



IFCA International News Connection



My Word ... by Les Lofquist

This year we are stressing the Vision America church planting initiative. And for good reason. It is the very passion of [Acts 1:8](#). I hope you have enlisted in the 9:38 Prayer Network. And I trust you are considering how your church can participate in a new church plant. These are exciting days for the IFCA.

But note: the first part of Acts 1:8 emphasizes reaching our communities and neighboring regions, the second part of that verse emphasizes reaching the ends of the earth. *We need to do both: reach our communities AND reach our world.*

To that end, I recently traveled to [Kinshasa, Congo](#). I was in Kinshasa to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the JSS ("Jesus the Only Savior") Churches. These are almost 500 associated churches, members of [Congo International Ministries](#), an IFCA member organization founded by Dr. Florimond Kabanda.

I spoke in their Bible Conference. I reminded them of the need to be discerning and true in their doctrinal commitment. I demonstrated to them from Scripture the characteristics of a good church and a good pastor. I counseled with their leaders, helping them to set strategy. All of my words were quite well received.

The highlight of the trip involved distributing 500 sets of 30 theological booklets in French to the Congolese pastors. These books were from IFCA member [Source of Light Ministries](#) in Madison, Georgia. For most of the pastors, these are the first Bible study books they have ever owned. They were so happy! Perhaps you would like to give toward the \$1100 needed to deliver these books. If so, please send your check to IFCA for *Congo Pastors Books*.

Because *we need to reach our communities AND reach our world.*



Ministry Spots

Using small tables, game tables, snacks and beverages mixed with a variety of Christian musicians and music groups, [Calvary Bible Church](#) converts its worship/gym space to a coffeehouse two or three times a year for fellowship and outreach in Lusby MD.



Wife of Ugandan polygamist introduced to Christ by American teen. (Click for Story)

VISION AMERICA'S Breath-Taking Secret

Sometimes the Scriptures, when read with a discerning eye, are so utterly amazing as to be "breath-taking." God speaking light into existence; a universal flood, the parting of the Red Sea, and the dry land crossing of the Jordan; the fall of Jericho; the precise fulfillment of Messianic prophecies; the spectacle of Calvary; the triumph of the empty tomb; the prophetic vistas of Revelation. Has our familiarity with these things robbed us of the joy of having our breath snatched away by the mere contemplation of them?

As we strive toward the fulfillment of VISION AMERICA, there is a "breath-taking" statement by the Lord Jesus that we dare not miss. It comes after Matthew paints a portrait of humanity's great needs, seen through the eyes of Jesus ([9.36](#)). Jesus then comments to his disciples regarding the plentiful nature of the harvest but the scarcity of workers ([9.37](#)). Then He takes our breath away with his remedy: More dynamic and motivational biblical preaching? Developing new plans and in-

ovative strategies? The creation of "how to" books and conferences? No! With breath-taking simplicity ([9.38](#)) Jesus says, "**pray.**" The first order priority in harvesting is to pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth workers. In a day when everything seems to revolve around administration and organization, this is indeed breath-taking! Today, as then, success hinges on the activity of the Lord of the Harvest in calling and propelling (ekballo) workers into the fields! We must pray that God will work in the hearts of His people to the end that they are literally "thrust out" into fields of America.

Vision America Resources

Vision America Web Page
www.ifca.org/visionamerica

2008 Convention Messages
www.ifca.org/eugenaudio

Hudson Taylor once said, "*The great need is not for more elaborate pleas for help. If we are to meet the needs of the world, two things must happen. First, there must be earnest prayer to the Lord of the Harvest. Second, there must be a deepening of the spiritual life of the church so that men will be unable to stay home.*"

In obedience to the Lord of the Harvest, such prayer is the purpose of the VISION AMERICA 9:38 Prayer Team. Currently there are 93 members of that team. We need far more! Certainly there are many measures and steps involved in achieving VISION AMERICA success but all of them will be less than effective if we have not taken care of the first order of priority. [Peter Dyneka](#), missionary statesman with [Slavic Gospel Association](#), once said, "*Much prayer, much power, little prayer, little power, no prayer, no power.*" VISION AMERICA is depending upon hundreds more of you to join with us on the 9:38 prayer team and thereby bring much power to bear on the efforts to impact America through the planting of independent Bible churches. [Join today!](#)

9:38 Prayer Team

Sign up Today!
www.ifca.org/938





Web's World

Do you need to find someone for pulpit supply? Are you looking for a conference, camp, or special event speaker for your church or the Regional? The **IFCA Speakers Bureau** is now available for use on-line. Comprised of IFCA members, and "friends" who stand with us doctrinally and philosophically, the database is currently being populated with those who are available to serve you. Contact information, areas of emphasis and other helpful information will assist you in finding just the right speaker. The Speakers Bureau is listed under "Services" on the [IFCA home page](#). If you would like to be included as a member of the Speakers Bureau, please fill out and submit the [required information form](#).

- Web

PRAYER PROMPTERS

For an army of VISION AMERICA church planters to take their place in the fields of harvest in America.

For 100 IFCA churches to enlist in VISION AMERICA to plant new churches in our country.

For the \$1100 still needed for the Congo Pastors Books Project.

For the start-up of the new ministry year in all our IFCA churches.

For the Home Office as we adjust to ministry staff reduction and realignment of duties.

For increased monthly giving on the part of IFCA Churches to meet the financial needs of IFCA International.

Fellowship Financial Update

At the 2008 Convention, we reported an anticipated loss in the General Fund of \$20,000 by year's end. This was because of a two year pattern of financial shortfall. And this was the reason the Board reluctantly had to cut IFCA Home Office staff. We rejoice that many responded with one time gifts toward the deficit and that the anticipated loss has been cut in half. But we certainly do need your prayers for this momentum to continue, especially as it relates to regular monthly support for the General Fund.

Did you know?

You can give one time and regular gifts to IFCA International [on-line!](#)
www.ifca.org/donations

He Truly Answers Prayer!

by Matt Puett

I've preached on coping with hardships many times. Scripture teaches us how to deal with tragedy but I have found it is hard to put into practice. Life was great, I was married to my best friend Sheri, had wonderfully happy and obedient children, a church that was growing spiritually and numerically, and a congregation that loved us.

In November of 2006 our world was turned upside down. A lump my wife had found was determined to be cancer. We couldn't believe it; we were shocked and had no idea what to do or think. I wondered how God could do such a horrible thing to such a wonderful person at such a young age (Sheri was 36).

Within a few days Sheri had surgery to remove the cancer and the lymph nodes that the cancer had spread to. The following week a port was installed under the skin so she could receive chemo. Two days after port surgery she was receiving her first round of chemo. What a whirlwind! One month after the prognosis my wonderful wife was on her way to have poison pumped into her body.

Chemo was horrible. Sheri was sick for three full days. One of the hardest parts for me was explaining to my children, Sarah (9) and Josh (7), that mom was sick and could not play or even talk to them as the anti-nausea drugs made her sleep.

Along with the sickness she experienced joint pain, hair loss, fatigue, and more. Then, just as she began to feel good, back to another round of chemo. Chemo was followed by radiation treatments. Radiation treatment was a daily exercise, a forty mile round trip, and a bad burn

Being in the ministry was difficult during this time. I was falling behind on things that I needed to be taking care of.

Instead of going on visitation I found myself making supper, doing the laundry, or picking up the children from school. I began to wonder if I was leading properly and my morale was reaching an all time low.

During this low period God revealed Himself as gracious, loving and caring. We prayed for the health of the church and the leaders picked up the slack. We prayed for our finances (\$25,000 dollars in hospital bills) and God miraculously paid for them all. We prayed that the cancer would not return and we've had one year of perfect check ups. We prayed about food (I have cooked about twice since marriage) and our church family filled our freezer with meals that were easy for me to make. While I had preached for years about the power of prayer it amazed me to see how He truly answers prayer.

Now God has given my family a new challenge. Things were going great for us at [Fellowship Bible Church](#) in Sawyer, MI but God has called us into another ministry.

Last week I moved to Faith Bible Church in [Rockford, MI](#). There are many challenges: a congregation of fifteen people, the need for a song leader and piano player, needing to work a secular job to support my family, a house in Sawyer that I need to sell, a parsonage



where a water line broke and flooded the house. But God is already answering prayers: a job driving school bus, twenty two people our

first Sunday, someone interested in my house in Sawyer, and a dried out parsonage with clean carpeting and new bathrooms being installed.

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.

[Crosswalk](#)

[Guiding Light Video](#)

Review: "The Shack" - [Challies](#) - Gilley

[Zipskinny.com](#)

[Christian Answers.net](#)

