

Official Publication of the International Ministerial Association, Inc.

GENERAL BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dr. Timothy Warner

GENERAL BOARD

Rev. Virgil Amundson
Rev. Ken Benson
Rev. David Cook
Rev. George Dudley
Rev. Charles Garner
Rev. Daniel Hernandez
Rev. Phil Thompson
Dr. Rick VanHoose

DISTRICT

Rev. Wayne Beadles, SC
Rev. Joseph Campbell, MC
Rev. Regan Myers, NC
Rev. Willis Devine, NW
Rev. James Heard, NEng
Rev. James Hightower, EC
Rev. Wayne Mays, MS
Rev. Miguel Mazariegos, L
Rev. L.J. Pennington, FL
Rev. Don Smith, C
Rev. William Wilson, W

THIS MONTH



"He has risen,
he is not here.
See the place where
they laid him!"
Mark 16:6

Never Stop Sowing

By Pastor Virgil Amundson
Shell Lake Full Gospel Church, Wisconsin
IMA National Board Member



The fear and concern over the uncertainty of this nation's financial crisis has become a crisis of its own. People are looking everywhere to find someone they can trust and for a safe place to invest. In a paralyzed economy everyone searches for ways to cut back spending in order to make ends meet. The younger generation of families are now on a major learning curve because there will not be any quick or easy solution to a stable and prosperous economy.

GOD'S WISDOM

Ecclesiastes 7:12 (NLT) says, "Wisdom or money can get you almost anything, but it is important to know that only wisdom can save your life." There is still something that we can do to ease the pain of this present crisis to assure a secure and promising future. Wisdom teaches us to rely upon God's word at all times.

GOD'S WORD

In Matthew 6:20 Jesus says, "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves (crooked money managers) do not break through or steal."

During our missionary conference in October I received a phone call from a friend of mine in Florida. He was concerned that the stock market which had been drastically declining was going to eat up a good share of his retirement. My friend is a man who understands God's principles concerning sowing and reaping. He said that he needed to sow \$10,000 into our conference so at least he would not lose on that investment. What an example of trusting God's Word!

It certainly looks like God's financial forecast to invest money into earthly investments right now is a "bear market" for sure. I am convinced that God is unreservedly "bullish" about this being a great time to invest in heaven's priorities where every market indicator is eternally positive. It is not time for God's people to refrain from sowing or investing into the work of God's Kingdom. If we observe the wind of negativity, we will not sow. If we give our attention to threatening clouds, we will not reap. (Ecc. 11:4) This is the perfect time for both sowing and reaping.

THREE THINGS TO SOW NOW

There are three investments that we can make to assure growth and eternal results:

Number one is to sow the seed of God's Word. There is good ground ready to receive the seed from God's Word. Remember that the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto leaven. We must share those things that will influence people to grow in faith and knowledge of the Lord.

Number two is to keep sowing financial seed. Keep casting your bread upon the waters – it will return back again! Fourteen years ago we sent a family to China where they still serve as missionaries. The couple had three young daughters who went with them. Two weeks prior to our Missions Conference in October, one of the daughters, now grown, sent a check for our missionaries in the amount of \$15,000.00 She has a business in Beijing and sent the check from there because she was grateful to the church for raising the funds for her parents to go. God gave us a return on that investment 14 years later.

Number three is to sow the seed of yourself. Jesus said, "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom." God has sown us as servant ambassadors to love and care for everyone in need. Volunteer, assist, be available, encourage. This is the time to give yourself to be kind, gracious, loving, and generous. It will come back to you! Never stop sowing!!

"Providing today's ministers the freedom they want and the fellowship"



Chairman's Corner

The IMA and Christ's Resurrection!

Normally, I try to address issues that face the beloved constituents of the IMA. Sometimes the Lord gives me prophetic insight that will stimulate our ministers to greater love and good works (Heb 10:24). This month, however, I would like to concentrate on a seasonal subject that hopefully affects each reader in a very personal way. My objective is to give you a "mixed bag" of essential biblical truths that will equip you in your ministry for the Lord over this Easter holiday season.

Resurrection Life: The greatest principle in the Bible comes directly from the most colossal act in biblical history; i.e. the resurrection of God's Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead. The Gospel narratives witness to God raising Christ from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Epistles further crown this act as the "exertion" of God's power in order to give salvation full and free resulting in eternal life for all who believe this record. The resurrection of Christ has been exerted by God Himself to reveal His authority over every power on earth, including death itself! (Eph 1:19-20).

Resurrection Hope: Not only does the resurrection of Christ give life to believers, but also hope to hopeless situations. As ministers of the Gospel of Christ, we are often brought into circumstances where Christ's resurrection power needs to be applied by faith to give new hope. This includes broken relationships; diseased bodies; ill will in families or churches; Doubting Toms; and interpersonal conflicts amongst people. Christ's resurrection is not a mere statement that "Everything will be OK"; No, Christ being raised from the dead gives us the power to defy the powers that be and offers hope to victims ravaged by sin. My pastor taught me that hope is *the unwavering, constant expectation of GOOD!* The Resurrection says:

- ◆ To the discouraged saint; He's Alive-
- ◆ To the church that's floundering; He's Alive;
- ◆ To the disparaged preacher; He's Alive-
- ◆ To the parent of the prodigal; He's Alive;
- ◆ To the soul who suffered loss; He's Alive-
- ◆ To the struggler of sexual sin; He's Alive;



Resurrection and the IMA: God has recently breathed His resurrection power into the IMA through prophetic words and revelation of the Spirit. I've personally spoken with people who have said they were discouraged in their ministries, but they received in effect, **resurrection power** at one of our national or district meetings. Others who heard of the fresh working of the Holy Spirit among us have restructured their strategy of ministry according to the prophetic utterances spoken over the IMA as a whole. God says: "It's a New Day for the IMA!" This means resurrection life is available to every member of the IMA. Further, it means that "business" does not have to go on "as usual." Positive changes and great provision are on their way from the Throne of God!



Having just spoken by phone to a member of the IMA, without pressure, he affirmed this very truth. He said, *The IMA is a Godsend; and direct answer to our prayers. We were on an island and lacking fellowship and support. The IMA, however, has given us exceptional fellowship; life-giving and life-saving fellowship; it's what we needed and wanted and more...* Let's face it; these are trying times and the devil seeks to separate us from our beloved brethren. We need Christ's resurrection power at work in our ministries, fields of service and amongst our churches! We must "stand together or fall apart!"

Resurrection ministers: Paul claimed the message he delivered amongst the churches which he associated was nothing less than "life-giving" (1 Cor 15:45)! We should not serve God in the "oldness of the letter, but in the newness of life" (Ro 7:6, etc), says the same apostle. This resurrection power makes us "able ministers of the new covenant!" (2 Cor 3:6). Draw near to the One who is LIFE, share that life with the IMA brethren; let it spill over with life-giving power to all whom you come in contact. May the hallmark of the IMA not be that we are a dead organization or disjointed body; rather a Spirit-anointed, life-giving, well-connected fellowship ministers on the move! Ministers on the move; now there's a good thought. More on this next month!





IMA WORLD MISSIONS

NEWS FROM BANGLADESH

VESSELS OF MERCY Rev. Bob & Evelyn McCoy

One of the countries we have been in this month is the country of **Bangladesh**. Imagine 1/2 the population of the United States living in an area about the size of Iowa and you start to get an idea of how many people are competing for food and space. It is over 98% Muslim and Hindu, and it is one of the poorest nations on earth.

Our primary involvement there is building schools in rural areas that are used as churches on Sunday. These are locations that would usually never be open to allowing a Christian church. By meeting a desperate need in their children, their lives are touched, hearts are opened to the Gospel and many are coming to Christ.



While there, we were able to visit two schools in the South that have been recently completed and are operating schools and churches. We also went to a piece of land where construction will begin this month on the eight school we have had and opportunity to fund in this country. Your support makes this [possible].

These people live near the edge of the Sundarban jungle which is the home of the Bengal tiger. They are considered "low caste" and the average person makes about 70 cents a day. Many of the adults here have never received an education.

In a time in our country (USA) when many investments are being lost, even a small investment can start a pig project and two pigs can be a family's ongoing source of income and impact them for years to come. A child's Bible can be purchased in their language for as little as \$2.50. The opportunities to impact this nation for Christ area are as vast as it's 125 million people.



Dr. Paul W. Todd, Administrator

THE HOME OFFICE

ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE WORD PHRASE "Brain Trust"? According to GOOGLE, Brain Trust was a group of close advisers to Franklin Delano Roosevelt when he was governor of New York state and during his first years as President. The name was applied to them because the members of the group were drawn from academic life. The group later expanded to include many more academicians. It soon disintegrated, but the term has remained in common usage for similar groups. Wikipedia wrote that, "More recently the use of the term has expanded to encompass any group of advisers to a decision maker, whether or not in politics."


Recently I received an email from a pastor in the IMA with an inquiry about resources available through the IMA pertaining to church growth. I emailed him back explaining that many ministry questions are addressed at the National Conference as well as at the District Conference. These meetings are an opportunity for sharing with other ministers our concerns and experience.

I also replied that the IMA has a "Brain Trust" of ministers with expertise in every field of ministry. There are IMA ministers who have a virtual wealth of ministry knowledge that would be anxious to share with other ministers who are willing to listen and learn. Some of these ministers are retired and others are still active, with many of them right in your town or community. As they say, "been there done that." They have the knowledge and wisdom to help you deal with the situation. They are a Brain Trust waiting offer advice and counsel.

I was aware of a pastor here in Florida that had been blessed with a growing church. In my reply email I shared this idea with the inquiring pastor and told him about this fine pastor. He was delighted. I became the "go-between." With a couple of phone calls from this office they finally talked together. The inquiring pastor sent me another email thanking us for the help and that he received some valuable information. They probably developed a friendship that will be ongoing.

IMA ministers can utilize the IMA Brain Trust by contacting your District Chairman. Ask him to put you together with someone in your district that can give you advise. The District Chairman usually knows the ministers in the district along with their expertise and experience. Ministers are busy people but most will take time to help their fellow ministers in the IMA.

*He is
Risen!*



**I
N
T
E
R
N
A
T
I
O
N
A
L
M
E
M
O
R
Y**

Pastor Marvin Mayfield, Metro Christian Outreach, Marietta Georgia went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, February 14, 2009, after an extended illness. We send our deepest sympathies to his wife Mary, and the family. The funeral was officiated by IMA Mid-South District Chairman Wayne Mays, Rev. Joey Motts and Dr. Kim Kelly on February 20, 2009. Pastor Mayfield was a minister for 27 years and was the pastor of Metro Christian Outreach for 11 years. He served on the Mid-South District Board. He was a member of the IMA for 16 years.

Pastor Lewis Rogers, House of Prayer, Panama City, Florida 32401, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at his home. He was preceded in death by his wife Wilma. He is survived by his present wife Nancy and his daughter Lunell Clark. He was 90 years old. Bro. Rogers founded and was the pastor of House of Prayer, for 51 years. He was a member of the IMA for 46 of those years. Bro. Rogers was the brother-in-law of the late Pastor Edgar Hudson of Tampa, Florida. Information and Obituary along with a memorial video is posted at www.wilsonfuneralhome.net. We send our deepest sympathies to the family and the church.



Rev. James W. Welzbacher, Visalia, California, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, March 13, 2009. We have been announcing his condition since his tragic fall in December 2008 and asking for prayer. Through the power of prayer he lived longer than expected. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Marian and the family. He is the uncle of National Board Member, Rev. Charles Garner. Rev. Welzbacher was a retired pastor. He was a member of the IMA for 28 years.

MID-CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

JUNE 15 - 17, 2009

First Pentecostal Church
1602 29th Street North, Texas City, TX 77590
Pastor: Rev. Geneva Maris Phone: 409-945-4633
Guest Speaker: Pastor Mike McCord
District Chairman: Rev. Joe Campbell
Phone: (H) 972-617-3373 (W) 214-330-4700



COFFEE CUP CORNER — From Pastor Slinger

When the couple's five-year-old daughter, Kelli, said her prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend and every pet, both current and past. For several weeks after the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "All Girls." It soon became her nightly routine and she included this closing in every night time prayer. Finally curiosity got the best of the parents and they asked her why she always added the part about all girls. Kelli explained to her parents that everyone else finishes their prayers by saying "All Men" and she didn't want the girls to feel left out!

INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

5201 W. Homosassa Trail
 Lecanto, FL 34461-9117

Phone (352) 628-5198 ■ Fax (352) 628-5195
 Email: imahdq@aol.com ■ Web: Interma.net

EDITOR

Rev. Paul Todd

The views expressed in the Herald Newsletters do not necessarily reflect the consensus of IMA members