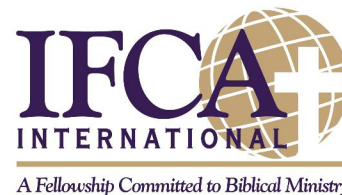




IFCA International News Connection



My Word ... by Les Lofquist

"The Little Engine that Could" is a moralistic story that many will likely remember from childhood. It teaches the virtues of optimism, teamwork and determination in the face of difficult, seemingly impossible tasks. It portrays the experience of a small steam locomotive engine that is unable to pull a long train up a hill. It goes in search of help, finding two large steam engines that are disinclined to inconvenience themselves by assisting. Finally the little engine finds another small locomotive that is willing to assist. Together, to the mantra of "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can," they succeed in pulling the train up the grade at which time the little engine goes merrily on its way saying, "I knew I could, I knew I could ..."

The objectives of VISION AMERICA will be achieved through application of the lessons of that story. In reality, the attainment of our goal of 100 IFCA related churches in a direct and cooperative role in planting a church will require, for the most part, a lot of "Little Churches that Could".

The vast majority of the local churches related to IFCA International are "smaller" churches. For them, planting a church is most often "the long train" that needs to be pulled up the hill. It is a task requiring greater ability and resources than the church has access to. Thankfully, however, "the long train" does not have to be pulled alone.

The goal of VISION AMERICA is *not* to see a specified number of churches planted by June 2010. The goal is to see 100 IFCA related churches directly *involved* in a church plant. That goal could be accomplished by planting 20 new churches with 5 IFCA churches involved together in each plant. It could also be achieved by planting 50 new churches with 2 IFCA churches involved together in each plant. The focus of VISION AMERICA is not on *how many churches are planted*; but on *how many churches are directly involved in planting*.

Direct involvement in this effort is broken down into four key roles:

Formal ministry partnerships

Your church officially agrees to sponsor a church plant and engages in that activity either independently or in concert with a



Ministry Spots

IFCA to Israel 2010

Study the Land Tour

February 24 to March 5, 2010

\$3444 (all inclusive) from Chicago

A customized academic and pastoral tour that focuses on authentic Bible sites, explores the geography of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee and Jerusalem, and shows the connections between the land and the Word.

Details at: www.ifca.org/israel2010

sponsoring agency.

A strategic prayer relationship

Your church corporately involves itself in praying for a specific church plant. It keeps apprised of its progress and needs, regularly and systematically prays for the effort on the corporate level and encourages the church folk to be praying individually as well.

Significant financial commitment

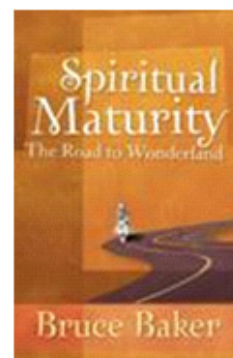
It costs money to plant churches. Whether it is the faithful widow's mite or the generous Barnabas gift of the price of land, we must purposefully give of our resources to advance the Great Commission. God will define what is "significant," but churches must commit financially to this endeavor.

Ministry labor partnerships

These are tangible efforts to assist in the planting process; VBS teams, literature canvassing crews, ministry specialists with gifts sets and talents (teaching, music, manual skills) who offer services, etc.

Far too many churches look at the "the long train" of church planting and while they think it is a good idea ... even a biblical one ... they are huffing and puffing to the beat of "we could never do that, we could never do that ...", or "we're too small, we're too small, we're too small." The great potential for planting IFCA churches will NEVER be realized as long our churches are obsessively self-focused and thinking "we are this or that" or "we are not this or that".

(continued Page 2, Column 1)



Grace Acres Press releases new book by IFCA member Bruce Baker

For decades, Chafer's *He That is Spiritual* guided the Christian in spiritual growth, but it remains out of reach for many modern believers who struggle with the 1918 text or no

longer have the general Bible knowledge that the book assumes. Now, *Spiritual Maturity: The Road to Wonderland* brings those same critical lessons prefaced by quotes and illustrations from Lewis Carroll's timeless tales. Interwoven throughout the text is Christine, a fictional character, whose life and questions mirror those of today's reader. We need to be sure we are walking in the direction and in the manner God would choose. And on any journey, a map—correctly understood—can be enormously helpful. Thankfully, God has provided us one.

"...the Biblical evidence for how to mature in Christ in an arresting and interesting way. ...a layman's map for growing up in Christ." **Dr. Robert Lightner, Dallas Theological Seminary**

"...relevant and engaging. ...the words found in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland never before enjoyed such eternal impact as they do in the pages of this book." **Dr. Woodrow Kroll, President, Back to the Bible International**

Use *Spiritual Maturity* to impact those in your congregation so that they can impact others. Designed for individual or classroom use. Lesson questions included.

Pre-publication savings if purchased by March 31 (sent in late April).

Paper \$9.95/15.95
Hardcover \$27.95/22.95
Purchase Now
www.ifca.org/graceacres

40% of your purchases are donated back to IFCA International by Grace Acres Press.

VISION AMERICA was crafted to take advantage of the strengths of smaller churches by incorporating certain models by which new churches can be planted and at the same time provide opportunity for everyone to play an important part. While some of our churches may be capable of independently planting another church, most IFCA church planting in America must be accomplished by creating a sponsoring network of "partner churches".

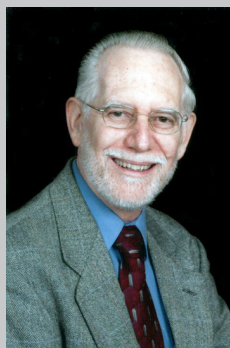
The focus of VISION AMERICA is not on *how many churches are planted*; but on *how many churches are directly involved in planting*.

Partner churches work together, each one contributing whatever part it can to the overall effort of planting a new church. The list of possibilities is long: administrative and leadership oversight, pulpit supply and ministry teams and workers, financial contributions, facility and material supplies. When a church plant is sponsored by a network of partner churches, all of the responsibilities and issues that might be handled by large parent church are instead shared among multiple smaller churches. **They work together, each church contributing what and where it is able, thus sharing the load and the responsibilities involved in initiating that church plant.** Small churches, wealthy and poor, urban and rural ... all of them can be involved in such a network of partner churches to establish a church plant in a new community.

Church planting is the biblical responsibility of the local church, large and small. Your local church ought to be directly involved in a meaningful way in this Great Commission ministry. If it is not, go to someone in leadership at the church and ask, "Why not?" Contact your local church extension agency to ask where your church can be involved. If you have no local church extension agency, [contact VISION AMERICA](#) and we will help! God will honor the commitment of a church that begins to think, "*I think we can, I think we can, I think we can*". With His blessing, churches will be planted and those who were directly involved as partner churches will soon start saying, "*I knew we could, I knew we could, I knew we could*."

VA
RESOURCES **9:38 Prayer Team**
[VA Video on line](#) **Team**
[VA Web Page](#) **Sign up Today!**

The Man Behind Help Ministries



Steve D. Spacek was born on September 11, 1944 in Tampa, Florida. He is the son of Michael & Florence Spacek and the oldest of four brothers. He grew up in Limerick, Pennsylvania in a home that provided a Jewish heritage which significantly influenced his upbringing.

Steve's mother was on a quest to learn the identity of the Prophet spoken of in [Deut. 18.15](#). As a result she was open to those who shared information about the Bible and she allowed some neighbors to take Steve and his brothers to Sunday School at [Limerick Chapel](#) where he was exposed to the Gospel.

As a result of being dismissed from a Sunday School class for being disruptive, and two compassionate teachers who explained the Gospel, Steve placed his faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior on April 19, 1955.

During his teenage years, the Lord impressed upon Steve his responsibility to share God's Word with others. Through a teen Bible study group, special messages by godly speakers and his own personal involvement in outreach missions, Steve became burdened toward missions and dedicated his life for full-time ministry.

Steve received his formal Bible training while attending [New Brunswick Bible Institute](#) (Canada). He studied Pastoral Counseling at [Lancaster Bible College](#) (Lancaster PA) and Church Development at Westminster Theological Seminary. In 2000 Steve completed Phase 2 of the Christian Conciliation Practicum with [Peacemaker Ministries](#).

The Lord brought Beverly (Runyan) into Steve's life and they were married in 1968. They raised two children (Michael and Laurie) and served the Lord together, for almost 40 years. After many years of illness and five years of struggling with cancer, the Lord called Bev home on April 5, 2008.

In 1991, Steve founded [Help Ministries, Inc.](#) and is its Executive Director. Help Ministries provides ministry assistance to independent Bible and Baptist churches and church related ministries. Using a national network of qualified personnel, Help Ministries offers consultation, conciliation services, leadership

resources, financial resources, mentoring, missionary aviation services, organizational resources, outreach resources, and personnel and referral services.

Throughout the years the Lord has used Steve to help start and establish 14 churches, and to assist hundreds of other churches and many mission agencies. He is currently involved in mentoring/discipling sessions based on his *Biblically Rethinking the Church* material, establishing another church, and reaching neighbors using *The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus* video series in his home. He also developed, [Crucial Questions](#), an outreach to unbelievers and manages a blog, "[Last Days Headlines](#)", to track events as they may relate to an Islamic Middle Eastern end-time perspective.

Steve is the author of numerous helpful publications that can be found on the Help Ministries website. He has been a member of [IFCA International](#) since 1967 and has actively served on several committees, provided various resources for the Fellowship and contributed articles for the [VOICE magazine](#). He is also the creator and administrator of the IFCA referral services ministry.

Steve currently serves on the IFCA Eastern PA Regional Executive Committee, the Conciliation Committee, the Convention Committee, and the Technology Committee. He is also a Regional Representative for the Eastern Pennsylvania Regional.

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.

Fellowship Financial Update

2009 YTD **income** was a little below the 2008 level at the end of February. However, YTD **expenses** were \$19,000.00 below the 2008 level. We give glory to God for His goodness and we are thankful to each of you who provide prayer and financial support on our behalf. We are grateful too, for those who have included generous gifts with their membership renewals. **It is important that we add to the number of churches who begin supporting, or who increase their support for, IFCA International.** Please pray to that end. Pray as well for the upcoming Annual Convention and for good attendance in Kalamazoo in June.