

### My Word ... by Les Lofquist

A couple months ago I visited Arabic Baptist Church in Dearborn. This is where our brother Fady Yasso is planting a Vision America church among the 250,000 Arabic speaking people in the Detroit area. That visit reminded me of how Vision America and Vision World help IFCA fulfill the mandate given by Christ in Acts 1:8.

The 2009 IFCA Convention emphasized Vision World. There was music from [Rio Grande Bible Institute](#) and Arabic Baptist Church, reports from delegates from Japan and India and Korea and South Africa and Hindu ministry and Spanish-speaking ministry and African orphan ministry. All of us were profoundly challenged by our need to focus on Acts 1:8 in a commitment to local and global evangelization.

Then I went to Guyana, South America to teach at the Berbice Bible Institute and share our IFCA connections. The Association of Bible Churches of Guyana is an IFCA member organization and is as healthy an organization as we have.

The Manipur Emergency Relief Project has been a great blessing. God stirred up our members and churches and the Home Office received a little over \$65,000 in love gifts for our brothers in desperate need. What a great work God has done!

Then I attended the [Slavic Gospel Association's](#) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. It was overwhelming for me to think of all the ways our IFCA men and churches have reached out to that part of the world.

God is so wondrously at work all throughout the ministries of IFCA International. Rejoice !!

### FINAL MANIPUR RELIEF REPORT

We are grateful to be able to report that the total of the offering received for the Emergency Relief Fund for Manipur famine victims was right at \$65,000.00. How we praise God for the response of so many who enabled us to minister to our Indian brethren in this practical way! Thank You!



A Fellowship Committed to Biblical Ministry

### The Man with the Gavel



*Ed Note: At the Annual Convention in Kalamazoo, the delegates elected a new President of the Board of Directors. The man they chose is long time IFCA member and Director of Northwest Independent Church Extension (NICE), Earl Brubaker. What follows is a sketch of Earl's journey to this position of leadership in our Fellowship.*

How did a shy, introverted kid from a conservative, Ohio Mennonite farm family become the director of [Northwest Independent Church Extension](#) (NICE) and an active participant in [IFCA International](#)? The journey seems improbable even in retrospect. Two significant parts of that journey were early spiritual training and multi-cultural exposure.

I was 8 years of age when I responded to the message of the gospel simply presented by a faithful pastor of a church that emphasized externals and tradition more than eternal truth. Within four years of that time we had become Baptists, then Independents, and then Charismatics. During that time, however, God also planted in my heart an interest in missions. An indelible, painful experience was watching two church leaders accost my father because, they said, God had revealed to them his character flaws, wrong motives, and many sins.

Later, the family settled into a Wesleyan church where sinless perfection was constantly emphasized. This broad array of conflicting doctrines left my young mind confused and uncertain. Looking back, I realize that in my teenage years God graciously began giving me a desire to examine all those claims according to the standard of His Word.

We lived in several different parts of the country. When I was 9 we left the comfort of a close knit Mennonite community to live in Northern Minnesota. Scandinavian accents and customs were strange to a family just one step removed from the Pennsylvania Dutch. A few years later found us in South Carolina where our ears barely comprehended some words and we witnessed the early days of the civil rights conflict. Attending Bible College in Canada helped to complete my understanding that, though we all speak English, we have great cultural differences. This cultural diversity prepared me for ministry on the West Coast where we have served now for more than 40 years.

For me, Bible College was a quest for spiritual foundations. Sign gifts, the sin nature, security of the believer, total depravity, and the rapture are but a few of the issues I struggled with. Though I had never heard of IFCA, I now realize that my convictions were drawing ever closer to those expressed in our [IFCA Statement of Faith](#). One of the best parts of Bible College was that I met a beautiful young lady from Kansas named Shirley. Only after Shirley and I were married  
*(continued page 3, center column)*



### Titus Bible Church, Santa Clarita CA - Pastor Chi Chung

Sitting in the Eugene IFCA Convention featuring "Vision America", it never occurred to me that we might be planting a church in the near future.

While I wholeheartedly agreed that planting churches was a priority and even prayed for many church plants, I did not think it was going to happen so soon. Like an unexpected pregnancy, it was exciting, yet nerve-racking!

In February, together with twelve members from our previous church, we planted "Titus Bible Church" in Santa Clarita, CA. The majority of these members were new believers about a year old; but all of them were eagerly growing in the grace of God. We gathered for worship at my home, while praying earnestly for a more permanent worship center. By God's good grace, we moved into our new facility in early August!

The Lord has graciously allowed us to plant this church, and it has been an amazing experience. When the news that we had planted a church got out, donations flowed in from every direction. We continually received the support and encouragement of many, and visitors have been coming in at a steady rate. This is the "first time" for all of us, and the thrill of learning to trust God continues as He continues to provide for our needs.

We chose "Titus" as our church name because of its admonition to properly live out, or adorn, the doctrines that we profess. Our vision and goals are very simple: gather to study and worship our Lord with reverence and fear, scatter to preach the gospel, and adorn the doctrine of God. Our motivation is the Glory of God the love of Jesus Christ. The Lord will build His Church, and we're just thankful and humbled that we can be part of His work!

### Evangel Bible Church Silicon Valley (Milpitas), and Orange County (Irvine) - Pastor John Shim (see last month's issue of NEWS for full story on these two plants).

Here's what's been happening with the two church plants:

1. Found official meeting space.
2. Started evangelism outreach.
3. Visitors coming each week.
4. Word getting out that a Bible-teaching church is in the neighborhood.

Cornerstone Community Bible Church, Galveston IN - Pastor Aaron Webb reports the planting of [this church](#) with a firm commitment to stand for biblical truth and righteousness. "In September 2009, approximately 150 people joined my wife Denise and me, along with youth pastor Jeremy Jones and his wife Rhoda as we launched this new work. We quickly applied for mission church status under [Midwest Church Extension](#) and our first meeting was in an equipment pole barn on a member's farm with a make-shift platform of wooden pallets complete with an astro-turf covering and a newly made lectern. The fellowship was tender and everyone was willing to help.

The leadership is spiritually solid and characterized by a wholehearted committed to the Lord and Scripture. We have also been greatly encouraged in this effort by the generous and sacrificial spirit of our people. A gentleman came to me and pledged \$50,000.00 toward this new work. A teen said he would sell his X Box 360 and all the games for the church. Ready and willing sacrifice is becoming a regular trait of this congregation. Only God could do this.

Repeatedly God has given confirmation and encouragement. The challenge is great, but our God is greater. We look forward to what God will do next for His glory!"



### Finding the Raw Missionary Prospects in the Pews

The purpose of this column is to provide news of [Vision World churches](#). Since VW is just getting started and the churches currently enrolled are working on their plans to become a sending church, the

next few articles will be general in nature for any church involved in the missionary enterprise. As reported last month, there are three churches enrolled as Vision World churches. Perhaps the Lord has been prompting you to become a Vision World church. If so, we would enjoy hearing from you!

### How does a pastor determine if there are any raw missionary prospects in the pews?

A Vision World church starts with prayer that the Lord would raise up one person/family in your congregation that is interested in becoming a church planting missionary on the foreign field. First we pray!

The next step is determining if the person or couple has what it takes to become a missionary. The answer to that question should be answered from three different angles: heart, head and hands. Here is a brief summary of what to look for.

#### THE HEART

This is simply godly character. The qualifications of a missionary are the same as an Elder ([1 Timothy 3](#)). Anyone going into missions must qualify at least on that level. These are all internal character qualities of godliness and means that the missionary must have a level of spiritual maturity that is above and beyond the average Christian. A missionary must have a heart for God and a heart for people ([Matthew 22.37-40](#)).

In addition to these items there are also some other heart characteristics to consider including: *resilience, flexibility, tenacity, passion, focus, self-motivation, and humility*. Many of these qualities are developed through life experiences and one cannot easily be trained in them. Look for them in how they serve at your church and in comments by others who know them.

#### THE HEAD

It is critical that missionaries understand and have a clear grasp of theology. As messengers of truth, unless it is clearly understood it cannot be clearly delivered. It is not necessary to have a formal theological degree. What is necessary is proficiency in understanding and application. Fortunately, this can be acquired in a variety of venues including church based Bible institutes, distance learning, or attending local Bible schools or seminaries.

#### THE HANDS

It is critical to know how to do the ministry and not just to know about it. A potential missionary candidate should have some experience in *evangelism, discipleship, biblical exegesis, interpersonal skills, administration, verbal and written skills, organization and planning, computer, teamwork, cultural awareness, and financial planning*. The local church can be instrumental in providing mentored learning opportunities to build these skills.

The above list may seem daunting. Rest assured that many mission agencies have tools to help you assess the abilities of potential missionary candidates sitting your pew. All you need to do is ask. The first step is to "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers" ([Matt. 9.38](#)) and to that you might add "...and Lord, if it be your will, may you raise up at least one single or family from this congregation." Amen!



## Ministry Spots Seminary Learning Center

**Heritage Bible Church**, in Remington IN, will be first IFCA International church to be designated as a Tyndale Theological Seminary Learning Center. The learning center provides an opportunity to acquire a seminary or Bible College level education without having to relocate to achieve it.

In January of 2010, Heritage Bible Church (a church plant under **MCE**, pastored by Dan Nave) will be working in tandem with **Tyndale Theological Seminary and Biblical Institute** to offer courses which are the same as those available at the Tyndale campus in Fort Worth, Texas. The purpose of this ministry is to equip local area believers with sufficient biblical training and education so that they may effectively perform the work of the ministry (**Ephesians 4:12**).

It enables the local church to maintain a Bible Institute ministry without the expense and infrastructure commonly associated with such endeavors while encouraging and facilitating the development of 'homegrown' leadership.

Prolegomena: Introduction to the Bible & Theology is the initial course offering. This course is designed to familiarize the student with basic approach to Bible study and theology. Many of the important terms and concepts commonly encountered in theological study are introduced here. Classes start January 4, meeting once a week until March 6, 2010.

For more information/details on hosting such a program in your church contact **Patrick Belvill** at **TTS**.

**"I did not think it [planting a church] was going to happen so soon. Like an unexpected pregnancy, it was exciting, yet nerve-racking!"** - Chi Chung



## Web-links

*These links are given as potential resources for your use and edification. Inclusion here does not in any way imply IFCA's endorsement of everything they may contain.*

The Truth Project  
Church Law Today  
Links for Expository Preaching  
Biblos.com (Study Tools)

did I discover that she had grown up under the teaching of an IFCA pastor.

In 1965 we began ministry as missionaries in training with NICE in a Northern California logging town, and we have served continuously with NICE since 1968. It was also in 1968 that I read "**Dispensationalism Today**" by Dr Charles Ryrie. I had not previously been exposed to dispensational teaching, and in that book I found answers to questions that had troubled me for several years. That same year we attended our first IFCA Regional meeting in Cave Junction, Oregon, and began our long friendship with such godly men as Henry Boyd, Don Strunk, Noel Olsen, Wallace Wilson, and Bill Cross. I joined IFCA that same year.

Our ministry with NICE has taken us to both urban and rural communities where we rescued split churches and revitalized churches in decline. Our largest ministry averaged about 250. Our smallest was a new church plant. I have worked in saw mills, polished silver, delivered phone books, and upholstered furniture to support our family. I have also served NICE as Field Director, Assistant Director, Director of Placement, and for the past ten years as Executive Director.

My participation with IFCA on a National level began with attending the Church Extension Council meetings in 1973. Over the years I have served various committee assignments. I was privileged to serve on the Executive Committee from 1986 - 1989 and 1992 - 1995, and more recently on the Board of Directors from 2005 to 2009.

It is my great joy to look back at each place and phase of ministry and see people whom God has allowed us to serve and challenge. It is worth every heartache, difficulty, and sleepless night to see people being transformed by the power of God. Nothing, however, is as gratifying to me as seeing our three children, along with their spouses and children, faithfully serving the Lord.

**"I shall be content with the lowest seat in heaven, if only there I may sit and see the redeemed of the Lord come in from those fields where I have been a pioneer missionary."**  
- James Gribble (Missionary to Central African Republic)



The IFCA International Ministry Referral Service has changed locations and been re-designed. The new service is now hosted on the IFCA Website and the old service has been discontinued as of August 31. If you, or your ministry organization, had a listing in the old service and you have not re-listed with the new service you must do so before your information can be included in the listings. For instructions on accessing and entering the new IFCA International Ministry Referral Service please go to: **www.ifca.org/referralaccess**. Please read and follow the directions carefully, particularly in regard to naming and uploading your profile.

## FELLOWSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE

Gift income from IFCA Member Churches and Individuals is currently \$8,171.07 below last year's level. This is projected to put us about \$3700.00 below what we need to meet the 2009 budgeted expenditures. Please pray ... and give as the Lord may enable in order that this need might be met.

## PRAYER PROMPTERS

- 👤 Home Office Staff as they prepare and tend to the details for the Mid-Year Board Meeting.
- 👤 VISION AMERICA - additional churches that will become VA churches by **sponsoring a church plant**.
- 👤 VISION WORLD - additional churches that will preach, pray, identify and equip in endeavor to send church planting missionaries from their midst.
- 👤 For our Chaplains who minister to those in places of peril, and at times of deep sorrow or uncertainty.
- 👤 IFCA Fellowship's financial needs
- 👤 Praise for **Manipur Relief** response and prayer for open doors of Gospel opportunity as the funds are used.
- 👤 For wisdom and guidance for the Board of Directors as they prepare to meet in November. For Earl Brubaker as he presides for the first time as President.
- 👤 For the Council of Regional Presidents and our Regional Leadership Teams.