

### My Word ... by Les Lofquist

Our Annual Convention is just around the corner, June 22-26.

We're planning a great time in Kalamazoo at the [Radisson Plaza Hotel](#). The Pre-Convention Committee here in the Michigan Regional has been working hard to get everything prepared. Earlier this week we took our last preview of the hotel to be sure we're ready for the convention. They've poured millions of dollars into renovations and the facility looks fantastic.

#### All we're lacking is you.

Have you called the Radisson and reserved your room? Call the Radisson at 269-343-3333 and request the **IFCA-C group rate**. Or go to [www.radissonkz.com](http://www.radissonkz.com) (to get our \$80 room rate enter IFCA-C for the Group / Convention Code).

Have you sent in your Convention Registration to the IFCA Home Office? Check out all the convention information on the back pages of the last three issues of *VOICE*.

Go to this link ([ifca.org/kalamazoo](http://ifca.org/kalamazoo)) on the IFCA website and see the convention details, including the schedule ([ifca.org/consched2009](http://ifca.org/consched2009)).

Our theme "*Vision World*" revolves around global evangelization and world missions. This is the extension from last year's theme "*Vision America*." Both themes together represent the full thrust of Jesus' command in Acts 1:8.

We will hear great messages from the General Session speakers and there are ten outstanding seminars to choose from. Our Ladies Conference will also be emphasizing missions. The Children's Program will have a missions theme as well, on top of some fun activities in local Kalamazoo. So, plan to bring your children along with your wife.

Remember the cut off date to reserve your \$80/ night room rate at the Kalamazoo Radisson is June 3. Don't delay any longer.

**See you in Kalamazoo!**

### Ministry Spots

#### IFCA to Israel 2010 Study the Land Tour

Join Les Lofquist and Chris Bauer, Feb. 24-Mar 5, for a fresh departure from the usual Holy Land tour that rushes between crowded church shrines and souvenir shops. Take the time to feel, to think and to absorb as you discover the richer prize of studying the geography of the Bible alongside the biblical text with an Israeli scholar for our guide. [Check the website](#) for detailed information.



### RE-plant a church? Why? How?

**Earl Brubaker, Director NICE**

In many of our western communities, once thriving churches now struggle. Common causes are failure to change as the community changes, or allowing internal conflicts to divide or distract them. The ministry of IFCA Church Extension includes revitalizing such churches.

Sometimes these struggling churches decline almost to closure. Two or three saints may keep the shell of the organization alive, or one or two dozen people faithfully meet, trying to keep the church afloat. **In such cases Vision America encourages a church replant.**



Council Bible Church is such a church. In 1970, Council was one of the dozens of small, thriving timber towns of the Idaho panhandle. A constant parade of trucks shuttled logs from the forests to the mills and dimensional lumber from the mills to market. The scent of smoke from the waste burning tepees hung in the air.

**N.I.C.E.** Missionary Pastor, Don Martin, moved to Council. God began His work in the lives of people, and a church was born. They constructed a small building, and the church became self-supporting. For the next two decades the church thrived, expanded its facilities, and added a Christian school. Then the forest industry shut down, the parade of trucks ceased, mills closed, people moved away to find employment, and church attendance plummeted. The church could no longer support a pastor.



The community survived, but its character changed. It is smaller, has a greater percentage of retirees, supports a few entrepreneurs, and requires a smaller service community. It is still a small town that needs a Bible church. The one remaining key family from Council Bible Church began driving 20 miles

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every Sunday to Cambridge. Cambridge Bible Church, located in an area with more farming and ranching and thus not so dependent upon timber, was thriving.



Sensing the continuing need in Council, Pastor Roger Hayden and the elders of Cambridge Bible Church moved their Sunday evening service to Council to begin a replant of Council Bible

Church. Community response has been slow, but after beginning with one key family, the church now has six families represented as well as five singles attending regularly — all from the immediate Council area. A mid-week Bible study has also been added to the schedule.

Next step: A Missionary Pastor, supported or bi-vocational, to live and serve in the community.

“Pray ye therefore, the Lord of the Harvest, that He will send forth laborers into his harvest.”

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## 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 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 and the Youth Convention in June.

📖 For churches and ministries suffering because of the economy.

## New Director at RMBCM

D. Paul Williamson attended [Moody Bible Institute](#) before he was actually born! His parents, Glen and Irma were students at MBI when Paul was born on July 31, 1951. The second of four children, one of them a sister, Paul was raised by parents who were committed to Christian ministry. Glen and Irma Williamson served [Village Mission](#) churches in Ohio, California, and Kansas before Glen continued his pastoral ministry serving independent Bible churches in Illinois, Montana, Michigan, and Oklahoma. Growing up in a pastor's home Paul came to faith in Christ at a young age during their family devotion time. Later, as a junior in High School, he dedicated his life to the Lord and following high school graduation attended Moody Bible Institute (again). It was during his time at Moody that Paul truly sensed the call of God upon his life to the pastoral ministry. It was also when he met the love of his life, his wife Helen. They were married in 1975. Paul furthered his education after Moody at [Montana Institute of the Bible](#), [Grace Theological Seminary](#) and [Baptist Bible Seminary](#) in Clarks Summit, PA.



Paul and Helen have served the Lord together in church ministry in Montana, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Paul has had the joy and privilege of teaching in the Ukraine as well as in the Philippines and for five years he taught at the [Word of Life Bible Institute](#) as a guest lecturer and spoke in several churches, pastor and alumni conferences, youth retreats and WOL Bible Clubs.


Recently, after serving for eleven years as the Senior Pastor of [Honesdale Gospel Tabernacle](#), in Honesdale, PA, God has redirected their ministry to Colorado where Paul now serves as the Director of the [Rocky Mountain Bible Church Mission \(RMBCM\)](#). RMBCM is the Church Extension Agency of the [IFCA International Rocky Mountain Regional](#).

Currently RMBCM has four active church planting ministries with the newest one being the Severance Community Church with missionaries Les and Nancy Gwin serving that community. The agency is currently exploring the development of Hispanic church planting in the Colorado Springs area and is seeking God's provision for Spanish speaking missionary pastors.

The Williamsons have four grown children; twin sons Mark and his wife Jennie (Michigan). Michael and his wife April (Homewood, IL). A daughter, Mary and her husband Jason Lewis (Beckley, WV). Jason serves in the WV National Guard and is currently serving a second term of deployment in Iraq. The Williamson's youngest son, Matthew, is a student at [Appalachian Bible College](#).

Paul and Helen enjoy being grandparents of their eight wonderful grandchildren. Paul is a lover of the outdoors and enjoys playing golf, hunting, fishing, and camping as well as spending time with Helen in sight-seeing and yard and garden work.

Paul has been a member of IFCA since 1987 and has served in numerous ways in the [IFCA International](#) fellowship both at the regional level and the national level. He has also been a contributor to the VOICE magazine and currently serves on the International Ministry Committee.



### 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.*

- [Christian Research Institute](#)
- [Mothers of Pre-Schoolers](#)
- [SpeedTest.net](#)
- [The Truth Project](#)
- [Creation Museum](#)
- [Biblical Archaeology Review](#)
- [Power Point Bible Maps](#)

### Fellowship Financial Update

Gift income from our member churches, organizations and individuals increased in the first quarter of 2009 by \$ 4,400 over the same quarter in 2008. Praise God with us for that wonderful answer to prayer! How thankful we are to Him and to each one of you, who contributed through their prayers and gifts.

In addition, the Home Office staff has been working hard to hold expenses below the budgeted amount.