

### 2009 Convention Report

IFCA International conducted what might be regarded as a “bookend” or “companion” convention in Kalamazoo MI last month. The convention showcased the second of IFCA International’s Great Commission initiatives – VISION WORLD. Together, VISION AMERICA (showcased in the 2008 convention) and this year’s emphasis, VISION WORLD, strike an Acts 1.8 balance for IFCA International church planting efforts at home and around the world.



The tone for the convention was set by the keynote message from Executive Director Les Lofquist, delivered on Monday evening. The theme of the church’s role in international missions was continued on the subsequent evenings

by missions spokesman, and Pastor-at-Large of [Shenandoah Baptist Church](#) in Roanoke VA, Dr. Robert Alderman.



As with VISION AMERICA, the introduction of VISION WORLD



was accompanied by the presentation of a specially produced video which opens with the words of great missionary statesman, Robert Moffat: *“I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been.”* VISION WORLD is IFCA International’s response to the Robert Moffat-like challenge of our generation in which we can see the smoke of a thousand villages ... not only the cooking fires of African huts, but from the smoke stacks of an industrialized world ... where there is desperate need for a Gospel testimony.

Lofquist made the point that Jesus did not give us the luxury of choosing either Jerusalem or the “uttermost part” of the world. He said we were to reach both. (Acts 1:8) Healthy churches are committed to reaching their

neighborhood and the world.

The immediate goal of VISION WORLD is to recruit, by June 2010, 100 IFCA related churches who will network together to win souls and plant churches around the world. Such churches will commit to four simple requirements:

1. *The Pastor of the church will be asked to regularly preach on the role and importance of the local church in identifying and training missionaries at home and abroad.*
2. *The Congregation will be asked to pray that God would raise up from their midst a missionary headed for a foreign field.*
3. *The church leadership will work to identify a potential international church planting missionary by June 2011.*
4. *The church will coach, encourage and assist that potential missionary to reach the foreign field.*

The success of these twin initiatives, VISION AMERICA and VISION WORLD, depends upon the involvement of the individual churches in our Fellowship. More information on how your church can be involved can be found on the VA/VW web pages.

### Convention Links

[VA/VW Web Page](#)

[Convention Audio Files](#)

[Convention Photo Gallery](#)

[Convention Resolutions](#)

[Chaplain Rob Meyer Bio](#)

[How to Assist Military Members and Families Prior to and After Deployment](#)

[Constitution Amendments for Ratification](#)

## Convention News Bits

### Video Link

One of the highlights of the convention was the first ever live two-way audio/video link between the convention in Kalamazoo and the Youth Convention being held on the campus of [Appalachian Bible College](#) in Bradley WV!

### Election

The convention delegates elected a new President to the Board of Directors and selected three Directors who will all serve 4 year terms. Earl Brubaker was elected President.

Elwood Chipchase and Dan Fredericks were elected, and Rick Gregory was re-elected, to the Board as Directors. The current makeup of the Board of Directors is now: Earl Brubaker - President, Jeff Anderson, Bruce Baker, Elwood Chipchase, Dan Fredericks, Rick Gregory, Greg Gemmell, Tim Jeske, Damien Efta, Bob Provost, Paul Seger, Rich Toliver, Ernie Withrow.

### CORPs

The Council of Regional Presidents (CORPs) had some productive meetings aimed at re-tooling and re-thinking the strategic ministry of the Regional Leadership Teams across the country. They also elected a new President: Jerry Smith.



### Women's Conference

The 2009 Women's IFCA Conference – We Can Make a WORLD of Difference – was a stimulating time of examining our hearts concerning the lost around the world, and a time of committing to better support for our missionaries in new ways. We heard testimonies from many missionary wives concerning the care churches have given them over the years and how they could use more prayer support.



Joan Seger (wife of [Biblical Ministries Worldwide's](#) General Director) was our main

speaker. She brought passion and urgency to the need to reach the world around us.

Heleen Aringdale, was given special recognition for faithful attendance at annual conventions, often traveling by bus from her home in Iowa to the convention center in order to attend.

We enjoyed a Ladies Luncheon where we spent time praying for our IFCA Foreign Missionary wives – by name – for things they had requested. Each lady signed a short note to the missionary wives and some made a bracelet to send them.

A special offering for the abandoned women in Congo was collected and will be sent to [Congo International Ministries](#) (an IFCA organization member) to bring the gospel to these women.

### Church Extension Conference

The 2009 Church Extension Conference was held at [Oakwood Bible Church](#) in Kalamazoo June 20-22. The conference theme, "Be Encouraged", was well-developed in three keynote messages by Dr. Steve Wilt. Also, the CEC retained Fran Gardner as CE President, and elected Henry Vosburgh as treasurer. In 2010, the Church Extension Conference will be held at [Southern View Chapel](#) in Springfield, IL on the dates of June 26-28.

### Servant of the Year Award

This year's Faithful Servant Award was given to Ivan (Pete) and Donelda Peterson. Pete and Donelda served for fifty years as missionaries in Belgian Congo (where they buried two children and were expelled in a civil war), and France where they planted three churches. They now live in Michigan where Pete continues a conference ministry.



They received this award on behalf of all the IFCA missionaries who have been serving so faithfully and unable to attend very many IFCA conventions.

### Director of Chaplaincy

After fifteen years during which he served IFCA International as the



Director of Chaplaincy, Warren Dane has left that position and is making the transition into pastoral leadership of Air Force Village West in Southern California. Our new Director of Chaplaincy is CH LTC (Ret) Robert Meyer. Rob recently retired from active service in the

Marines and now makes his home, with his wife Chris, in Nevada IA.