



IFCA International News Connection



IFCA International - PO Box 810 Grandville MI 49468-0810 - office@ifca.org - www.ifca.org - 616.531.1840

My Word ... by Les Lofquist

Recently I've been asking strategic questions about the nature and purpose of our Fellowship. I am attempting to strengthen the bonds of IFCA International and overcome the inherent weaknesses of the independent local church. I am always looking for ways to do a better job of accomplishing our purpose: *to strengthen local churches toward maturity and working together as healthy churches.*

This involves overcoming the weaknesses of the independent local church. Many independent churches and men remain isolated and alone in attitude and practice. This type of fierce independence keeps them from interacting with other like-minded churches and pastors in a way that would benefit all. At times this fosters the sinful attitude of competition among other like-minded churches instead of cooperation, making a mockery of the biblical teaching regarding the autonomous local church. All of this exposes the inherent weakness of the independent church.

How can this inherent weakness be overcome without sacrificing the biblical doctrine of the autonomy of the church? The key is seen in the concept of networking independent churches in the spirit of interdependence, which is a biblical concept.

Individualism, so rampant in the thinking of all Americans, keeps many from ever entering into mutually beneficial relationships. A lack of teachability and an unwillingness to ask for help are real problems each pastor faces within his church and within himself. Another barrier to networking is a lack of knowledge: "whom do you ask for help even when you are willing to listen?"

(continued in column 1 on reverse side)



Ministry Spots

The 4:12 Institute

The teaching & equipping arm of Immanuel Bible Church (Sheboygan WI), the 4:12 Institute is a non-accrediting institute for individuals fourteen years of age and older who are interested in being prepared for ministry in any capacity. It features four tracks of training that build on one another as follows:

*Equipped to Serve
Equipped to Teach
Equipped to Counsel
Equipped to Shepherd*

For more information contact **Pastor Paul Tautges.**



CALIFORNIA CHURCH EXTENSION

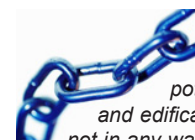
The glorious task of spreading the Gospel has been the task of the church since Pentecost! We have known the glorious hand of God in His work of building the church through local assemblies spreading throughout the world. Here in Northern California, the Lord has done good things among the cooperative efforts between IFCA International churches through the ministry of what has been known as the Bible Church Crusade of Northern California. For years, the BCC has sought to recruit men, locate likely places for a church plant, and marry the two. It has supported local IFCA and like-minded churches in their

efforts to extend their ministries into church planting. It has been a blessing.

As times change, things inevitably change. Terms lose their connotations and convey things that are not consistent with the original purpose. As Islam is gaining tremendous expansion, the term "crusade," for instance, conveys memories of hatred and murder associated with the crusades in the Middle Ages. We know what we mean, but the perceptions of the world around us are beyond our control. Thus, we have changed the name of the Bible Church Crusade of Northern California to California Church Extension. CCE has the same board as the former BCC, but with a renewed vision, revitalized commitment, and determined objectives to see churches planted through the cooperative efforts of IFCA International churches in Northern California.

These changes have resulted from an intensive consultation with **Midwest Church Extension** staff members, Henry Vosburgh & Tim Jeske, who came out to Northern California in November 2008, and spent two days meeting with our board. From this meeting, our vision, strategy, methods, and passions have been revitalized. Pray for us – and visit on [the new website.](#)

*Rick Gregory, President
California Church Extension*



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.

VA
9:38 Prayer Team
Sign up Today!

RESOURCES
VA Video on line
VA Web Page

[Kids 4 Truth Clubs](#)
[Virtual Jerusalem Tour](#)
[Rocky Mountain](#)
[Bible College & Seminary](#)
[Teach Kids Magazine](#)
[Religion Today](#)

MY Word *(cont. from page 1)*

“Who is competent to help me in this situation?”

What then are the answers for IFCA International to the above questions? Attending your Regional meetings and the Annual Convention is one way to start. **IFCA Sunday** on February 22 is another way to encourage interdependence. The IFCA Week of Prayer from May 3 through 10 is another way. And supporting **Vision America** is another way.

Are you modeling independence or interdependence?



Web's World

I believe that good stewardship requires that a church website be an extension of the church's ministry. It needs to be more than a fancy electronic yellow pages ad and used, rather, as a dynamic tool to minister to the saints and provide a point of outreach to the lost. I also recognize that technical limitations make the achievement of such a goal a difficult thing for many churches. After struggling to create and maintain multiple websites while keeping them fresh and professional looking with several different HTML and CSS editors, a few years ago I stumbled across a product that is absolutely top drawer.

This particular product is the best I have seen in terms of putting the creation and maintenance of professional looking websites on a level that just about anyone can learn. Ease of use, an impressive variety of features, fast and friendly tech support (though rarely needed) make this product a hands down winner. Oh, did I mention the price? I couldn't afford NOT to have this product and use it for multiple websites. It will save you time and, with special discount for IFCA related ministries, it will save you money! I encourage you to **check it out** for yourself!

Around the Website

There are a number of new features (and a few old ones) that are available on the website that you want to be sure not to miss. Here's a quick punchlist:

On-Line Membership Renewal

Renew your IFCA membership on-line, quick and easy.

2009 Convention Page

This is an entire collection of links related to convention ranging from on-line registration to links for travel reservations and vacation planning. *(cont. column 3)*

AN INFLUENCED LIFE

One of the newest members of IFCA International is Dave Georgeff. Dave and his wife, Phyllis, have served 17 years in Germany and England with **Biblical Ministries Worldwide**. For the past four years, they have been serving as missionary instructors at **Cornerstone Bible Institute** (CBI) in Hot Springs SD.



Dave has a challenging teaching load and many opportunities for spiritual influence.

In many (but not all) ways Dave's entire Christian life and ministry has—for the most part—been the product of a one man's powerful influence. That man, who recently passed into the Lord's presence, was J. Joseph (Joe) Charles.

It was at the tender age of 19, while serving in the U.S. Army in Augsburg Germany, that Dave trusted the Lord due to the influence of Joe Charles. For the next 2 years Joe Charles was a spiritual-dad...and a fun companion. It was all about influence...learning Bible, learning how to study the Bible, learning Greek, playing ping-pong, learning how to lose in ping-pong, playing softball, golf, painting, and doing carpentry work. Joe's influence in Dave's fostered a desire to teach and preach the Word of God which he began to do toward the end of his military stint in Germany. Dave's first exposure to missions was also because of Joe Charles.

In the midst of the various activities of Dave's life, God used the continual godly and infectious influence of a man who loved Christ and His Word!

That influence was once again felt some seven years after Dave's discharge from the Army. After the completion of his training at **Appalachian Bible College** and post grad training at **Calvary Bible College** Joe Charles requested that Dave return to Augsburg, Germany to serve as the pastor of the American Bible Church—the church where Dave came to know Christ.

Dave and Phyllis joined Biblical Ministries Worldwide because of the influence of

Joe Charles and Jerry Smith. After taking three years to raise their support, Dave and Phyllis arrived in Augsburg where, for seven years, they ministered to American servicemen. When the U. S. Army pulled up stakes and moved out of Augsburg Dave and Phyllis took a pastorate near Lakenheath/Mildenhall, England where a couple of large U.S. Air Force bases were located. They served there for ten years eventually merging the all-American military work into a work with British nationals as well. During those ten years in the UK there were, once again, the influential attempts of one Joe Charles to sway Dave to come to the Cornerstone Bible Institute and serve as a missionary-instructor.

Eventually Dave was persuaded to leave the work in the UK and move to Black Hills of South Dakota and today Dave teaches a heavy load including the following courses: Apologetics/Worldviews, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Genesis 1-12, Exodus to Deuteronomy, Evangelism, Acts, James/Jude, Peter & John's Epistles, and lastly New Testament Greek which he inherited from whom else...Joe Charles.

Dave and Phyllis have three faithful, spiritually growing kids. **Visit Dave's Blog.**

Web's World *(continued)*


Convention Prayer Blog


Begin praying now for Convention and keep apprised of new requests on the blog maintained by the Prayer Committee.

IFCA Related Church Websites

A list of 376 IFCA related church websites. The church must be a member church or have a member pastor. If yours is missing, let us know.

PRAYER PROMPTERS

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

 For 100 IFCA churches to enlist in VISION AMERICA by participating in planting a new church.

Did you know?

You can give one time and regular gifts to IFCA International **on-line!**
www.ifca.org/donations

Fellowship Financial Update

The income for January 2009 was a little bit more the January 2008. The expenses for that same period were \$5,900 less. For this we give glory to God for his goodness. We thank our fellowship for their prayers and support on our behalf. Pray that more of our churches would be able to increase their giving. We thank the many men who in addition to their renewal fee have sent a gift as well.