL in their nation and representing their *National Coalition* at ICAL's annual international conference. The Convening Apostle must be indigenous to that nation and spend a majority of their time there.

“National
Coalitions are
autonomous.”

National Coalitions and the Convening Apostle will be served by an **ICAL Ambassadorial Apostle**. This person's role is to serve the *National Coalition* and Convening Apostle as an intermediary between them and ICA's Presiding Apostle and Apostolic Council. They may be from any nation but must have a comprehensive understanding of the nation they serve and make, at minimum, one visit per year to that nation.



The above model shows the relationship that ICAL Convening Apostles (1) and Ambassadorial Apostles (2) have with one another, their National Coalition and ICAL. The Ambassadorial Apostle represents ICAL to the Convening Apostle and the National Coalition. The Convening Apostle assembles the coalition of apostles in their nation.

The General Qualifications for ICAL Ambassadorial Apostles and Convening Apostles...

The two key individuals in the structure of National Coalitions are the Convening Apostle and the Ambassadorial Apostle. The success of the vision rests upon them.



#1: The Convening Apostle: The Convening Apostle is an indigenous apostle who will serve his/her nation and the apostles therein by facilitating the functioning of the *National Coalition*. They must hold membership in ICAL and stay connected with the international body and with the designated ICAL Ambassadorial Apostle. Here is a list of general qualifications:

- **Holds the Key:** More than any other link in the chain, the Convening Apostle holds the key for a successful *National Coalition*. They are the point person living in the nation that will be the centerpiece of the coalition and the face of ICAL to its members. The selection of this person is the most important step in the process.
- **Horizontally Capable:** Although this person might be a Vertical Apostle to some, they must be able to function horizontally with respect to their duties in serving the *National Coalition*. They must understand the limits of their authority within their convening role. They are not appointed as an apostle over their nation nor are they to practice a dictatorial attitude with regard to the members of their coalition. They are the first among equals and a servant to all.
- **Connector:** This person must have the necessary gifts that bring people together to form genuine relationships. They must be a “*people person*.” This type of person seems to know everyone and is always asking, “Do you know so-and-so?” These are traits of a connector.
- **Proven Track Record:** There must be evidence of this person’s ability to gather leaders. It is important for them to have the type of gifts, skills and personality that make other leaders invest confidence in them as they convene the *National Coalition* in the name of ICAL.
- **Servant-minded:** They must have a mind to serve the greater needs of their nation in their position as Convening Apostle. Any other mind than that of a servant will shipwreck the operation.
- **Respected:** This person must have the respect of the leaders they serve. Respect, being “*the state of being admired deferentially*” (Encarta Dictionary), must be earned by the Convening Apostle in order for the group to move forward and implement apostolic strategies to grow the coalition and bless the nation.
- **Heart for Nation:** The Convening Apostle must be driven by a passion for their nation and not a need to be needed, to be in charge or to have human recognition. They must be humble. Ultimately, the nation belongs to Jesus and the job of an apostle is to extend His Kingdom rule through the activity of the church, bringing the blessings of heaven to the earth. This motive must be at the root of all the activities of *National Coalitions* wherever they are functioning.



#2: The Ambassadorial Apostle: The Ambassadorial Apostle will be assigned to a Convening Apostle and a *National Coalition*. This person must be a member of ICAL in good standing, have a thorough understanding of the nation and a working relationship with the Convening Apostle they serve. They will be the face of ICAL to the nation and, therefore, must be fully aligned and committed to the purposes, policies and vision of the Presiding Apostle and the Apostolic Council of ICAL.

ICAL National Coalitions

Here is a list of further qualifications of the Ambassadorial Apostle:

- **Carries Heart and Mind of ICAL:** The Ambassadorial Apostle must carry the heart of ICAL to his/her assigned nation. They must be unmistakably familiar with the policies, procedures and opinions of ICAL as an organization and be able to express them to the Convening Apostle and *National Coalition* membership at any given time.
- **Commissioned Apostle:** The apostolicity of ICAL Ambassadorial Apostles must be validated by their apostolic commissioning and track record. Adequate testimony of both must come from the apostolic person (people) with whom the Ambassadorial Apostle is aligned and accountable in order to be considered legitimate.
- **Participate in ICAL Yearly Training:** ICAL will offer on-going training for all Convening and Ambassadorial Apostles. This training will be held during the week of ICAL's international conference and is mandatory for all ICAL Ambassadorial Apostles and strongly recommended for all ICAL Convening Apostles.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** This person must have an understanding of the nation's culture and know how to function within that culture in a sensitive manner as to not offend the people they are trying to serve.
- **Servant-minded:** As earlier stated concerning the Convening Apostle, Ambassadorial Apostles ARE NOT apostles over any nation. They are servants appointed by ICAL to help meet the needs of the Convening Apostle and the members of the *National Coalition* as they strengthen these relationships for the purpose of blessing the nation they serve.
- **Influence in Nation:** The Ambassadorial Apostle should have a degree of influence within the nation to which they are assigned. As they continue to serve the Convening Apostle and the coalition, their influence should increase.
- **Represent ICAL:** The Ambassadorial Apostle should always remember that they represent ICAL in their mission. This assignment should not be looked upon as an opportunity to build one's own ministry and popularity within a nation.
- **Heart for Nation:** This person should have a heart for the nation to which they are appointed. Passion drives a person in the face of opposition and apparent failure. Along the way, Ambassadors should expect pitfalls and stumbling blocks as they do the work of the Kingdom of God against spiritual and human opposition.
- **Means of Travel:** Ambassadorial Apostles must travel at their own expense to the nation(s) they are appointed to serve. They must be able to schedule and finance these trips on their own.
- **Communication and Administrative Abilities:** Since much of the work of an Ambassadorial Apostle includes communicating the agendas of ICAL and administrating said agendas, ambassadors must possess the necessary skills to communicate and implement ICAL's vision for the *National Coalition*.



The Relationship Between ICAL and its National Coalitions...

The relationship between ICAL and its National Coalitions will function primarily through two connections: The association of the Convening Apostle and Ambassadorial Apostle and the acceptance into ICAL membership those apostles affiliated with their National Coalition.

National Coalitions will maintain a relationship with ICAL through membership. Each coalition will be officially sanctioned by ICAL and included into international fellowship with other *National Coalitions* while the individual members of each coalition will automatically be given full membership to ICAL.

National Coalitions must agree and operate in harmony with all publically stated beliefs, policies and purposes of ICAL, most of which is documented on the ICAL website (www.coalitionofapostles.com).

National Coalitions will be autonomous and empowered by ICAL to generate strategies and procedures that are customized to fit the unique needs of their nation with the agreement of the Convening and Ambassadorial Apostle. These strategies and procedures should not conflict with aforementioned publically stated mission, vision, purposes and Biblical principles of ICAL.



Yearly dues should be paid by the members of *National Coalitions* for the purpose of financing the administrative activities of the coalition of their nation. A portion of these dues should be sent to ICAL's international office in the United States. The amount of membership dues and percentage sent to ICAL's office will be the decision of the Convening Apostle with their National Advisory Council (if any) with the recommendation of the Ambassadorial Apostle. Fees will be based upon the economy of each nation and will, therefore, vary from nation to nation.

ICAL will help serve *National Coalitions* by recommending strategies and sending, upon request, qualified ICAL members to visit the nation for the purpose of establishing and strengthening their coalition.

How Qualified Apostles Can Start a National Coalition...

If you are an ICAL member and want to be considered for a Convening role in your nation OR an Ambassadorial role to a particular nation, please let us know!

There are forms available on the ICAL website that you can fill out and submit for consideration (www.coalitionofapostles.com). Once ICAL receives these forms, your request will be screened by a selection committee appointed by the ICAL Convening Apostle and Apostolic Council.

Contact Information...

If you have any questions or comments regarding *National Coalitions*, please contact the ICAL's International Director, Mark Pfeifer, at mark@icaleaders.com. Thank you!

An Opinion Paper by C. Peter Wagner on Apostles...

I. Definition

An apostle is a Christian leader that is gifted, taught, commissioned, and sent by God with the authority to establish the foundational government of the church within an assigned sphere of ministry by hearing what the Spirit is saying to the churches and by setting things in order accordingly for the extension of the kingdom of God.

II. Gifts and Ministries

A. Apostles, by definition, have been given the spiritual gift of apostle by the grace of God. This gift is listed among many others in 1 Corinthians 12. The same chapter, however, indicates that not all of those with the same gift have the same ministry, and not all those with the same ministry have the same activity (see 1 Cor. 12:4-6).

B. Many apostles minister primarily in the nuclear church, which takes the shape of congregations of believers that meet in church buildings or in homes or groupings of such congregations, while others minister primarily in the workplace. The first would be termed “nuclear church” apostles as over against “extended church”, or workplace, apostles.

C. Some are territorial apostles to whom God has given authority covering a certain geographical area such as a neighborhood or a city or a state or a nation. Others have authority in a certain social arena such as government or finances or media, etc.

D. Among those with the gift of apostle, some have the ministry of vertical apostle. This means that they are in an apostolic leadership position over a network of churches and ministries or a network of those who minister in a certain affinity sphere such as women or prayer or youth or worship, etc. Others are horizontal apostles who have a ministry of convening and connecting peers such as other apostles or pastors or prophets, etc.

III. Gifts and Offices

The gift of apostle, as in the case of all spiritual gifts, is given to believers by God as He pleases (see 1 Cor. 12:11, 18). Spiritual gifts are given only by the grace of God. However, an office such as the office of apostle is not given by grace alone, but given as a result of works that have demonstrated faithfulness in stewarding the gift. If God has chosen to give a man or a woman the gift of apostle, the fruit of that gift will be evident to others and in due time the body of Christ will recognize the activation of the gift and confer the office of apostle on that person. This act is most often termed “commissioning,” and it is performed by peer-level apostles, as well as prophets, representing the church and laying on hands. The title “apostle” is ordinarily used only by those who have been duly commissioned into the office, although this principle has not yet been formalized in many situations.

IV. Apostolic Spheres

There is no such thing as an apostle to the whole church. God assigns to each apostle certain spheres in which they exercise authority. Paul makes this clear in 2 Corinthians 10:13-16. There he

says, “We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us” (2 Cor. 10:13). Apostolic spheres can be ecclesiastical, functional, territorial (geographic), cultural, or workplace.

V. Qualifications of Apostles

Certain qualifications apply to all apostles, regardless of the different ministries or activities that may have been assigned to them by God. They include:

A. **Extraordinary character.** Apostles fulfill the leadership requirements outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. They take seriously the warning of James 3:1 that they will be judged with a stricter judgment than most other believers. They are holy (I Peter 1:15).

B. **Humility.** Jesus said that only those who humble themselves will be exalted. Since apostles are exalted by God (See 1 Cor. 12:28), they must be humble in order to qualify.

C. **Leadership.** Not all leaders are apostles, but all apostles are leaders. Apostles must have followers to verify their leadership role.

D. **Authority.** The characteristic that most distinguishes apostles from other members of the body of Christ is the extraordinary authority that comes part and parcel with the gift of apostle. They gain their authority through fatherhood, not through arrogance or imposition.

E. **Integrity.** Apostles are expected to display the integrity that will cause them to be “blameless” (1 Tim. 3:2) and “have a good testimony among those who are outside” (1 Tim. 3:7).

F. **Wisdom.** True apostleship does not come without maturity, and maturity cultivates wisdom. Apostles have the God-given ability to see the big picture and to help others find their place in God’s plan.

G. **Prayer.** While not all apostles would be intercessors per se, all have close contact with God through a disciplined and effective prayer life (Acts 6:4).

VI. What All Apostles Do

A. **They receive revelation.** Apostles hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Some of this revelation comes directly to them, some of it is received together with prophets, and other times through proper relationships with prophets.

B. **They cast vision.** Their vision is based on the revelation they receive, grounded in the Scriptures.

C. **They birth.** Apostles are self-starters who begin new things.

D. **They father/mother.** Apostles desire to see their sons and daughters in the faith rise higher in effective ministry than themselves.

E. **They impart life.** God uses apostles to activate His blessings in others (Rom. 1:11).

- F. **They build.** Apostles strategize and find ways to carry a project along its intended course, including the funding that is required.
- G. **They govern.** Apostles are skilled in setting things in order. Along with prophets, they lay the biblical foundation of the kingdom and the church (Eph. 2:20).
- H. **They teach.** Early believers “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching” (Acts 2:42).
- I. **They send.** Apostles send out those who are equipped to fulfill their role in extending the kingdom of God.
- J. **They finish.** Apostles are able to bring a project or a season of God to its desired conclusion. They are uneasy until the project is done. They seldom burn out.
- K. **They war.** Apostles are the generals in the army of God. They lead the way in tearing down the strongholds of the enemy.
- L. **They align generations.** Apostles have a long-range perspective on the purposes of God and they raise up second tier leadership for the future.
- M. **They equip.** Ephesians 4:12 says that apostles equip the saints for the work of the ministry.
- N. **They form apostolic teams.** Apostles are not lone rangers, they are team players. They surround themselves with strong, committed leaders.
- O. **They resolve conflicts.** Apostles are on call to settle disputes among individuals and in churches and ministries.
- P. **They discipline.** Apostles deal with malfeasance and correct it through biblical methods of reprimand and punishment,

VII. What Some Apostles Do.

Given the differences in temperaments, in ministries, in callings, in activities, and in geographical locations, many but not all apostles will be characterized by:

- A. **Having seen Jesus.**
- B. **Performing signs and wonders.**
- C. **Exposing heresy.**
- D. **Planting new churches.**
- E. **Ministering cross-culturally.**

F. Taking back territory from the enemy, converting it to the kingdom.

VIII. Special Characteristics of Workplace Apostles

For the most part, workplace or extended church apostles will be expected to exhibit the same qualifications and move in the same activities as nuclear church apostles. However, because of their position in the workplace, certain sources of their apostolic authority will be somewhat different.

A. Respect. The starting point for nuclear church apostles is ordinarily relationships, whereas the starting point for workplace apostles is respect. By this we mean that the authority of nuclear church apostles is derived largely from their anointing and their relationships. On the other hand, the authority of workplace apostles is derived from the respect they command from others in the workplace, authenticated by their successful track record. In the workplace, relationships ordinarily are earned through respect, not vice versa.

B. Money. A major criterion for respect in the workplace is access to resources, particularly financial resources. Money commands respect, builds credibility, and confers authority more in the workplace than it might in the nuclear church. Money, however, is never the focus; it is regarded only as a necessary tool. Workplace apostles who are financially independent have an advantage over those who are dependent on others for their income.

C. Risk taker. The road leading to apostolic authority in the workplace is a mine field. Along with the successes, workplace apostles have become accustomed to taking the hits. Most have lost much money and they have learned from it. However, by God's grace, they fear no one, and they do not turn back because they know that God is not concerned about money.

D. Renaissance person. Another criterion for respect is being perceived as a "Renaissance person." These are individuals who have command of a broad spectrum of interests.

E. Negotiating legal structures. Workplace apostles intuitively move through and around legal entanglements. They do not allow legal structures to set boundaries restricting what God can do. This ability is based on inter-workings of relationships built on trust.

F. Position of influence. Authority also comes from the unusual influence one has in his or her determined sphere of the workplace. The seven molders of culture include family, religion, government, arts, media, business, and education. Each one has numerous subdivisions, and all have their specific rulebooks as to how influence is attained. Workplace apostles will know what their sphere or spheres are and they will have attained positions of influence within those spheres. The explicit overriding motivation for their use of influence is to glorify God.

G. Kingdom mindset. Not every financially successful Christian leader in the workplace is, ipso facto, an apostle. Those who are will also have a kingdom mentality, meaning that their driving passion is to see God's kingdom values permeate society on every level. They exhibit the expected characteristics of any apostle. They are actively involved in city or nation transformation as well as setting in order the "church" located in the workplace.

ICAL National Coalitions

H. **Commissioning.** The process for recognizing and commissioning workplace apostles is still under development and hopefully we will soon have a consensus in ICA as to how this should be done.

THE END

