



HOME > ABOUT PURPOSE DRIVEN > PURPOSE DRIVEN NEWS > Pastors commit to 'new Reformation' at PDC Conference

▼ ABOUT PURPOSE DRIVEN

- ▶ What is PD?
- ▶ Who We Are
- ▶ Careers
- ▶ Contact Us
- ▼ Purpose Driven News

Becoming purpose driven doesn't mean losing your church's distinctives

Purpose Driven: Lasting principles for rural churches

Hope Lutheran: second campus a key outreach tool

Church government crucial to PD transition

PD church challenges Japanese culture of shame

Northside Baptist: Building people, not a church

Worship services and small groups aren't an either/or proposition

10 ways to sustain new small groups after 40 Days

Encourage every member of your church to join a small group

A hip-hop church's search for purpose

Seven ways a small group can reach people for Jesus

What's the difference between managing and leading?

Worship Conference: Lookin' for God stuff

An 'It's not about you' revolution

Six ways your church can attack the AIDS crisis

Worship leaders, we're just extras in God's movie

New Covenant: Making people ready for God's use

'When you're through improving, you're through'

Cedar Creek: Connecting with the disconnected

Celebration Church: new name, new vision, and new impact

Rick Warren to teach Purpose Driven Church Conference in Europe for first time

Extend purpose to passion, Kay Warren tells ministers' wives

Fellowship: Protecting your church

Three steps to making your small group dream

## Pastors commit to 'new Reformation' at PDC Conference

By Tobin Perry

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (PD)--Pastors and church leaders from 49 countries and 200 denominations ended last week's Purpose Driven Church Conference with a commitment to do whatever it takes to topple the global giants of spiritual lostness, egocentric leadership, poverty, sickness and illiteracy.

Conference attendees made the commitment by holding up red and yellow signs as they agreed to do their part in a new worldwide reformation that Purpose Driven Ministries founder Pastor Rick Warren says will focus on what the church does.

"It's time to stop debating and start doing," said Warren, who is founding and senior pastor of Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. "It's time to stop criticizing and start cooperating. It's time for the church to be known for love and not legalism. It's time for the church to be known for what we are for not what we are against. It's time for the church to act on what we believe. It's time for the church to be a doer of the Word and not just a hearer."

Warren told the church leaders in attendance that in his travels around the world he has noticed four coinciding movements in Christianity.

First, the church is exploding in the southern hemisphere, particularly in Africa and South America. Second, Purpose Driven Ministries is bypassing old distinctions between denominations and nationalities and unifying the church worldwide. Third, Warren believes God is revitalizing the local church. Finally, new technologies such as the Internet have helped to build a global, de-centralized network of churches that allows congregations to communicate with one another more quickly and efficiently than ever before.

These four observations, Warren believes, are the framework of the second great reformation of the church. Through this reformation, Warren expects to see:

- a complete mobilization of ordinary believers.
- a rapid multiplication of churches.
- the complete eradication of the five global giants (spiritual lostness, ego-centric leadership, poverty and illiteracy).
- a new cooperation between churches around the world.
- the complete evangelization of the planet.

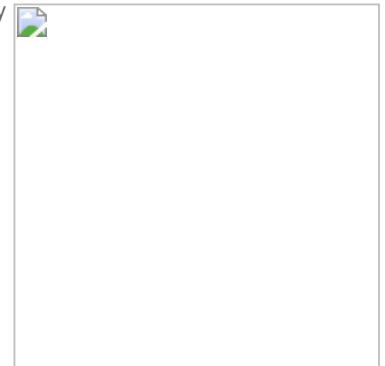
During the conference, Warren laid out his vision of the global P.E.A.C.E. Plan, a revolutionary missions strategy that will harness small groups from churches everywhere to tackle the five global giants. For the past year, Warren has been testing the plan with his own congregation and is planning to launch it publicly this fall for churches around the world. Warren's goal for the plan: "To mobilize 10 million churches and 100 million groups, resulting in 1 billion people participating in P.E.A.C.E. by 2020."

"If you want God's blessing on your life, you must care about what God cares most about," Warren said. "And God cares about seeing his lost children found. Legend tells us that Nero fiddled -- played the violin -- while Rome burned.

"And now Christians have been fiddling around while the world goes to hell."



**Whatever it takes!**  
A capacity crowd fills Saddleback worship center to hear Pastor Rick Warren encourage each and everyone in attendance to give it everything they've got ... "Whatever it takes!" to build the Kingdom of God. Photo by Craig Pulsifer



**Passionate plea**  
Rick Warren responds as his wife, Kay, cries out in prayer, asking God to raise up laborers to defeat the global "giants" of spiritual lostness, selfish leadership, poverty, disease, and illiteracy. Photo by Craig Pulsifer

Four characteristics of God-pleasing worship

Do volunteers own the ministry of your church?

Maintaining moral integrity in the ministry

Church Health Award winners commissioned to mentor churches worldwide

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Purpose Driven Life: Worship that pleases God

Cultivating community within your church

► News Archives

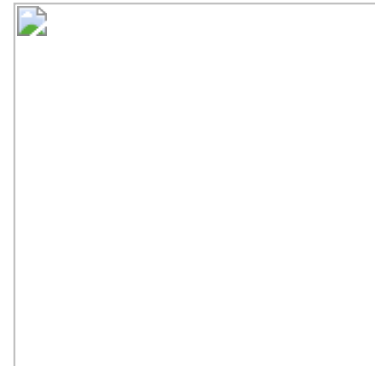
- PURPOSE DRIVEN GLOBAL
- P.E.A.C.E. PLAN
- 40 DAY CAMPAIGNS
- CONFERENCES & EVENTS
- RESOURCES
- YOUTH
- WORSHIP
- SMALL GROUPS
- CELEBRATE RECOVERY
- CAMPAIGN COACHING

paradigm and deploy small groups through the Purpose Driven paradigm.

To encourage churches in attendance to help other congregations adopt the paradigm, Warren gave a copy of his notes for the conference to every pastor in attendance so they could hold a similar conference in their own community.

The conference focused on preparing church leaders for their part in the reformation by training them in the Purpose Driven paradigm of ministry. Church leaders learned to balance their congregations around God's five eternal purposes: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism.

The paradigm, modeled at Saddleback, includes an emphasis on a systematic discipleship program (the concentric circles of commitment) that moves spiritual seekers to faith in Christ and eventually their own service in ministry. Throughout the first day and a half of the conference, Warren shared how this process happens at Saddleback and Purpose Driven churches around the world.



**Worldwide representatives**

Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas – scores of delegations from countries around the world gathered for the Purpose Driven Church Conference May 17-20 at Saddleback Church. *Photo by Craig Pulsifer*

Diversity was another key aspect of the conference. Church leaders from more than 200 denominations, 49 countries, and 49 states attended the conference.

The conference also showcased a diversity in worship style in the growing Purpose Driven movement. Throughout the week, special seminars focused on the Purpose Driven church from Pentecostal, African American, Lutheran, Presbyterian and emerging church perspectives.

"The most helpful part of the conference for us was the seminar with other African American pastors," said Robbie Davis, senior pastor of Celebration Church in Columbia, Md., one of 72 churches presented with a Church Health Award at the conference. "It was great to hear how those pastors were integrating the Purpose Driven principles into their churches. It was very encouraging for us to meet together like that."

The conference also included special seminars on small groups, counseling, HIV/AIDS and more.

Next year's Purpose Driven Church Conference will be held May 16-19 on the Saddleback campus.

**-PurposeDriven-**

**Soulful worship**

Evenings were a time of soulful worship during the 2005 PDC Conference at Saddleback Church. Here, Rick Muchow, Saddleback's worship pastor, leads in lifting a song of praise. *Photo by Craig Pulsifer*