

**‘Conflict and Collaboration: A Narrative History and Analysis of the Interface
Between the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization and the World
Evangelical Fellowship, the International Fellowship of Evangelical Mission
Theologians, and the AD 2000 Movement’**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is motivated by a desire to understand the factors that contribute to conflict among global evangelical mission leaders and mission organizations. It does so by exploring four evangelical movements that exercised significant global influence during the period from 1974 to the year 2000. Each of these organizations—the Lausanne Movement, the World Evangelical Fellowship, the International Fellowship of Evangelical Mission Theologians (INFEMIT), and the AD 2000 Movement—espoused a commitment to unity and collaboration. Yet an inquiry into the interactions among these four entities reveals that conflict is at the heart of the story. Furthermore, an appraisal of church history and biblical history underscores that conflict and fragmentation are part of our shared experience. The study is carried out by means of archival research related to the four institutions coupled with interviews with 40 of their leaders. The narrative history that is developed is then analysed in terms of leadership dynamics, theological distinctives, and organizational and cultural dimensions. This study then seeks to discover ways in which a more thorough understanding of the nature and cause of conflict can provide redemptive value for the building of trust among evangelical leaders and for strengthening the cause of Christian witness in the world.