

My Word ... by Les Lofquist

When you receive this I will be in Berbice, Guyana, South America. I am teaching thirty pastors the course "Godly Leaders: Becoming One & Training Them." One of my greatest joys is to teach the Word of God to hungry national pastors.

This trip reminds us about **VISION WORLD**. We are seeking *100 IFCA churches to commit to pray that God would raise up from their congregation an international missionary who they could identify and coach along the way to the foreign field*. Please [visit the website](#) to learn more about how you can participate in VISION WORLD.

We also are reminded about our commitment to the nations through our **Manipur Relief Project** to send them help during their severe famine. As of the day I am writing this, we have received well over \$30,000! This outpouring of love and support has touched our desperate brothers and sisters in a way like nothing I can describe. You will get a full report as soon as this project is complete. But rejoice with me in this initial report.

Also the IFCA commitment to the nations will be seen in **Slavic Gospel Association's** 75th Anniversary weekend celebration Friday, September 25 through Sunday, September 27 and their **Standing Strong Conference** from Monday, September 28 through Wednesday, September 30. All these events will be in Chicago. SGA was founded by IFCA charter member Peter Deyneka, Sr. and is led by IFCA member Bob Provost.

Combine all the above ministries with the ministry of Steve Wilt and **FIM** missionaries, Paul Seger and **BMW** missionaries, and all our IFCA members throughout the global community... you see that IFCA takes seriously the cause of Christ among the nations. Pray for us.

MANIPUR REPORT

As mentioned above, the response to the **Manipur Relief** appeal has been wonderful. As of September 14, we have received a total of \$40,346.42 in gifts for our brothers and sisters in India. Thank you to all who have responded!



A Fellowship Committed to Biblical Ministry



A Strategy for Russia

One passage of Scripture that grips the heart of new IFCA International member and UECB national director of youth ministries, 33-year old Pastor Evgeny (Eugene) Bakhmutsky, is found in 1 Corinthians 7:32,35. ... *One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord.....This I say for your own*

benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

While the Lord has given Eugene a precious wife, Tanya, a robust son, and two precious daughters, he knows that that there is no greater opportunity to reach Russia than through a great movement of never-married, faithful young men and women with single-hearted, *undistracted devotion to the Lord*. Eugene's passion is to see an army of zealous, young people turning all of Russia upside down for Christ. Everyone who knows him is convinced that he is the man whom God has chosen to lead such a great movement.

One of Eugene's grandfathers was executed (shot) for his faith. His other grandfather taught him to honor God from a very early age and he began to memorize Scripture at age three. His grandmother taught him to pray everyday. Every evening the family listened secretly to Christian radio programs from SGA. When he was five years old he knew in his heart that God wanted him to be a minister. As he grew older he began to dig deeper into the Bible and fell in love with God's Word.

At age fifteen Eugene "repented" during a service at the Kemerovo Baptist Church. *"One day I was sitting in the balcony. During a sermon by an old preacher, the Holy Spirit pulled me down to the pulpit – and I found myself crying out loud with tears and confessing my disobedience. God really accepted me! New life revealed itself. It happened in January, 1993. After a year my grandfather baptized me."*

Eugene led his class in a top high school, and again in a highly respected college and graduate school. Rejecting a full scholarship to pursue his doctorate, he was sent by his church leaders to attend the SGA-sponsored Novosibirsk Bible Institute and Seminary, where he completed studies for the Master of Divinity Degree in 2004. *(Continued center column p.3)*



FOLLOW YOUR PEOPLE

During the Annual [IFCA International](#) Convention, in 2008, Dr. Alex Montoya suggested some strategies for planting churches. One of them was, “*follow your people.*” We knew that was

a viable strategy for [Evangel Bible Church of Berkeley](#) because most of our congregation is from Southern California. As a matter of fact, over 70% of our entire church family of 250, (including yours truly) migrated from Southern California to the Bay area. Our average age being in the mid-20’s, most have come up either to attend the university at Berkeley or to work in the San Francisco Bay area.

Our church experiences an annual group migration as people move back to Southern California for graduate school, work, or sometimes to help an overburdened family. This naturally sparked a desire in us to plant a Bible Church in So. Cal.

God called one of our collegians, James Lee, into the ministry and he finished his M. Div. at [The Master’s Seminary](#) last year. The Lord strengthened and confirmed James’ leadership in Taiwan where he served at our daughter church ([Evangel Bible Church of Taipei](#) EBCT). James has returned to California, and after an August 23rd commissioning service, he left for So. Cal. With him he took, from our church, a team of men and women who are dedicated to starting this church. A core group of nine and support group of another eight have already quit their jobs, relocated and found housing near Irvine. The first worship service was conducted on September 6!

They will be reaching out to students from UC Irvine and other college campuses as well as young families, career folks and anyone who hasn’t heard the Gospel of Christ and who has not yet found a solid Bible-teaching church, an IFCA church.

At the same time, it has come to our attention that a significant number of our members are working down in the Silicon Valley area. We have church members who work at software giants like Google and Yahoo as well as other high tech companies. This gave us another burden and a strategy to “follow our people,” and so, the South Bay Church Plant Strategy was put into action. We have launched a church plant in the Silicon Valley where we can target campuses like Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, and Stanford University along with all of the unreached around the area.

So far, we’ve identified 9 core-group members who will be spearheading the church plant. The support group will consist of about 12. These men and women of the support group will augment the efforts of the core group in ministries like leading praise, child-care, and some administrative tasks.

Each Sunday, after leading the worship service at the mother church in Berkeley, I will make the hour drive to the Silicon Valley to preach at this new church plant and I will travel down on Thursday evenings for the mid-week worship service as well. A building for meetings has been located and services began on the first Sunday of September.

In an exciting step of Great Commission faith, EBCB is launching TWO church plants! (Evangel Bible Church of Orange County and Evangel Bible Church of Silicon Valley) Nearly 35-40 people will be leaving EBCB to be involved in these two church plant efforts. While we are expecting some financial and numerical stress due to the vacuum that these men and women will leave in Berkeley, we are so excited about the witness that they will have in the two communities in California.

Please pray for our church plants and for God’s Word to penetrate throughout the Orange County and Silicon Valley areas for His great glory!

- - Pastor John Shin



Vision World

IFCA International Church Planting

In the past month two churches have registered with IFCA as [Vision World](#) churches. This brings the total VW churches to three who are committed to identifying and beginning to train one person/family to serve as a missionary on the foreign field:

- [Grace Bible Church](#), Colorado Springs, CO
- [Mesa Hills Bible Church](#), Colorado Springs, CO
- [Ottawa Center Chapel](#), Coopersville, MI

Have you been to the Vision World website recently? If not, stop reading this article now and go there to view [Tears of the Saints](#). It is a compelling video about the challenge ahead for the church to reach all the peoples of the earth with the Gospel. Are you a part of God’s working plan to do that? Do you want to be? That is what Vision World is all about. Here are a few points to consider.

THE END RESULT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

God has chosen local churches—your church—as the focal point of His ministry today. The end result of the Great Commission is planting local churches with equipped leadership. How does this happen without the involvement of each local church in the missionary enterprise?

JERUSALEM BELIEVERS GATHERED AS THE CHURCH

The Church in Jerusalem – people who repented of sin and committed their lives to Christ – congregated with each other for the purposes of worship, prayer, receiving instruction, fellowship, observing the Lord’s Supper and baptism. [Acts 2:42-47](#).

As persecution grew greater after Stephen’s stoning, believers fled Jerusalem and spread across the Middle East sharing their faith and forming new congregations of believers. Thus, there came a distinction between the universal body of believers known as *the Church* (*ecclesia* or “called out ones”), which Jesus said He would take the responsibility to build, and the more visible, organized, local bodies of believers known as *the churches*. [Acts 14:23](#), [Revelation 1:11](#).

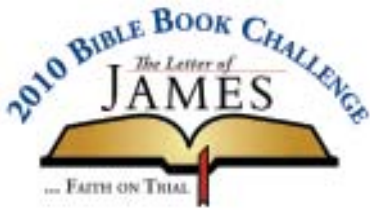
THE EARLY MISSIONARIES PLANTED CHURCHES

In [Acts 13:1-3](#), the Spirit of God told the church leaders in Antioch to train, separate and send out some of their own leaders on a mission to take the Gospel message to a new place. Paul and Barnabas, elders and teachers in the Antioch church, led the first mission and purposefully planted new churches in distant areas. In time, Antioch would become the parent church to dozens of new local churches.

Paul’s pattern was not just evangelism. On all three mission trips his team began with evangelism, then disciplined the new believers, strengthened and warned them of the tough times ahead and then appointed men they had trained to lead the congregations. [Acts 14:21-23](#). Their focus was on reproducing local churches, not just believers.

The missionary role is to take the Gospel message from a sending church (evangelizing), train the new Christians in the life of faith (discipleship), and mentor leaders (leadership development) to shepherd the new believers as they form a local church—and the process starts over again. With each IFCA local church becoming a sending church in fellowship with other IFCA churches you can, by God’s grace and for His glory, become an active part of His plan for the nations. That’s what Vision World is all about.

Vision America Churches - 12 Vision World Churches - 3
Is YOUR church among them?



We encourage you to accept the recent [ECS Ministries](#) invitation for you and your local church to fellowship with Christians across the country in studying the book of James.

Last year a good number of IFCA related churches participated with many other churches across the country in the study of Ephesians. Some churches were using the material in home Bible Studies, some in Sunday School classes or on Wednesday night. The winning church was one of our own! Congratulations to Pastor Rick Hamilton and Grace Baptist Church in Glidden IA!

Pastor Rick says; *“Participating in the ECS Bible Challenge was a great experience for everyone in our church that participated. In addition to being challenged to study God’s Word individually, and then as a group, it also helped the group grow closer together as a family in Christ. To those in the group, winning the contest paled in comparison to the spiritual blessings and growth they experienced as they studied the Word or God.”*

The study of God’s Word is an activity that pays rich dividends in the life of the one who studies. Here is a way to encourage your church people to study together as part of a nationwide Bible study with literally hundreds of other believers in scores of churches. For more information [click here](#).

Three men were walking on a wall— Faith, Feeling and Fact.

When Feeling got an awful fall
Faith was taken back.

So close was Faith to Feeling, He
stumbled and fell too.

But Fact remained and pulled up
Faith, And Faith brought Feeling
too. - Unk.

Eugene describes the development of his philosophy of youth ministry in this manner:

“As a youth leader of Western Siberia I attended a national youth leaders conference in Moscow in 1999 where I met Todd Provost. Having a great deal of experience as a youth leader he began to help me develop a biblical philosophy of youth ministry. At that time I understood much from the Word but I was like Apollos in Acts 18 and Todd was like Priscilla to me - he helped me to shape my views and to make them thoroughly biblical.

Our youth ministry philosophy consists of several pillars: The Bible is the one and only true authority for life and ministry. God is sovereign and He gives the growth. Youth are the most unused church resource and they can be released only through the teaching and preaching of God’s Word. The heart of youth ministry is discipleship. We want to see God bring revival through a national Bible-driven youth ministry network which produces a youth generation more committed to the Gospel and to the preaching of the truth than ever before in Russia.”

In addition to the youth ministry, for the past several months Eugene has been organizing a new church in Moscow. Their first worship service was held on Sunday, September 6th.

Eugene and his core group were thrilled to see the Lord gloriously answer all their prayers for their first gathering for worship. Please join this blossoming young congregation in praying for an affordable rental facility that will enable them to accommodate considerable growth.

It is a great joy to welcome this outstanding young servant of Christ to the Fellowship of IFCA International. Please pray for Eugene and Tanya, and that the Lord would enable them to achieve their great visions, both to see the youth turn Russia upside down for Christ and a vibrant new church in Moscow filled with zealous new believers!



The IFCA International Ministry Referral Service has changed locations and been re-designed. The new service is now hosted on the IFCA Website and the old service has been discontinued as of August 31. If you, or your ministry organization, had a listing in the old service and you have not re-listed with the new service you must do so before your information can be included in the listings. For instructions on accessing and entering the new IFCA International Ministry Referral Service please go to: www.ifca.org/referralaccess. Please read and follow the directions carefully, particularly in regard to naming and uploading your profile.

FELLOWSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE

On July 31, the giving for the general fund of IFCA International was \$12,300.00 behind last year’s giving at the same point. As you plan for any year-end giving, please consider a generous gift to IFCA International to help us end the year without a deficit.

PRAYER PROMPTERS

- 👉 For Les Lofquist while he ministers in Guyana - adverse climate, arduous schedule, primitive conditions. For Miriam while he is away.
- 👉 VISION AMERICA - additional churches that will become VA churches by [sponsoring a church plant](#).
- 👉 VISION WORLD - additional churches that will preach, pray, identify and equip in endeavor to send church planting missionaries from their midst.
- 👉 [Evangel Bible Church of Berkeley's](#) two church plants (Orange County and Silicon Valley)
- 👉 IFCA Fellowship’s financial needs
- 👉 Praise for [Manipur Relief](#) response and prayer for open doors of Gospel opportunity as the funds are used.
- 👉 For wisdom and guidance for the Board of Directors as they prepare to meet in November.
- 👉 For the Council of Regional Presidents and our Regional Leadership Teams.