

My Word ... *by Les Lofquist*

The 2010 Convention is now history and it was a tremendous blessing from God! Many people told me they thought this was one of the best Conventions ever. With the theme "Passion for Ministry" the General Session speakers, seminars, and Women's Conference were all focused on helping restore our spiritual passion. We prayed God would visit us in a new way, helping to restore our passion for Christ and serving Him. And that's what happened: God energized so many who were in attendance and many left refreshed. We thank God for the gracious answers to our prayers.

A more full report on the Convention is included in the next page. And the Annual Convention Report will be mailed out in the next few weeks. I hope you enjoy hearing all about Springfield 2010.

It is not too soon to begin planning for next year's 2011 Convention in Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky (southside of Cincinnati). It will be held at The Drawbridge Inn of Ft. Mitchell, KY in conjunction with The Creation Museum. Ken Ham will be our featured speaker. We will provide a morning and afternoon for everyone to visit The Creation Museum together. We will feature a special track on evangelism training designed for both pastors and laymen, to help our churches improve in sharing the Gospel. This will be especially relevant while considering the implication of creation truth.

Mark down the date for the 2011 Convention: June 27-July 1, 2011. Plan to attend. Talk to your church evangelism leader(s) about coming next year. Ask your church board to set aside funds in 2011 to help you get to the Convention. Make the effort to attend the 2011 IFCA Convention... it will be well worth it for you and all of us. We are praying for an even greater time next year.



Heavenward Ambitions

My dreams and ambitions have always been heavenward. I recall lying on my back next to my mother learning the names of the constellations and looking with wonder at pictures of F-14 Tomcats my Dad had acquired in his days as a contractor for the Navy. There was a time when my claim to fame was "the kid who has every inch of his bedroom walls covered with Air Force and NASA posters." I won an all expenses paid trip to Space Camp in Huntsville, AL for an essay I had



written for that purpose. The essay probably looked a lot like what I just wrote - I simply relayed the fact that anything that lifted itself off of the ground, I loved.

There was, however, another aspect to my heavenward bent. The sincerity of my Dad's faith and our family's involvement in our local church fanned a flame in me to better know and love God. My passion for ministry quickly formed. Throughout high school I pursued ministry opportunities. By the time I had graduated high school I abandoned the dream of working with avionics and began a pursuit of vocational ministry. For six years after college I pastored a small church on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Eastern Arizona. During my pastorate, I was blessed to have an experienced minister take me under his wing and mentor me. By God's providence, my mentor was an Air National Guard Chaplain. His introduction of the chaplaincy fanned an old flame. I was thrilled at the prospect of being able to serve God and country in the context of my childhood dream. I started the pursuit of my commission in 2007 through participation in the Chaplain Candidate Program. I am currently in my second week as the newest active duty chaplain on Whiteman Air Force Base, MO.

Ch, 1st Lt Kevin Hostettler
100 Gray Lane
Whiteman AFB, MO 65305

2010 Convention Notes

The 2010 Annual IFCA Convention, in Springfield IL, was a time of great blessing and challenge to the delegates who were present; inspiring many to renewed passion for ministry as they returned to their ministries back home.

In the wake of that convention there are a number of items listed below that may be of interest to our readers:

◆ **Audio recordings** of many of the convention messages and sessions are available on a thumb drive which can be ordered from the IFCA Home Office for a cost of 25.00. Call to place your order.

◆ IFCA's new podcasting ministry "**Wavelengths**" was utilized during convention as interviews and message excerpts were broadcast through the internet. "*Catch the Wave*" at www.ifca.org/wavelengthspod! To assure that you don't miss future podcasts subscribe to the podcast feed on the Wavelengths page or through i-Tunes.

◆ The following men were elected to four-year terms on the **IFCA Board of Directors**: Larry Duncan (Jeffersontown KY), Alex Montoya (Los Angeles CA), Jim Thompson (Wilton AL). Clegguart Mitchell (Leon IA) was elected to fill out one remaining year of the term of a Director who had resigned from the Board.

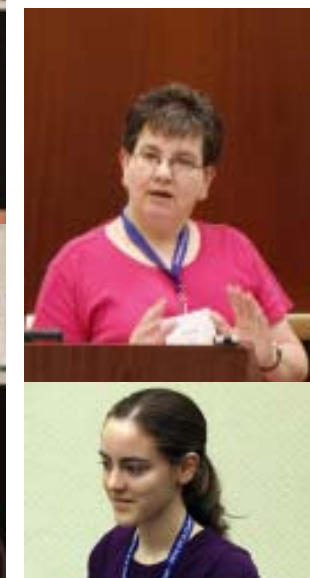
◆ **Dr. Richard Keltner** (Colorado Springs CO) was named the recipient of this year's "Faithful Servant" Award.



◆ An additional 26 **Vision America Churches** were recruited bringing the total number of VA Sponsors to 57 with 11 VA Church Plants **across the country**.

◆ Many thanks to Pastor Gary Gilley and the folks at **Southern View Chapel** for their excellent hospitality as they hosted the Church Extension Conference just prior to the Convention.

Next year's Annual Convention will be in Fort Mitchell KY (Cincinnati Metro Area) on June 23-July 1, 2011. **The Creation Museum** is nearby and would make a wonderful stop for the entire the family!





Vision World

IFCA International Church Planting

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who is “able to give exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us.” (Ephesians 3:20). During the IFCA convention in June eight churches enrolled to be Vision World churches. Please welcome the following to the VW fold: Honesdale Gospel Tabernacle (PA),

Pastor Richard Gregory; Aurora Avenue Bible Church (IA), Pastor Arthur Arnett; Calvary Bible Church (MD), Pastor David Kelley; Mt. Morris Community Church (MI), Pastor Eldon Busenitz; Sherwood Bible Church (MO), Pastor Leonard Hale; Fish Lake Bible Church (MI), Pastor Tom Brondyke; South County Bible Church (MO), Pastor Gary Armstrong; and Salina Bible Church (KS), Pastor Ron David. In early June prior to the Convention, Sunset Bible Church (WA), Pastor Jay Mosser enrolled. This brings to 19 the total number of Vision World Churches. We thank the Lord for this outpouring of commitment to sending workers to the harvest field.

Getting first-term missionaries to the field usually takes a whole lot longer than anticipated. New recruits often spend two to three years doing support-raising activities. Obedience to God’s call to become missionaries raises their expectations of God’s quick provision for their financial needs. The need on the mission field is urgent; but somehow it rarely plays out as the missionary appointees expect. Support-raising soon becomes a long, slow grind. It is not long before they realize that they are way out of their comfort zone and somewhat unprepared for the long haul.

Sending churches almost always have their fingerprints on individuals going to the mission field. They recommend them to a mission board, provide godly counsel and ministry experience, commission them, as well as promise a portion of their financial (Continued on Page 4)

MISUNDERSTANDING THE GREAT COMMISSION

If you go into most evangelical churches and, perhaps, ANY Independent Bible Church you will almost certainly hear a response of at least a few “amens” if you quote the most familiar verse in all the Bible among evangelical Christians: John 3.16.

If you go into most evangelical churches, and perhaps, MANY Independent Bible Churches you will almost certainly see a response of at least a fair amount of blank stares if you were to say that the Great Commission (Matt. 28.19,20) means more than sharing your faith.

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IFCA Military Chaplains Currently on Deployment

- CH Jeff Augustin (US Navy, Iraq)
 - Jeff & Deb Augustin, 127 Wainwrights Bend, Yorktown, VA 23692
- CH John Tarr (US Marines, Afghanistan)
 - John & Jessica Tarr, 175 Los Padres Drive, Oceanside, CA 92058
- CH Ryan Bareng (Marines, deployed at sea in support of combat operations)
 - Ryan & Janette Bareng, 1315 N. Tustin St. Ste- i-399 Orange, CA 92867
- CH Jim Goebel (US Navy, deployed at sea in support of combat operations)
 - Jim & JoAnne Goebel, 4 Kings Landing Lane, Hampton, VA 23669
- CH Mike Coffey (US Army, returning from Iraq)
 - Mike & Laura Coffey, 7215 Ashview Drive, Springfield, VA 22153
- CH Jeremy Morris (US Army, Iraq)
 - Jeremy & Kristi Morris, 15785 104th Ave SE, Yelm WA 98597
- CH Tony Petros (US Army, Afghanistan)
 - Tony & Tricia Petros, 7860 Ancon Dr., Fayetteville NC 28304
- CH Justin Roberts (US Army, Afghanistan),
 - Justin & Megan, 1314B Mississippi Ave, Fort Campbell KY 42223
- CH Tom Searle (US Army, Iraq)
 - Tom & Gayla, 2370 Bent Pine Street, Melbourne, FL 32935
- CH Thi Truong (US Army, Afghanistan)
 - Single
 - TF ODIN / TF Thunder, FOB Bagram, APO AE 09354
- CH Geoff Whitaker (US Army, Iraq)
 - Geoff & Melissa Whitaker, 313 Wiliton Circle/ Winchester, TN 37398
- CH Dan Zulli (USAF, Afghanistan)
 - Dan & Cindy Zulli, 22860 E. Belleview Pl., Aurora CO 80015

The Military chaplains listed on the left are all IFCA men who are currently on deployment in the Middle East. You have an opportunity to be of great encouragement to the families (wives and children) of these men by sending notes/cards of encouragement while their husbands/fathers are far from home and exposed to the dangers of a war-zone. In addition, it is likely that you can communicate with these Chaplains through their families. Please take advantage of this information, sharing it with others in the church you attend and encouraging them to pray for and encourage these folks who are making a tremendous sacrifice in order to minister the Gospel and grace of Christ to our nation's men and women in the armed forces.

Misunderstanding (Cont)

The Great Commission will not be fulfilled unless there is a significant change in our understanding of what the Great Commission really entails, on the part of pulpit and the pew.

It is true that many in the pew do not understand that the word “go” actually means “as you are going” and thus places the emphasis not on the act of going, but on the act of *fulfilling* the Great Commission. I recently installed a Google application on my new Droid cell phone called “Latitude”. Using it, one is able to “check in” to the various places at which one stops during the day to day routine of going from one place to the next. That information is then shared, real time, with whomever the user would like to share it with. My son can now view on his phone a map that shows where his Dad currently is and where he has been while going from place to place each day. We are ALL “going” one place or another almost continuously. The Great Commission is not accomplished by “going”. It is accomplished **while** “going”. In other words, there is “something” about the Great Commission that is to be a natural part of our everyday routine in life.

But an even greater issue is the existing misunderstanding of what that “something” is. Most believers would avidly agree that the Great Commission involves sharing one’s faith with unbelievers. I would certainly agree that it “starts” there but the text would clearly demonstrate that by no stretch of the imagination does the Great Commission end when someone comes to faith in Christ. The text says that, in fulfillment of the Great Commission, we are to make disciples. We are to baptize new believers and we are to teach them. We have not made disciples, and therefore have not fulfilled the Great Commission, until we have, “baptized”, and “taught”.

The fact is that we are failing as Great Commission churches because we aren’t fulfilling the Great Commission. We may be winning people to Christ in some cases and we thank God for that. Most of our churches are woefully unproductive in that effort, however. But even in winning people to Christ we are not making disciples. Discipleship is regarded as an option by most new believers and it is the fault of the local church that this is so. They fail to become disciples because we fail to make them so. And thus we fail to fulfill the Great Commission.

We have totally misunderstood the Great Commission if we regard it as something that pertains only to non-believers. Certainly it starts there as we share our faith while going from place to place in the normal routine of life and seeing fruit from those efforts ... but it goes much further. The latter part of this passage in Matthew 28 has to do with believers ... new believers. We baptize believers. We are to teach Christians all that Christ has commanded us. The Great Commission is for us. It tells us to share our faith, to guide new believers in the first step of obedience through their identification with Christ in baptism. It tells us to disciple/teach them ... Christians.

A proper understanding of this passage in its entirety will revolutionize the ministry of the local church and of the individual believer. Can you not agree that it would cause us to be more diligent in reaching people ... and teaching people? If we let the text speak for itself and motivate our response we would not only spend more time telling the unsaved about the Gospel, but we would spend more time telling Christians what it means to be Christians.

The Great Commission is for Christians from beginning to end. We do it, the church, and fellow believers a great disservice when we forget that.

How Can They Believe In Him of Whom They Have Not Heard?
- Romans 10.14



Vision World (Cont.)

support. They believe that raising personal support is just that – a personal responsibility. Historically most churches have had a hands-off attitude when it comes to support-raising. Yes, they pray and obligate themselves for some financial support, but beyond that there is little involvement. It is thought that completion of support-raising is the final proof of God’s call to missionary service.

Most churches cannot underwrite all of a missionary’s financial needs, so help is needed from other churches and individual contacts. But change is in the air. Sending churches are becoming proactive in support-raising for new missionaries (Colossians 1:7, 8). Churches are sensing their need to take ownership of these support-raising activities. When sending churches are willing to step up to the plate, a whole new dynamic is unleashed. Church leaders are coming alongside the new recruits and are contributing more than just prayer. New missionaries have the potential to arrive on the field much sooner when their sending church is involved.

A variety of creative techniques are emerging. One rural sending-church pastor told me that he considered himself the missionary appointees’ agent. He worked tirelessly to get meetings and exposure in other churches. This pastor took ownership! His goal was to get them to the field as soon as possible. It is not surprising that he saw his missionaries leave for language school fully supported in less than a year and a half. Yes, it can be done, but church leaders must be proactive and work alongside the missionaries they are sending out (Titus 3:1).