

CONTACT



INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDER NEGROV

Concerning his participation in the 31st Annual Presidents Conference, Council for Christian Colleges & Universities



International participants 31st Annual Presidents Conference

February 1-3, 2007, SPCU Rector, Dr. Alexander Negrov participated in the 31st Annual Presidents Conference for the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. The conference took place at the Hyatt Regency on Capital Hill in Washington DC. This interview took place between Kent Eby and Dr. Negrov on February 14 in the office of the Rector on the campus of St. Petersburg Christian University.

K.E. *Can you share an overview of the conference and what it was all about?*

A.N. The theme of the conference was "Facing Realities. Empowering Vision." There were some very powerful plenary sessions with such speakers as Dr. Paul Corts,

President CCCU; James F. Manning, Acting Assistant Secretary for Post Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education; Paul McNulty, Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice; and Tony Hall, former Congressman and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Also there was an interfaith dialogue, "Abrahamic Ambassadors," which occurred between Marc Gopin, director of the Center on Religion, Diplomacy & Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, and Akbar Ahmed, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies & Professor of

International Relations at American University. This interfaith dialogue was moderated by Gaylen Byker, president of Calvin College (MI).

K.E. *What was the most memorable moment/event of the presidents conference for you personally?*

A.N. Everything was very good and exciting for me, but there were three specific things that were most impactful for me:

1. The pre-conference session for new presidents was very enlightening and helpful. This session helped me to know more about the CCCU and it also informed us on how to make the conference worthwhile.
2. There was a very interesting "Presidential Dialogue" session on "Empowering Your President Through Soul Care." The gist of this dialogue was on how leaders of colleges and universities nurture their own spiritual health. There was very helpful personal sharing that took place during this dialogue.
3. The conference provided me a venue and the opportunity to establish new relationships with other colleagues, especially those from other International institutions.

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SPCU PARTICIPATES IN MOSCOW YOUTH LEADERS CONFERENCE



SPCU Student, Maxim Chepel speaking at the conference.

for the purpose of improving their resources, sharing with one another their experiences and gaining further perspectives on youth ministry in Russia. SPCU also participated in the conference

February 8-11, 2007 the All Russia Youth Leaders Conference for the Evangelical Christian Baptist Union took place in Moscow, where regional youth leaders for all over Russia came together

presenting its vision for youth ministry and biblical education for young church members while also presenting the already operating "Mega-Project" for youth ministry known as "Campus Club." The representatives for SPCU were Alexander Belyaev, Assistant to the Vice President for Academics, SPCU and Maxim Chepel, 2nd year Bachelor of Theology Student, SPCU and director of "Campus Club."

During one of the general evening sessions SPCU made a special presentation to conference participants about SPCU and the opportunities for people to study at SPCU. This presentation also included a special lottery for

participants to win special prizes. The prizes, which were special made with the SPCU logo, included pens, DVDs, coffee mugs, and shirts. During the conference, it was exciting to see and hear about the many SPCU graduates who are actively serving in churches and are presenting good examples of Christian leadership.



INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDER NEGROV -- CONTINUED

K.E. *What do you believe are the direct benefits you received, as SPCU Rector, from the conference?*

A.N. The conference provided me with the opportunity to meet more experienced leaders from a variety of Christian Higher Educational Institutions. I was inspired by the conversations and was able to learn important things from them. Overall, the conference helped to expand my horizons and helped me to grow as a leader.

K.E. *What do you believe are the direct benefits for St. Petersburg Christian University in you attending this conference?*

A.N. The conference will benefit SPCU by helping me as the Rector to have a better awareness of what is going on around the world in Christian Higher Education and to build a stronger network of relationships and partnerships.

There is also a benefit from my learning more about existing models of Christian colleges and universities that apply the multidisciplinary approach to education and also those models of Christian Higher Education from International partners.

K.E. *Please share an interesting insight that you gained from the conference which impacted you during the conference and will continue to impact you in the future.*

A.N. On Saturday there as a dialogue called "Abrahamic Ambassadors: The Responsible Role of Religion in Addressing the Crises of Globalization and Religious Pluralism." The dialogue challenged us to expand beyond what we are currently doing and to establish relationships with people of other faiths. In doing this we can learn to respect people of other faiths, to

understand them and what they believe, and to share with them in our relationship the love of Jesus Christ. During this dialogue I realized how much I live and work in a vacuum. I have my PhD in New Testament and I dialogue with other theologians; I am the Rector of a Christian University and work with other Christians; I am a member of and preach at a local Christian church. . . I live and work within a Christian vacuum where I do not have friends or acquaintances from other faiths. This challenged me personally to reconsider my life in order to seek new relationships with people of other faiths and also to consider how this can be incorporated at the Christian University enabling us to become more conversant with people of other faiths.