

### My Word ... by Les Lofquist

One of the real highlights of my life was the first trip I took to study the land of Israel in 1990. I loved the Bible. I devoted myself to nine years of serious study of the Bible as a full-time student. I taught and proclaimed the Bible as a pastor. But when I saw with my own eyes the land of the Bible, my life and ministry were changed.

Ever since that trip, I have strongly encouraged every pastor to experience the same.

This is why I am so committed to hosting the 2010 IFCA to Israel Trip with my friend Pastor Chris Bauer, of Santa Rosa (CA) Bible Church, February 24 to March 5, 2010.

We're planning a departure from the usual Holy Land tour that rushes between crowded church shrines and souvenir shops. We'll study the geography of the Bible. We've designed a customized academic, pastoral tour that will focus on authentic Bible sites, explore the essential places and messages of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee and Jerusalem, and show the connections between the land and the Word.

There are far more authentic Bible sites than the crowded church shrines. We will connect to the roots of the land with its history, geography and the texts of the Bible. While many things change with culture, politics and borders, it is the land itself that changes least. This may have prompted Cyril of Jerusalem to write, "The land itself is the fifth gospel."

For more details, go to [www.ifca.org/israel2010](http://www.ifca.org/israel2010). If you love the Bible and teach the Bible... this is an opportunity to study the land of the Bible.



### Ministry Spots

#### GriefShare Ministry

Hawthorne Gospel Church (Hawthorne NJ) offers a [Grief Recovery Support Group](#) to those in the community who have suffered the loss of a loved one, helping survivors of a loss to rebuild their lives. It provides informative videos, supportive Christian fellowship, and the comfort of Scripture. Participants view [GriefShare](#), a 13-session video series featuring those who share the story of their own pain and recovery following a loss. Included are Christian speakers such as Elisabeth Elliot, Dr. Larry Crabb, E.V. Hill, Barbara Johnson, and H. Norman Wright; each offering hope in what appears to be a hopeless situation. The videos also clearly present the gospel message, emphasizing the need for a personal relationship with Christ.



## A Parent, A Partner and A Promise A Plan for Church Planting

Pastor Dan Nave

In the summer of 2007, my wife Cheryl and I did some extensive traveling by car, and had a lot of time to reflect upon our life and ministry together. As we drove through so many little Midwestern towns, we were reminded just how much church planting work is still left to do. Out of that experience, and with a need to cast a vision for the future of our own church plant (only three years old), we developed the **Judea Project**.



When compared to the outline of Acts 1:8, something was missing from our church's outreach ministry. Our local ministry (Jerusalem) was doing well, we were supporting 3 missionaries, both regionally (Samaria) and internationally (the uttermost part), but we weren't doing anything in our "Judea". We identified our Judea as that area within a three-hour drive from us. There are gaping holes in the IFCA influence in that part of the Midwest, where entire counties in NE Illinois and NW Indiana have no IFCA church. Some towns, with populations as large as several thousand, have no Bible teaching churches at all!

Convinced of the need, we developed a simple 20 year strategy to address it by networking together with other churches to reach our "Judea." Here's how it works: the **"Project" church** is the startup church in the field, ultimately led by an [Midwest Church Extension Church Plant Leader](#).

The **"Parent" church** is a church with major influence in the new work and, along with some funding, provides personnel such as Bible Study leaders, pulpit supply (until a church planter is in place), children's workers, musicians, and even families. Obviously, the Parent Church will be relatively close, geographically. The **"Partner" church** also plays a major role, by providing some funding, short term missions needs, and special projects as possible. The **"Promise" church** can join the effort in a variety of ways. A small church could agree to be a Promise Church or a large church could function as such to several Project churches. Promise Churches promise to pray and promote as much as possible and agree to do an annual "love offering" project. One Parent Church, 5 Partner Churches, and 10 Promise Churches could conceivably fully fund and staff



(Continued Column 1, Page 2)

a Project Church. [Heritage Bible Church](#) works closely with each, to assist wherever possible. Larger churches might be able to help several Project Churches.

We're also actively seeking men to join with us in this effort. These men - we call them Titus Brothers - will be Trustworthy, Initiators, Teachable, (see the) Urgency, and Servants. Heritage Bible Church will partner with MCE in recruiting and interning these men from a variety of sources, including Bible colleges, Bible institutes, and Bible teaching local churches. Our vision is to see the first 10 churches planted helping to start 10 additional churches within 20 years of the beginning of this effort.

The Judea Project is a great template that other churches could modify and use to suit their needs for church planting, and that could be used as a model for any church wanting to partner in the IFCA's [Vision America](#) ministry. Anyone desiring more detailed information, including personal presentations (where possible), brochures and fact sheets may [contact us](#) and request such.

---

## 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.

📖 For existing church plants in need of sponsoring churches before they can be counted as VA churches.

📖 That the increase in giving would continue throughout the rest of the year.

📖 For the Executive Director and office staff as they adjust to being short-handed.

📖 For preparations that are being made and the myriad of details that need to be addressed prior to Convention.

📖 For the Women's Conference and for the Church Extension Conference in June.

📖 For churches and ministries suffering because of the economy.

## “Good Morning, IFCA, this is Margie ...”

Anyone who has called the IFCA home office has likely been greeted by Administrative Assistant, Margie Thomas. Margie, began her ministry with IFCA in July, 1993, having previously worked in the academic office at Grand Rapids School of Bible and Music for seven years. Thus for the last 16 years it has been her privilege to use the gifts the Lord has given her to serve Him. In the IFCA home office, her daily routine is one of serving His servants ... those who pastor churches, lead worship, teach classes and minister in a variety of ways, not only in this country, but around the world!

Margie is much more than just “a voice on the phone” receptionist. Your phone calls are merely pauses in her regular activities which include: maintaining the Fellowship's constantly changing membership records, keeping the in-house and on-line databases and mailing lists up to date, overseeing the Ministry Referral Service, managing the office, providing office support for the needs of IFCA's various committees and the Board of Directors, handling mailing operations and order fulfillment. She coordinates the hospitality arrangements for the Board members during their November meeting, gathers and compiles the many reports for the mid-year and annual meetings of the Fellowship and a host of other details that serve to keep IFCA International functioning smoothly on an administrative level.

In the midst of all of that, however, your phone calls are also an opportunity for personal ministry. Margie says *“my mission is to be sure that those who call get the answers they need or direction as to where they can find those answers.”* Her objective is that *“when you call the Home Office, you will sense that they are there on your behalf ... doing everything that they can to help you in your ministry for the Lord.”*

Recalling her ministry at GRSBM, the IFCA Administrative Assistant says, *“At GRSBM, in the academic office, I maintained the records for the students. I now have the privilege of maintaining the membership records for, and serving in many other ways, some of those same students who are now serving in IFCA churches all over the US and abroad.”*



Margie has three grown children and seven grandchildren, ranging from 2 years of age to 18, who are a constant source of great joy for her as is the rest of her family. In her spare time she enjoys biking, walking on the beach, crafts and thrift shops. Want to give her a special treat? ... bring her some warm chocolate chip cookies!

While Margie may not have met you personally, or spoken to you on the phone, she knows you! She sees your name on her desk or computer screen on a regular

basis and finds joy in contributing her part to supporting your ministry through the ministry of IFCA International by being the “voice on the other end of the phone line,” but so much more as well.



### 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.*

- [Crown Financial Ministries](#)
- [Abortion Unfiltered](#)
- [Eternal Perspective Ministries](#)
- [Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood](#)
- [National Association of Nouthetic Counselors](#)

### Fellowship Financial Update

Gift income from member churches, organizations and individuals has increased by \$ 4,400 in the first quarter of 2009 when compared to the first quarter of 2008. That is a wonderful answer to prayer for which we thank God! We also thank each one of you, who contributed through their prayers and gifts. The expenses for that same period were \$22,000 less, a good portion of which is due to not having a Director of Church & Pastoral Ministries, thus having one less staff member.