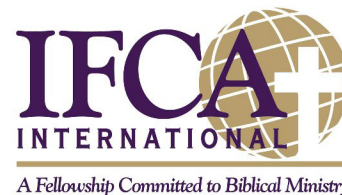




IFCA International News Connection



My Word ... by Les Lofquist

All of us are always rather surprised when an old year ends and a new year begins. But with every new year comes a great opportunity for assessment. How did we do in the previous year? Where do we hope to go in the new year? We in the IFCA International Home Office are thinking those kinds of thoughts for our Fellowship.

As I traveled across the country in 2008, I was excited by the renewed emphasis I saw in many of our churches regarding church planting. Vision America is gaining momentum and we pray it will gain even more in 2009. We are constantly monitoring the results of all our prayers and we also make the adjustments to help us meet our goal of involving 100 new churches in church planting by June 2010.

In the current issue of the VOICE magazine, we previewed the **Vision World** initiative which we will officially kick-off during the **2009 IFCA Annual Convention in Kalamazoo**. We have determined that Acts 1:8 had a concurrent local, regional and global perspective, so our IFCA churches should have the same perspective. That's an important balance to keep.

Back during the Mid Year Meeting here in Grandville, we discussed with the IFCA Board of Directors the way to balance Vision World and Vision America. We want both of these important initiatives to flourish among our churches. Please pray for these efforts, that God's good hand of blessing will rest upon us in 2009 and beyond.

As we assess the direction of IFCA International, we recognize all our efforts are totally dependent upon God and His enablement. May we know His blessing!

Ministry Spots

FUEL, the student ministry at **Battle Ground Bible Church** (Lafayette IN), recently took a group of young people to the Dominican Republic on a missions trip. **View** their report with pictures. For additional information **contact** Pastor Justin Hutts.



U.S.A. Church Planting

Dr. Bruce McAllister (printed by permission)

Traveling across the country reminds me of just how big America is! God is so interested in the souls of people all across this great land and the whole world as well. We need to keep before ourselves the big picture. While parts of the U.S. have a good number of sound, biblical churches, other areas are still in great need of Fundamental churches. Our burden is to share specific needs with those who could make a difference in meeting the great need.

Why Plant More Churches in the USA?

I know of at least seven good reasons to plant more churches:

1. Church planting is God's way of spreading the gospel and establishing a community-based discipling agency. *The driving issue in church planting is fulfilling the Great Commission.*
2. Church planting is an "open door opportunity," especially for the entry-level pastor.
3. Church planting expands the personnel and financial base for foreign missions.
4. Church planting is needed during this time of doctrinal defection, ecclesiastical compromise, sinking standards, and spiritual lethargy.
5. Church planting provides an opportunity to establish a Christ-centered, Bible-based ministry independent of mainline denominational entanglements.
6. Church planting is the Lord's will for some men.
7. Church planting is desperately needed in many American communities.

A Day of Golden Opportunity?

Our best efforts have determined that there appear to be approximately 10,000 Fundamental churches in the U.S.A. The vast majority of these churches were established in the twentieth century with the rise of the independent, Fundamental movement in response to the onslaught of liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, and new evangelicalism. The overwhelming majority of these churches are independent Baptist or Bible churches. There are many fine young people from these churches being educated in Christian schools or home schools, making good decisions in the many Christian summer camps, and eagerly training in the Fundamental colleges and seminaries to serve the Lord. I believe that God is stirring many toward missions and church planting. I sense a growing desire among pastors to plant churches both nationally and internationally. In short, I believe that we are in a day of golden opportunity for the advancement of the Gospel through church planting.

Staying Even with the Population Growth?

The 2000 U.S.A. Census reports that the overall population increased by 13.2% (32.7 million people) since 1990. The 2000 U.S.A. population was 281 million. A pastor might ask, "Has my church kept up with the national or regional population increase? Are new Fundamental churches being planted at a rate which even begins to keep up with the demands of population growth, not to mention the already existing population?" Unfortunately, the answer is obvious.

Churches should be planting churches! Pastors should be leading their churches to plant more churches regionally, nationally, and internationally. Young men studying for the ministry should open their hearts to the call of church planting. Colleges and seminaries should be equipping church planters and inspiring church planting vision. Pastors should be mentoring church planters as they come out of school seeking God's direction.

(continued on page 2, first column)

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Laymen should be challenged to team up with church planters and to relocate to assist in this great task.

Where Is the Primary Need?

Smaller, western towns—We have identified **almost 1200 communities** in the U.S.A. with no known Fundamental churches within a 30-mile radius. Almost all of these communities are in the western United States. We have done our work carefully, but realize that it would take on-the-field investigation to verify specific needs. A variety of church planting models could be used to reach these needy areas—mother/daughter, missionary, partnership, Bible study, bi-vocational, or pioneer church planting. Sixty-one of the towns have a population of over 5000.

[View the list](#) [View a map](#)

Cities—Many American cities have Fundamental churches, but still have a great need for church planting. This is because the number of people is very great compared to the small number of known Fundamental churches. We have identified 73 important cities that appear to be in need of more Fundamental churches.

[View the list](#) [View a map](#)

Major metropolitan areas—Eighty percent of the American people live in metropolitan areas of more than 250,000! We have done extensive research on America's major metropolitan areas and identified 37 specific sections that appear to have few, if any, known Fundamental churches. Please understand that some of these cities will have several Fundamental churches, but not in the specific section of the city we have noted. Additional on-site investigation would be needed to fully verify the need. We ranked them in order of greatest need using a formula that considers population, past growth, projected growth, and other churches nearby.

[View the list](#) [View a map](#)

Dr. MacAllister is the Director of Ministerial Training and Extension, Bob Jones University.

Did you know?

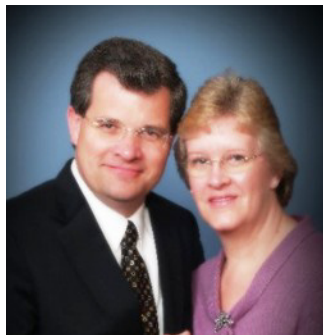
You can give one time and regular gifts to IFCA International [on-line!](http://www.ifca.org/donations)
www.ifca.org/donations

Fellowship Financial Update

2008 appears to have ended with roughly a 22,000.00 deficit. As we begin the New Year be assured that will exercise care to use the resources God provides in the most efficient way to accomplish the ministry He has given us. We look to the Lord to meet our needs, while being mindful that He often does so through His people. We are thankful for your prayers and hope that you will consider giving as well in order to help meet the financial needs of our Fellowship.

Pastor, Principal, Painter ... Paul

Paul Dennis is a Pastor, a school Principal and an accomplished painter. He was born in northern California but spent his early days in Africa as the son of missionary parents



who served in Swaziland and the Republic of South Africa in a boarding school and church planting ministry. The exposure to this culture and the dedication of Paul's parents left a lasting impression on him that remains to the present day.

His family later moved to Three Hills, Alberta, Canada where he had the opportunity of attending **Prairie Bible Institute's** Christian Schools and Bible College. After graduating from Prairie, he spent a year doing post-graduate work at **Bob Jones University**. The first door of ministry the Lord opened was in the area of Christian education. Paul began teaching in a small IFCA church in northern California, but soon moved to Lancaster, California, to teach in a much larger school. It was there that he met and married his wife, Debbie, in 1985.¶

The Lord has blessed Paul and Debbie with many years of fruitful ministry together. In 1997 God called them to the ministry at **Faith Bible Church**, another IFCA church. God has blessed the ministry here. As well as pastoring Faith, Paul is also the elementary principal at **Antelope Valley Christian School**. Debbie is a very competent secretary who runs the computer program for the school and keeps up all the paper work for the church. They enjoy the blessing of working together as a team in ministry.

The type of painting that Paul does is the type that you might hang on your wall or find on your notecards. Art has been a part of his life since he was just a little child. Paul says, "Art has been my oasis when life is most stressful and frustrating. In each of my paintings I have captured life like realism as the result of hours of work and attention to the finest details. My paintings are not just items of beauty, but each one of them



carries a spiritual message of hope and encouragement."

Having the opportunity to get his work published has been a long time dream of Paul's. His works are now available in limited editions, open editions, and note cards. Paul's gallery is now a member of Shop@IFCA and he has generously committed a percentage of the income generated through that link back to IFCA International in the form of financial support.



Visit the gallery today, and why not **drop him a note** and let him know you visited!



Web's World

Some major renovations and improvements are being made to the **Shop@IFCA** pages of the website. Thusfar, this has been a relatively untapped resource of financial support for IFCA International. In these days of economic distress, please remember that if you DO shop on-line you have an opportunity to get more "bang for your buck" if you shop using the links in the on-line shopping area of the IFCA International website. I hope that the renovations and improvements will make this an attractive option for those of you who "e-shop". Each advertiser provides between 5-10% (on average) of base sale price of your purchases, in the form of commissions paid to IFCA International. A few advertisers even pay as much as 40%! Newly renovated and ready for your visit are the **Book Booth**, **Art Galerie**, **Electronics** and the **Quick Shop**. You'll find them on the left menu bar on the **IFCA Home Page** under "Online Shopping." Today is a good day to go shopping for IFCA! - **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 participate in planting new churches in our country.
- 🙏 For increased financial support for IFCA International as we look to the year ahead.