

Thinking About Next Steps

The development of the 4th Truth Cluster

Work accomplished over the past few years has permitted the delegates of Associations of Grace Brethren Churches, meeting in Bangkok from November 2 – 6, 2015, to agree upon a Commitment to Common Identity.

But this is only the beginning. Over the next few years, we must develop the last section of 'truths' (referred to as the 4th Cluster or 'Basket') among each of our churches and Associations of Churches that make up The Charis Alliance.

The 4th Cluster represents a theology that seeks to address concrete cultural needs, a theology that each country must develop and share among the brother and sisters of their own churches. It represents the identity of each Association or Grace Brethren Church in its own cultural context. For each Association, these 'truths' should be added to what we have approved during this encounter.

Toward that end, the Charis Steering Committee recommends that we:

- Develop the Fourth Cluster for each country (or each ethnic group, if the cultural distances are too great between groups within the same Association);
- Elaborate concrete plans and define work strategies as necessary to complete the development of the Fourth Cluster;
- Choose a list of key topics for each country and develop the appropriate conclusions;
- Count upon the assistance of the Team that worked to create the final version of the Commitment to Common Identity;
- Develop this document in an environment of love and mutual respect, following the example of what we have achieved thus far.