

COC and ICOC: Rift and Repair

Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures
May 3, 2019

Part 1:

The Rift

Nicholas Zola, Ph.D.

Douglas Jacoby, D.Min.

Who We Are (And for Whom We Speak)

Nick Zola

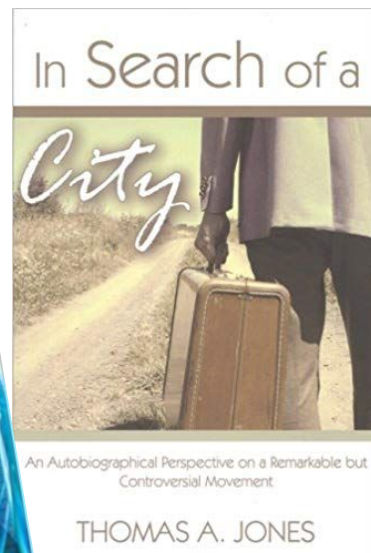
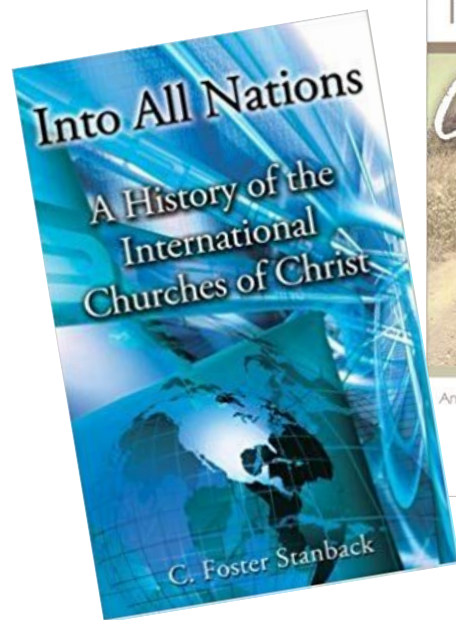


Douglas Jacoby



Some thank-yous

- Jerry Rushford
- Jerry Jones
- John Wilson
- Roger Lamb
- Gregg Marutzky
- David Pocta
- Mike Cope



Awareness and Aims



- Acknowledge the damage
- **Education + Dialogue**
- “Renewing an interrupted family conversation”
- *Rapprochement* = coming nearer to each other again

Part 1: Outline

1. Dates

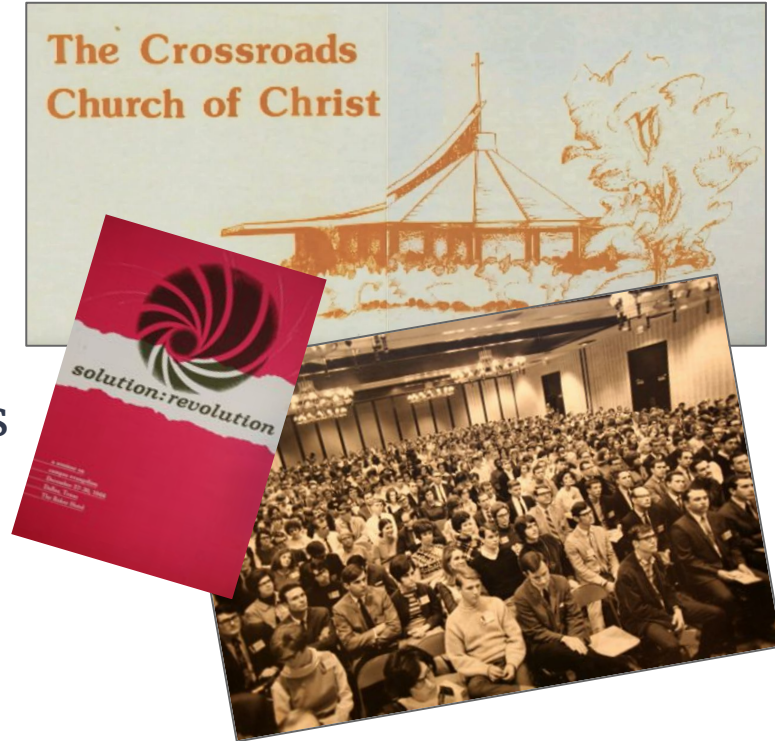
2. DNA

3. Damage



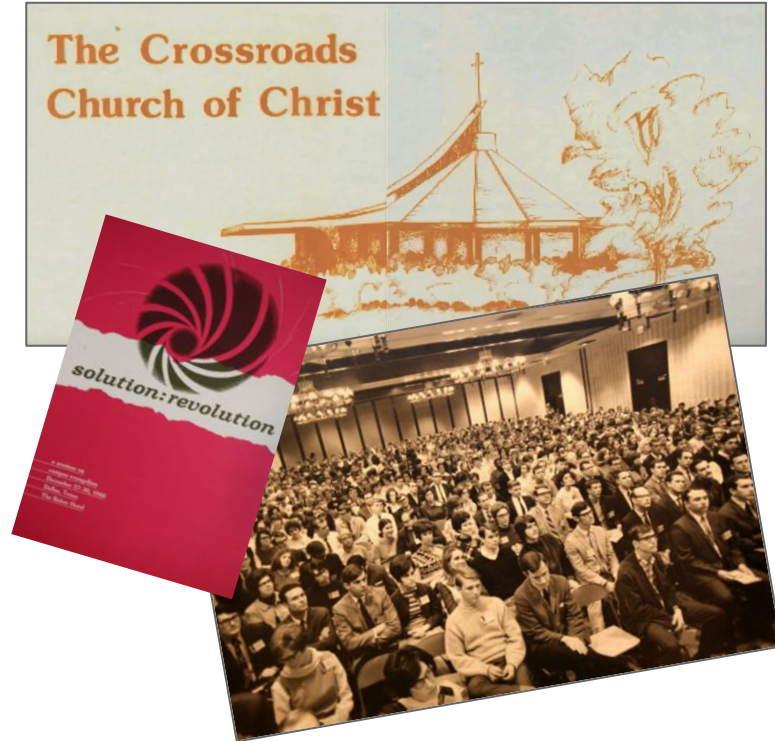
DATES: Campus Evangelism and Crossroads

- 1967: “Campus Evangelism” program
 - Jim Bevis and Rex Vermillion
- 1967: 14th St. COC, Gainesville, FL
 - Chuck Lucas (and later Sam Laing)
 - Begins sending out campus ministers
 - Controversy follows
- 1969: Renamed Crossroads COC



DATES: Campus Evangelism and Crossroads

- 1972: Kip McKean baptized
 - 1976: Kip McKean to Charleston, IL
 - Joins Roger Lamb
- 1978: Apex (1% & 1%)
- 1985: Lucas dismissed
 - Crossroads era coming to an end



Lucas obituary in *Christian Chronicle*



Thomasville, Ga.—Longtime minister Charles Howard “Chuck” Lucas died Aug 9, 2018 at age 79.

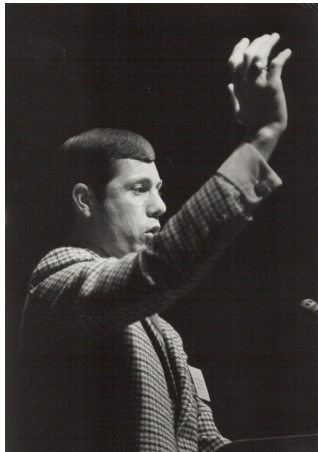
Charles “Chuck” Lucas with his wife Ann

Born in Mobile, Ala., he earned a bachelor’s in Bible from Harding University in Searcy, Ark. and graduate degrees in history and mental health counseling from Mississippi College and Florida State University, respectively.

He was best known for his work with the Crossroads Church of Christ in Gainesville, Fla., from 1967 to 1985, where he was involved in campus ministry. The discipling methods he helped develop became part of the Crossroads Movement, later called the Boston Movement, now the International Churches of Christ. In the early 1990s, the ICOC formally split from the mainline Churches of Christ as the movement’s top-down hierarchy and discipling techniques drew criticism. In 2002, leaders of the movement apologized for past behaviors.

DATES: Crossroads Movement—Assessment

- 1979: Kip McKean to Lexington COC in MA
- 1979–1987: Large number of Crossroads-trained leaders flock to Boston



*Chuck
Lucas*

*Kip
McKean*



- **Strengths:** Bible study, prayer, evangelism, worship, youth ministry, women's ministry
- **Weaknesses:** Legalism, personality cult, focus on U.S., sexual sin, abusive practices

DATES: Boston Movement—Assessment

- **Perception:** Boston Movement churches growing, “mainline” churches dying
- 1987–88: Formal split from COC in directories, bulletins, seminars
- 1992: “International Churches of Christ” coined by John Vaughn at Fuller

- **Strengths:** Evangelism, energy, unity, multi-racial, role for women, international focus
- **Weaknesses:** Legalism, personality cult, sexual sin, immaturity, resistance to criticism, weak biblical knowledge, arrogance towards outsiders



TIME
Magazine
Article, 1992

*Boston
Garden
meeting*

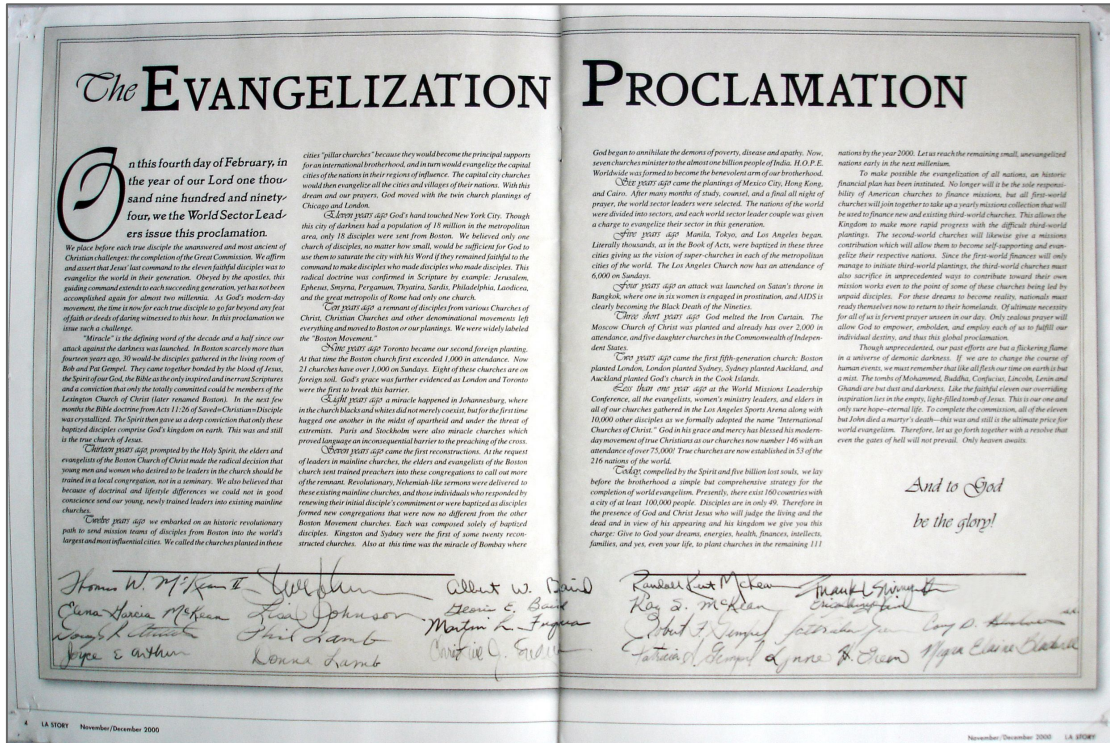


DATES: ICOC 1.0

- 1989: World Sectors Formed
 - Center moves from Boston to LA
 - “Super church” model by 1992
- 1994: Evangelization Proclamation
 - Plant a church in every nation with a city of at least 100,000 by year 2000
 - “In one generation” (Col 1:23)
- Jubilee 2000
 - Churches planted in 170+ (159) nations
 - 42 churches w/ 1000+ attendance
 - 15 churches w/ 3000+ and 7 w/ 5000+
- But mounting signs of internal unrest



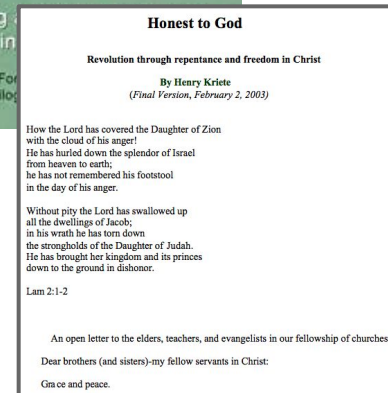
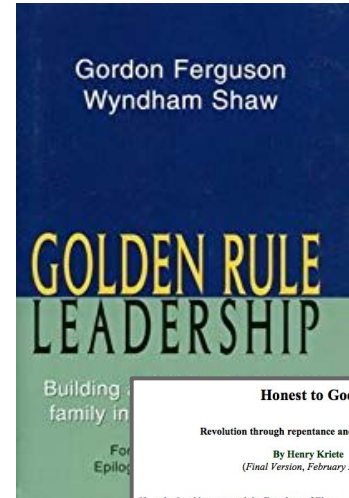
DATES: ICOC 1.0 - Assessment



- Grand vision, but unsustainable growth model/expectations
- Draining resources
- Growth rate in decline already in 1990s
- Crisis in retention (e.g. losing 2/3 / year of those baptized in LA)
- Unity through uniformity
- Mounting criticism

DATES: ICOC 2.0

- Late 1990s: Earnest critiques / attempts at reform
 - Growing unrest in upper and lower ranks
 - Slow growth, attrition rate rising
- 2001: *Golden Rule Leadership* (Ferguson and Shaw)
- 2001: McKean enters “sabbatical”
- 2002: Boston COC issues public apology
 - McKean resigns
 - World Sector Leaders lose influence
- 2003: Henry Kriete releases letter (*Honest to God*)
 - Many churches issue public apologies
 - “Open forums” and “town hall meetings”
 - Majority of ICOC staff worldwide lose their jobs
 - 40,000 members walk away (~30% drop)



DNA: Distinctive Doctrines and Practices



Positive:

- Commitment
- Evangelism
- Innovation
- Diversity
- Global vision
- Financial sacrifice
- Compassion for the poor



Unhealthy:

- 1-over-1 (controlling) discipling
- Neophytes into leadership
- Weak or non-existent eldership
- Minimal biblical / theological training
- “One true church,” “God’s modern-day movement”
- Enforced tithing
- Pressure to evangelize world in 1 generation

DAMAGE



- Abusive practices (verbal, physical, sexual, leadership) damaged many—worldwide.
- Vast majority of baptized have walked away (300,000+).
- Disrespect shown to other Christian groups (esp. COC).
- What could have been a healthy reform movement became a sectarian split-off.
- Post-2002, ICOC enters a period of repentance.

Thank You.

Questions?

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The Repair

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The Repair(ing)

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Still Us

Douglas Jacoby



Nick Zola



DNA: Distinctive Doctrines and Practices



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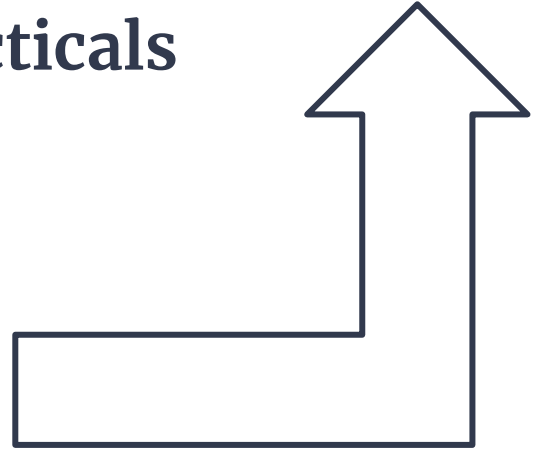
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Part 2: Outline

1. **Purposes**

2. **Progress**

3. **Practicals**



PURPOSES



Not:

- Agreement on certain issues
- Church merger

But:

- **Education + Dialogue**
- Respect and humility
- Sharing resources

PROGRESS: ICOC since 2003



- 2003: Year of apologies
 - Yearly leadership conferences begin
- 2004: Reconciliation talks at ACU Lectureship
 - ICOC: Gordon Ferguson, Al Baird, Gregg Marutzky, Mike Taliaferro
 - COC: Jack Reese, Jim Woodroof, Terry Smith, John Wilson
- 2005: Dialogue at Pepperdine Bible Lectures (Jerry Rushford)
 - Andy Fleming (ICOC) and Jeff Walling (COC)
 - “Renewing an Interrupted Family Conversation”
- 2006: ICOC Plan for United Cooperation
 - Eventually ratified by ~95% ICOC churches

PROGRESS: ICOC 2.0 → 3.0 → 2.1

- 2007+: Delegate System and Service Teams established
 - Evangelists, Teachers, Elders
 - Missions, Campus, Youth & Family, Benevolence, Women, Administration, Communication, Catalyst
- 2010: Delegate System formalized
- 2012: World Discipleship Summit in San Antonio
 - 17,000+ attend, from 96 nations
 - Geographic Church Families redesignated
- 2016: REACH Discipleship Summit in St. Louis
 - Global Missions Report—32 Regional Families
- 2018: Panama ILC, Delegates, and Service Teams
 - Vote for regional vs. global organization structure
 - Cooperation agreement to partner in missions



disciples today



HOPE
worldwide
Bringing hope. Changing lives.



Excursus: International Christian Church

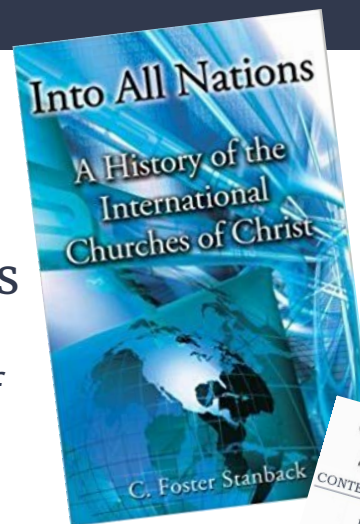


2003 - Moves to Portland
2004 - Discipleship Jubilee
2005 - Censured by 50
principal ICOC leaders
2006 - Chicago “replanted”
2007 - Moves back to LA
2019 - 65+ churches
(ICOC has ~700)

- Kip McKean regroups
- “International Christian Church” (ICC)
 - Crossroads: “Total commitment”
 - Boston & ICOC: “Disciples”
 - ICC: “Sold out disciples” (The ICOC is lost.)
- Attempt to reclaim lost territory
- Key doctrines:
 - Discipling partner
 - Church disciplined by an (external) ICC evangelist
 - World evangelism in 1 generation

PROGRESS: ICOC and COC

- **Dialogue at conferences continues**
 - 2006: Who Is My Brother? (Jacoby)
 - Pepperdine Bible Lectures 2009–2012
 - ICOC 2012 and 2016 Summits invite COC reps
- **Publications**
 - Foster Stanback, *Into All Nations: A History of the International Churches of Christ* (2005)
 - Based on Pepperdine Master's thesis
 - Pepperdine's *LEAVEN*: ICOC issue (2010)
 - J. Wilson, T. Jones, G. Ferguson, S. Staten, R. Lamb, S. Brown, J. Shaw, W. Shaw
 - Positive reviews in COC *Christian Chronicle* of ICOC conferences in 2012 and 2016



PROGRESS: ICOC and COC

- **Formal Education and Training**
 - Chicago ICOC leaders with Harding Grad
 - LA ICOC leaders with Pepperdine (and now Rochester)
 - Texas ICOC leaders with ACU
 - Others through Lipscomb
 - (And Lincoln Christian University)
 - Where D. Jacoby, S. Kinnard, G. Giles adjunct
- **ICOC undergrads now attending COC universities**
 - Mostly Pepperdine and Lipscomb



HARDING
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



ABILENE
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY



Lincoln Christian
UNIVERSITY

PROGRESS: ICOC and COC

- **Church Cooperation and Mergers**
 - 2007: Hamburg ICOC + COC merge
 - 2014: Munich ICOC + COC merge
 - 2019: Gainesville ICOC + COC merge
 - Using same building as Crossroads COC!
 - Others?
- **Common Grounds in LA**
 - Quarterly breakfast among ICOC, COC, and Independent Christian Church members
 - “Unity starts with a cup of coffee”
 - Starting to share resources
 - Planning unity conference



The new CampusView Church in Gainesville, FL



COMMON GROUNDS

Unity Starts with a Cup of Coffee.



Common Grounds at Pepperdine

PRACTICALS



- Apologies still need to occur—on both sides
- Continue educating ICOC leaders in COC (& CC) universities
- More shared conference speakers—on both sides
- Get to know your neighbors
 - Share a meal
 - Preacher swap
 - Partner in youth events, etc.
 - This is the gospel

Thank You.

Questions?