



**VISIONING GLOBAL FEDERATION OF CHRISTIANS IN SOCIAL
WORK**

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VISIONING GLOBAL FEDERATION OF CHRISTIANS IN SOCIAL WORK

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ABSTRACT

Violent forces and human indignification characterize the post 9-11 crisis, and thereby, Christians in social work are globally faced with both challenges and opportunities for more effective intervention to develop. This workshop will address on social network strategies from visioning of a united goal in setting up global agenda and from awakening of Christian commitments to mediation and reconciliation for sustainable peace and justice.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. To comprehend the historic paths and activities of three leading national organizations of Christians in Social Work and Social Welfare (i.e., NACSW, JSCSW, KACSW);
2. To compare the strengths of each organizational characteristics;
3. To articulate the foundational principles for global collaborations among Christians in Social Work;
4. To integrate foundational principles for the establishment of Global Federation for Christians in Social Work and Social Welfare (GFCSWSW); and

5. To make recommendations for strategic action plans toward globalization of united Christian social work and faith communities.

INTRODUCTION: GOD'S VOICE IN A CHANGING WORLD

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captive and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed to free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4: 18-19.

It is noteworthy in the beginning of 21st century that a movement of united efforts among international organizations of social work including IFSW, IASSW and ICSW toward building a global community of social workers across their fields of practice has broadened social work perspectives and global social networking (Cox & Pawar, 2006)¹. These organizations have timely agreed to hold their joint conferences biannually in different regions to accommodate a broad spectrum of emerging social welfare issues and diverse social work practice responses. The first one was held in Hong Kong (2010), followed by Stockholm in 2012 and Melbourne this year, 2014, and the next one for 2016 is scheduled to be held in Seoul under the host of Korean Council on Social Welfare. While these secular organizations are actively engaged in building collaborative agenda for international social work education, practice, research and policy developments, Christians in social work and social welfare have not yet built a global

¹ IFSW (International Federation of Social Workers) was founded in 1928 by social workers from several European countries and the United States; IASSW (International Association of Schools of Social Work) began in 1929 with 46 founding members from 10 countries; and ICSW (International Council on Social Welfare) began in 1966 from its forenamed International Conference on Social Work and has over 14 international associations.

base for networking even among the existing Christian academic and practice bodies such as NACSW, JSCSW, and KACSW,² in confronting, as well as, in responding collectively to, the needs, crisis, and conflicts of our time and places of destitute from a Christian perspective in building “the Kingdom of God” from individual to societal, levels of resolution (Jung, 2001; Jung, 2011; Lee, 2011).

The following voice of God that was once heard by Prophet Isaiah may need to be re-heard pointedly by today's Christians in the fields of social work and social welfare:

*A voice of one calling: “In desert prepare the way for the Lord”;
make straight in wilderness a highway for our God.
In every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill
made low; the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.”—Isaiah 40: 3, 4.*

While the sign on the wall of global conflicts and social problems of globalization indicates that the destructive forces of anti-Christ movements has brought threats and danger to the dignity of human life, the stability of family relations, the balance between masculine and feminine structure of society, and the peaceful co-existence of neighboring communities (Fox, 2013, HHolland, 2005), Christians in social work must uphold their belief and commitment in carrying out God's plan for human salvation through the 'true' Church and by the 'reborn' disciples of Jesus Christ who came to the world to establish the evangelical foundation through which human struggles and conflicts can be mediated and resolved (Chamiec-Case, 2012; Cosgrove, 2008; Hugen, 2012; Poe, 2012; Pryce, 2012; Scales & Kelley, 2012; Sherwood, 2012; Vanderwoerd, 2012). Dr. Joe Holland, professor of philosophy and Religion at St. Thomas University, who foresees a new era of the regeneration of ecological, societal, and spiritual life at the wake of the breakdown of modern culture, points out that “modernity's foundational

² NACSW (North American Association of Christians in Social Work), JSCSW (Japanese Society for Christian Social Welfare), & KACSW (Korean Academy of Christian Social Welfare).

evils" had dominated over "the cycle of 500 years led by European males," and "the whole process is now wrecking vast ecological, societal, and spiritual devastation across the planet" (Holland, 2005, p. 9). He envisions from a perspective of postmodernism the need for creating an infrastructure of professionals devoted to create "the new institutional paths of all professions" and "the new networks of electronic communications" (Lee, 2005. p. 146). The dual foci, and their integration, of social work profession aiming at individual well-being and that of community, have been an integral complex of balancing between the individual needs in terms of charity and societal changes in terms of social justice (IFSW, 2014; NASW, 2008; Reamer, 1993; Specht & Courtney, 1994).

In following after the footsteps of many generations of dedicated Christian social reformers and professionals (Abe, 2002; Holland, 2005; JSCSW, 2009; Kim, 1985; Lee, 2004; Rifkin, 2009; Sherwood, 2008), the author's visioning in the establishment of Global Federation of Christians in Social Work and Social Welfare (GFCSWSW) has just begun at his initiation at the turn of the 21st century, with hope and in prayer, that a working network can be formulated with visionary Christians in social work worldwide.³

³ Professor Boo Duck Lee, a Korean-American Christian Social Worker, as known as Daniel B. Lee, has taught 10 years at the Ohio State University College of Social Work (1980-90) during which period, he served on the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Division of Diaconal Ministry, the United Methodist Church and was consecrated as a diaconal minister. Dr. Lee also taught at Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work over 20 years (1990-2010) during which time he coordinated the dual degree program of MSW & MDIV; instituted the First National Symposium on the Integration of Divinity and Social Work Master Programs" at Loyola University Chicago in 2002; and co-edited a book on [Social Work and Divinity] and also co-published simultaneously as *Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought*, Volume 24, Numbers 1/2, 2005. Reverend Lee was ordained as a Permanent Deacon (clergy) at the Northern Illinois Conference of United Methodist Church, and also served as a church conflict mediator for ethnic minority local churches. He is a co-founder and permanent board of *Global Awareness Society International*, an interdisciplinary and international academic organization which has held twenty-two annual conferences at many different locations on the globe since 1990. He has lectured social work courses including *Religion and Social Work* and *International Social Welfare* as a visiting scholar at both secular and Christian

There exist already in the Pacific-rim region three distinctive scholarly efforts of Christian social work academic societies including the North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW) since 1950, Japanese Society of Christian Social Welfare (JSCSW) since 1960 (JSCSW), and Korean Academy of Christian Social Welfare (KACSW,) since 1981. Although each runs its own agenda, separate from each other, there were at some level exchanges between these organizations over the years, but more on an informal basis. This year, for instance, 6 delegates of KACSW participated at the invitation of JSCSW in its 55th annual academic program which was held in Sendai, Japan where the 2011 tsunami disaster hit the most. NACSW has also recognized international participants to its annual program meetings over the years. However, such casual and incidental exchanges or participations of limited numbers of Christian social workers do not seem to develop collaborative and global actions needed to meet the challenges of today in the sphere of poverty eradication, human rights violation, ethnic bashing and human trafficking, violence, health threatening conditions, terrorism, mental and behavioral disorders, hazards of community development, natural disaster, migration, religious persecution, addiction, toxic environments, and other international issues. Certainly there are many civic and non-government organizations, voluntary groups, academic units, overseas missions of faith and church organizations, and United Nations which involve in international social work and social welfare by producing vast amounts of knowledge, skills, and networking strategies in dealing with residual and emerging social welfare issue and global matters of concern (Cox & Pawar, 2006; CQ Researchers, 2010; Estes, 1992; Healey, 2001; Lyons, Manlon & Caerlsen, 2006; Midgley, 1997; Patterson, 2012; Reichert, 2007; Soest, 1997). While scientific and religious approaches to social

Universities in East Asia. They include: Seoul National University, Seoul (1995), Seogang (Jesuit) University, Seoul (2002); Doshisha (Christian) University in Kyoto, Japan (2007 & 2009-10); Hallym University, Korea (2011-13); and Soongsil (Christian) University, Seoul (2013-Present). He serves on the Editorial Board of *Social Work & Christianity: An International Journal*. He is also serving as the 6th President, Korean Academy of Christian Social Welfare and works toward the establishment of Global Federation of Social Workers in Social Work and Social Welfare.

work can benefit to the works of Christians in social work locally and globally by transcending cultures and geographical boundaries, a new paradigm for Christian social work must address what the meaning of evangelical foundation for globalization should be toward development of the new global order replacing the old one from the global integration of biblical interpretations and spiritual inspirations in redefining the evil forces and God's cure for humanity on the globe and how to formulate missional priorities for the Church and Christian community of social professionals (Lee, 1995; Lee, 2011; Patterson, 2012). Toward this goal, the author envisions that the establishment of Global Federation of Christians in Social Work and Social Welfare is a timely call for action firstly by those three Christian societies of Social Work and Social Welfare in North America (Canada and U.S.), Japan, and S. Korea in the Pacific Rim region (Lee, 2009; Lee, 2011). The following section of this paper outlines the preliminary efforts that have gone and the forthcoming plans of action toward the aforementioned goal.

VISIONING FOR GLOBAL FEDERATION OF CHRISTIANS IN SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL WELFARE

The Pathway of Grounding Works.

The Initial Brainstorming Session was held at the 60th Annual NACSW Convention, held in Durham, N.C. in 2010; the author met with several interested members of NACSW including:

- Dr. Rick Chamiec-Case, the executive director of NACSW who made the meeting arrangement in support of such vision.
- Elizabeth Patterson of Malone University who served as a reporter for the session's outcome in organizing a task force led by the author in facilitating the process of forming the regional networks.

On July 16, 2011, *a historic meeting of the International Christian Social Work & Social Welfare Forum* on a regional basis was held in Tokyo in conjunction with the 21st Asian

Pacific Social Welfare Conference under the initiation and networking of the author. The theme of this meeting was: *Visioning of Global Federation of Christians in Social Work & Social Welfare*. The forum was co-chaired by Daniel Lee (Professor emeritus & former Associate Dean, Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work) and Dr. Katsunobu Kihara, Professor and Chair at Doshisha University Department of Social Welfare, Kyoto, Japan).

Program speakers were included:

- Dr. Daniel B. Lee, GFCSWSW Task Force and an editorial board member,
- Dr. Rene Drumm, Professor and Dean of Southern Adventist University and a board member, representing from North American Association of Christians in Social Work;
- Dr. K. Kihara, VP of JSCSW representing Japan,
- Dr. Bumsoo Kim, former Professor of Pyeong-Taek University and a board member of Korean Academy of Christian Social Welfare,
- Dr. J. Sam Park, CEO, Korea World Vision and former President of Korean Association of Church Social Welfare, and
- Dr. Moo-Sung Jung, Professor of Soongsil University and former director of Christian Social Welfare Research Center of Seoul Theological University representing Korea.

Dr. Rene Drumm (rdrumm@southern.edu) was asked and agreed to draft the conference report in English at the post forum meeting at Waseda University Conference site in Tokyo. There were more than 30 participants from Korea, Japan and U.S. at this gathering to witness this historic event, and each delegate was expected to share what was experienced from this international forum. Among the participants included:

- The former President of Asian Pacific SW Conference
- Mr. S. C. Cho, the current President of Korean Association of Social Workers;

- CEO of a Japanese Christian Social Services for the Elderly;
- Social Work faculty and doctoral students; and
- Social Work practitioners of Christian faith community.

Acknowledgement was made in appreciation firstly to the APSWC Leadership (President and Program Chair) in allowing this session to be held as a part of its program by accommodating our meeting at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan on July 16, 2011; secondarily to the session panelists represented their respective organizations including NACSW, JSCSW, and KACSW and spoke on their historic and current activities and the discussion session leader, Dr. Chung, professor of Soongsil University School of Social Welfare and former director of Christian Social Welfare Research Center of Seoul Theological Seminar; thirdly to the participants from three countries of U.S., Japan and Korea; and ultimately, our thanksgiving was given to God, the Creator of the Universe and Christ Jesus, the Savior of humanity whose spiritual guidance and blessings on our pathway toward achieving the global networks among Christian social workers and their associates of other faith in the field of social welfare. It was meaningful that the first international Christian social work & social welfare forum was held in conjunction with the 21st Asian Pacific Social Welfare Conference in Tokyo, Japan on July 16, 2011, and that the theme of *Visioning of Global Federation of Christians in Social Work & Social Welfare* was a call for future direction in responding in Christian unity to the global issues.

Topics and speakers were:

- *North American Association of Christians in Social Work: Its Foundation, Current Foci & Future Directions* by Dr. Rene Drumm, Dean & Professor, *Southern Adventist University*, Tennessee, USA & Editorial Board of *Social Work and Christianity*;
- *Japanese Society of Christian Social Welfare: Its Foundation, Current Foci & Future Directions* by Dr. Katsunobu Kihara, Professor & Chair, Department of Social

Welfare, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan and Executive Board of Japanese Society of Christian Social Welfare

- *Korean Society of Christian Social Welfare: Its Founder, Late Dr. Dock Joon Kim's Philosophy and Influence on Korean Christian Social Welfare*, by Dr. Bum Soo Kim, Ph.D., Former Professor, Department of Social Welfare, Pyeong-Taek University & Board of Korean Society of Christian Social Welfare, S. Korea
- *The Mission of Korean Association of Church Social Welfare & the Role of Christian NGOs* by Dr. J. Sam Park, CEO, *World Vision Korea* & Former Professor & Dean, Soongsil University School of Social Welfare, Seoul, Korea;
- *Visioning of Global Federation for Christians in Social Work & Social Welfare* by Dr. Daniel Boo Duck Lee, Professor Emeritus, School of Social Work, Loyola University Chicago & Editorial Board, *Social Work & Christianity*, Chicago, IL, USA

Discussion session was facilitated by Dr. Moo Sung Jung, Professor of Soongsil University School of Social Welfare & former director of Christian Social Welfare Research Center of Seoul Theological University, S. Korea. It was the hope of the participants who affirmed such a vision of global network among Christians in social work and social welfare would be realized in a near future from the Pacific Rim Region on the globe.

A Comparative Chart of Three Major Associations of Christian Social Work in the Pacific Rim Region: the North America (Canada & U.S.), Japan, and Korea, 2014

	<u>NACSW</u>	<u>JSCSW</u>	<u>KACSW</u>
Location	U.S.	Japan	S. Korea
Founded	1950	1960	1981
Annual Conferences	64th	54th	33rd
Faith Orientation	Ecumenical	Ecumenical	Ecumenical

Foci	Academic/Practice	Academic/Practice	Academic/Practice
Professional Identity	Social Work	Social Welfare	Social Welfare
Dominant Religion	Christianity	Buddhism/Shintoism	Buddhism & Christianity
Membership	Open	Open	Open
Conf. Participants	+/-800	+/-300	+/-100
Web Homepage	nacsw.org	jscsw.ne	kacsw1981.org
Organization	Executive Director/Board	President/Board	President/Board
Membership	Large	Medium	Small
Major Journal	<i><u>Social Work & Christianity</u></i>	<i>Proceedings</i>	<i>Proceedings</i>

STRATEGIES FOR ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS

1. The Principle of Respect for Diversity
2. The Principle of Global Awareness
3. The Principle of Cultural Transcendence
4. The Principle of Social Responsibility
5. The Principle of Advocacy for the Poor
6. The Principle of Service
7. The Principle of Shared Community

To draft a working document of GFCSWSW to be endorsed in future by participating organizations, following need to be considered including, but not limited to:

- The Vision Statement
- the Preamble
- The Purpose
- The Scope of Networking
- The Executive Duties of Coordinating Council
- The Strategic Action Plan;
- The Budget and Fiscal Responsibility
- The Membership Criteria and Dues
- The By-Laws & Legal Status
- The Organizational Affiliation, etc.

To constitute a Founding Committee consisted of appointed and initiated Individuals who are willfully committed to carry out the initial tasks in establishing the Global Federation. This body can formulate strategic plans for:

- Visioning and Planning of Conference Structure; (e.g., annual conferences by each national association, regional conferences every two years, global convention every four years, etc.)
- Website Development for GFCSWSW networks.
- Publications of newsletters and reports of GFCSWSW activities nationally, regionally and globally.

- Alliances with other similar organizational efforts.
- Resource sharing among and between the member and affiliated organizations.
- Development of volunteer corps in resourcing various activities of GFCSSWSW.
- Provision for consultations to potential membership organizations in the regions where Christian Social Work Association has not yet been formed or developed.
- Strategy development in working effectively with faith communities and other religious organizations.
- Institution of award system to recognize individuals and organizations that merit awards of recognition for Outstanding Contributions for Humanity in the field of Social Work and Social Welfare, and so on.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The Identity and Role of Christians in Social Work In Building a New Kingdom of God in Global World (Conway, 2005; Matthew 25: 1-13; Lee, 2014; Park, 2004; Perkins, 1995)

The author attempts to describe the identity and role of Christians in Social Work as follows:

- Christians are those who live and die faithfully with commitment and passion according to the teachings of Jesus Christ who once revealed in the historic time and still live in the midst of all humanity;
- Christians strive persistently for the realization of the Kingdom of God on the globe in the Christ's ministries of love and justice that transform the

lives of people and the conditions of environments from hopelessness to hopefulness;

- Christians are mindful of all forms of being as spiritual sources of cosmic meaning in Divinity, capable of understanding and loving them with tolerance and compassion;
- Christians believe in the Divine Deity of God as the Creator of the Universe, the Incarnated Jesus Christ as the Savior of Humanity, and the Empowering Holy Spirit as the Transformative energy;
- Christians believe in the sanctity of body, mind and soul that are created by the image of Holy God and cleansed by the redemptive Grace of Jesus Christ in repentance from the defiled by sins of the evil forces;
- Christians believe in the mystical power of the Holy Spirit in healing the wounds, in liberating the oppressed, in comforting the troubled, and in reconciling the conflicted Christians stand up against any and all of demonic forces in defense of humanity from their destructiveness and dehumanizing exploitations.

The ideas of "the empathic civilization" (Rifkin, 2009), "the coming of spirit" (Cox, 2009) and "the new institutional paths of all professions" (Holland, 2005) point at the needs for human communities of thinkers and believers to redefine their paradigms to meet the demands of time and places for salvation of humans in the world of danger and threats by evil forces (Fox, 2013). In the Spring Academic Symposium of Korean Academy of Christian Social Welfare held at Soongsil University in Seoul, Korea on May 30, 2014, J. S. Park⁴ (2005) suggests specific guidelines for Christians in social work for

⁴ Dr. J. Sam Park is professor emeritus, Soongsil University School of Social Welfare who has served as CEO, Korea World Vision and presently, directs Global Center for Social Services in Seoul. He advises KACSW as a board member.

strengthening the integration of their Christian identity, moral responsibilities and social work commitment in their ideological, theoretical, ethical and practical developments, B. D. Lee (2014) outlines specific strategies including the establishment of global federation of Christians in social work and social welfare. In anticipating the forthcoming the Joint International Conference of IFSW, ICSW & IASSW which is scheduled to be hold in 2016 in Seoul, Korea, the author aims at hosting the first symposium of Christians in Social Work and Social Welfare in conjunction with the aforementioned joint world conference of Social Work. The goal is to establish the Global Federation of Christians in Social Work & Social Welfare as a unified body of both exiting academic associations of Christian Social Work/Social Welfare and other similar organizations in making in God's time.

Recommendation: To constitute a planning committee for the establishment of GFCSW/SW consisted of representatives from NACSW, JSCSW & KACSW by the end of 2014.

Source of Meditation

From now on, we regard no one according to the flesh (2 Corinthians 5: 12-21).

Let us not grow weary while doing good (Galathians 6: 9).

Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for the all the people you can, while you can (John Wesley).

Love and understanding are values that transcend all dogmas (Thich Nhat Hanh from Living Buddha & Living Christ).

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<http://www.spirituality-and-social-work.net/> International Symposium on Spirituality and Social Work

<http://www.cswe.org/spirituality>

<http://www.sehd.binghamton.edu/affprograms/sssw/> The Society for Spirituality and Social Work

<http://www.ecosocialwork.org/> Global Alliance for a Deep Ecological Social Work

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