



Historical Overview

(Updated January 15, 2014)

Hope International University (HIU) was founded on October 9, 1928 as Pacific Bible Seminary. Classes were first held at the Alvarado Church of Christ (now Golden West Christian Church) on Sunset and Alvarado near downtown Los Angeles, CA. Dr. George Rutledge, a nationally known author and evangelist, was selected president pro-tem, followed in January 1930 by Dr. A. Meldrum, former president of Spokane University. Dr. Robert E. Elmore, a preacher and journalist, served as Dean.

In May 1930 the Seminary moved to First Christian Church, located at Fifth and Locust in Long Beach, where Dr. George Taubman served as minister. Dr. Taubman, an influential figure in the city of Long Beach, was appointed Dean of the Seminary. He was known for teaching the world's largest men's Bible class, attended by over 31,000 men on Armistice Day in 1923. A bronze bust of Dr. Taubman was commissioned by the city and is on display in the Hope International University library. Dr. James Hurst, minister of First Christian Church in Huntington Beach, was selected as the first official president, a position he held for 23 years until his death on Christmas Eve in 1953.

Due to an earthquake in March 1933 that did much damage, Pacific Bible Seminary moved from the facilities of the First Christian Church into temporary quarters found in a small home at the corner of Florida and Cherry in Long Beach. Later the college moved to a small remodeled apartment building at 16th and Linden Avenue.

In the mid 1930's a building fund was started for the purpose of purchasing property. A two and one half acre plot was purchased in 1937 and ground was broken for the first unit in June 1940. The first building included offices and classrooms, which also doubled as a library and chapel. This facility was located at 4835 East Anaheim Street in Long Beach.

Dr. Kenneth A. Stewart assumed the presidency in 1954. President Stewart hired the first paid professors of the Seminary. New buildings were erected—dormitories, a student center, and a library. In 1963 the name of the Seminary was changed to Pacific Christian College and the school was accredited by the American Association of Bible Colleges (AABC). Regional accreditation was achieved with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in 1969. Student enrollment had increased from 75 in 1954 to 185 in 1969.

In 1969, Dr. Kenneth A. Stewart retired and Dr. Medford Jones, head of the Church growth department at Emmanuel School of Religion, became the third full-time president of PCC. President Jones led the College in its move in 1973 to an eleven acre campus located in the midst of other institutions of higher education in Fullerton, CA. The 1970's saw a shift in emphasis toward church growth and the priesthood of all believers, with the end product of PCC's efforts being measured by what happens in the local church. With an emphasis upon the ministry of all

Christians, President Jones led the College in expanding academic majors, developing a graduate program, opening extension programs in over 20 different locations, emphasizing church growth, and establishing an on-campus day care center. Enrollment had increased to 398 students in 1981 when Dr. Jones retired as president, returning to the classroom of the graduate division of the College where he taught until his death in 2004.

Knofel Staton became the College's fourth president in 1981. During the 1980's the student body grew to over five hundred undergraduates, the number of out-of-state students doubled, the number of trustees was expanded, and national awareness of Pacific Christian College grew. In 1990, President Staton retired from the presidency and moved to undergraduate classroom teaching until his retirement in 2006.

In 1990 the trustees called Dr. Leroy Lawson to the presidency. In addition to his work with the college, he continued his ministry with Central Christian Church in Mesa, AZ. Overall, the last decade of the century was a time of significant growth for Pacific Christian College. Three new programs, designed for adult and international learners, were established: the EXCEL degree completion program, the Center for International Education, and the Global Language Center. These programs were joined to create a new school for adult students. The graduate program also expanded to include marriage and family therapy, management, and education degrees. In 1992, the school elected to discontinue accreditation with the AABC and in 1994 became a member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, an association of educational institutions with a liberal arts emphasis. Acquisition of the Terraces complex of office buildings nearly doubled the physical size of the campus. In 1996, total enrollment exceeded one thousand students for the first time. In 1997, the changing nature of the College was acknowledged when the trustees voted to become Hope International University, with three schools: Pacific Christian College, The School of Professional Studies, and The School of Graduate Studies. In 1998, the University joined the Golden State Athletic Conference of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Dr. Lawson retired in 2003.

In August of 2003, the Trustees called Dr. John Derry to serve as the sixth president of Hope International University. His extensive experience and career in the area of Christian higher education were a good fit for the school at this stage of its development. Improvements were made in facilities, programs, assessment, planning, budgeting, personnel, administration, governance policies, student life, and in building strong relations with constituent churches. In 2006 programmatic accreditation of Bible and Ministry programs at the undergraduate and graduate level was attained with the Association for Biblical Higher Education. The purchase of a final section of property on the south side of the campus made possible a new student housing opportunity as the University finalized a plan with a developer who purchased the southern 6.8 acres of the campus to construct student apartments that would accommodate up to 1200 students. The School of Advanced Leadership Training (SALT) was established in 2007 to develop partnerships with local congregations in equipping emerging leaders for ministry. In 2009 the Marriage and Family Therapy Program received accreditation with COAMFTE, adult and graduate programs were relocated to facilities in Orange, approval by the state of Washington was received to offer classes at HIU's Puget Sound Education Center, and the University assumed responsibility for the Londen Institute for Evangelism and the Apostolic School of Theology, based in Sacramento. The University underwent a re-structuring in 2011 and was organized into five colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business

and Management, the College of Education, Pacific Christian College of Ministry and Biblical Studies, and the College of Psychology and Counseling. An agreement was also entered into with Dongseo University, a Christian Church university from Busan, Korea, to establish a cooperative relationship in which 100 students per year would study at HIU as part of a comprehensive study abroad program. In the fall of 2013, the University's graduate and online offices and the Hope Counseling Center were relocated to new facilities in Anaheim and approval was granted by WASC to offer online the University's teacher preparation program.

The name, Hope International University, suggests continuity with the past and expanded opportunities for the future. The word "hope" with its Biblical roots and its visionary etymology are appropriate for a Christian institution of higher education. The word 'international' speaks directly to the school's mission and the fact that the Christian message is not limited to any one nation, region, or people group. The word 'university' speaks of growing diversity of avenues and pathways for education focused within an environment of targeted and applied scholarship and teaching.