

Distance learning is not a panacea for all the ills facing education. Nor can we ignore that it has not always worked. Sometimes the environment was inhospitable or even antagonistic to it; at other times the human and technological infrastructure necessary for its success were not present. It requires both commitment and trained people as well as technology that is appropriate, affordable and accessible. Conventional and distance education have to work together and harness their respective capabilities. For they can do together what they cannot achieve working separately.

COL President, Dr. R. Dhanarajan, has referred to distance learning as “the educational wave of the future”. It is the means for the developing countries to enable their peoples to advance to higher standards of living and to move forward to the next millennium with confidence. We can fashion a new global community in which illiteracy is banished and the world’s peoples can shape their own future. Biblical teachings tell us that “where there is no vision the people perish”. It is a time for vision and no generation has been better equipped than ours to provide that vision.

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