

Official Publication of the International Ministerial Association, Inc.

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The prophet Habakkuk saw a vision that would far outlast his generation and reach into the next. Verse 3 goes on to say, **“For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry” (Hab 2:3).** Vision of the godly sort must outlive us and touch (at minimum) the youth of the coming age. IMA ministers need to grasp this point of our vision. Please prayerfully read the following points and ask the Holy Spirit as how you can personally respond.

### **GOD IS STILL CALLING; PARENTS/STUDENTS TO VIE PROSPERITY**

God has, is presently, and will always be calling people into the service of the Lord. Please carefully consider this point. Having just spoken to an academic dean at a USA based Bible College on the subject at hand; here’s a true scenario which he described: *A young man receives a call to the ministry. He contacts a bible college. Upon further contact, the dean speaks with the parents. The father says: “My son is not going to Bible College; he’s going into engineering. The job market is much more secure there!”* This story is not uncommon. In fact, most Christian parents now look for job security on top of the will of God; it’s career above calling; secular degree over sacred destiny; and money over mantle.



I inquired of youth in our area regarding God’s call to ministry and why their generation is seemingly not responding. Here’s what I found. One young man told me that the [Christian] university he attends tells them, *there’s enough pastors, churches, and ministries; you need to find a [secular] vocation and shine as a light there, reaching out to those in your sphere of influence.* Another comment was, *it’s too scary to become a minister; if I’ll be judged for my thoughts and actions in my [secular] vocation, why would I want to get in the realm where God and people will judge me on an even higher*

*scale?* Still another (girl) stated *that the consensus amongst most (college age) youth is that there is so much uncertainty in the world that they are better off to get a degree and stay in a career that is less stressful and more secure.* Wow; was I taken back! How about you?

### **SEASONED MINISTERS MUST SPOT THOSE WITH POTENTIAL**

Be it as it may with parents, students, and youth in today’s culture. Let’s face it; our worldview is warped and we must break a worldly and dangerous mentality. We’ve bought into the beast system and it’s time we do something about it. Ministers who are called by God and functioning in the ministry have a vantage point, however, to see those (young people) with potential. Moses saw Joshua; Elijah spotted Elisha; and Paul recognized the potential in Timothy. Each of these mentors both valued and invested into the succeeding generation. God will place young men and women in our churches, missions, or communities of faith who are called, but won’t necessarily know what to do with their calling. That’s where you come in minister of God! He wants to you be a mentor and find a protégé. Mostly, it takes a minister of maturity to spot a minister-in-the-making. Ask the Lord to help you see an arising servant “Samuel” or talented “Timothy” today.



### **MINISTERS HAVE GOT TO SEE THEMSELVES AS RECRUITERS**

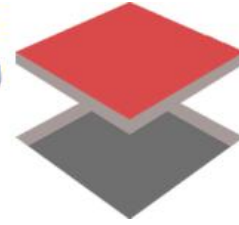
Not only must we see potential, we must go the next step, be mentors, and make disciples [of Christ]. This is where ministers are made! Somebody saw you; then helped to get you where you are today. Fathers of the faith are needed; mothers in Israel must arise and sow seed to the next generation. Here’s where the IMA can help. Part of our vision is to reach our youth, raise up “Timothies” and equip younger ministers to effectively serve Christ in the coming generation. National and District gatherings are designed to encourage the calling and development of our younger ministers to reach their potential. Remember, “The vision is for an appointed time” and now is that time!

**“Providing today’s ministers the freedom they want and the fellowship they need.”**



Dr. Tim Warner

# CHAIRMAN'S Corner



## IMA: RAM Tough for a New Year!

I will stand my watch and set myself...to see what He will say to me...Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it. Hab 2:1- 2 NKJV

### VISION



"Without a vision the people perish!" thunders the wise man Solomon realizing that we must have fresh vision from God if we are to avoid the snares of death. Every life, church, and ministry needs to have fresh vision and direction to make it truly prosper. I take my cues from Habakkuk when he says he would set himself in a position to hear what God has to say for the next season of ministry. He knew he had to have the Spirit of the Lord move upon his heart and give new revelation into his spirit in order to properly lead the people of God. For us, it is the challenge to motivate people in the New Year before us, to follow Christ more fervently in a corrupting culture. It is vital we who "bear the burden of the Lord" in ministry have fresh manna from heaven, especially as it has to do with imparting vision to our church leaders, those we mentor, our peers, and the congregation of the Lord.

It's not that we have to come up with brand new concepts and platitudes that have never been heard of before, nor is it that the pastor, head of ministry, or CEO of a Christian organization has to be the person who "creates" new vision. On the contrary, the true minister of God receives fresh energy and insight as to what the Lord is saying, but God can give abundant resources to equip His ministers to lead the people of God in a variety of ways. Not every leader is a visionary and in reality the leader's job is more to speak, write, help people understand and carry out the vision. Ezra Earl Jones says: *Leaders do not have to be the greatest visionaries themselves. The vision may come from anyone. The leaders do have to state the vision, however. Leaders also have to keep the vision before the people and remind them of the progress that is being made to achieve the vision. Otherwise, the people might assume that they are failing and give up.*



With that thought in mind, let's consider renewed vision for the IMA. Our last conference theme (2010) was: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS! We had designated speakers who emphasized the RELATIONAL, ACTIONAL, and the MISSIONAL Church. God gave us those three words and challenged us to be an association of ministers who would be **RAM TOUGH** amidst a "crooked and perverse generation" (Phil 2:15).

## *"Renewed Vision For the IMA"*



Truly, we as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, must not just be strong, but should also follow the model of Christ Himself. Jesus, while in His earthly ministry, was indeed **relational** with His disciples, **actional** in reaching out to others, and **missional** in His thrust of ministry. John 13 tells the story. First, Christ showed Himself *relational*, for it says that Christ loved His own "unto the end" (V.1). He then modeled what we are calling *actional* ministry by "taking the towel and washing their feet" (V.5). Finally, He challenged them to be *missional* by giving them a living example to do as He had done (Vv.13-15) in their future ministries. Our **challenge for the IMA** in the New Year is to be:

1. **RELATIONAL**- love fervently, pray for one another, make a call, send an email, visit a member;
2. **ACTIONAL**- be proactive with the IMA, write an article, attend a conference, encourage, serve;
3. **MISSIONAL**- support IMA missions, help a struggling member, team up, network, preach, go!



# THE HOME OFFICE

## HERALD ARTICLES

I have received several emails and phone calls from IMA members in regard to submitting articles for the Herald Newsletter. My response is, "I would be delighted to have your article." Then I go on to explain what is helpful and the constraints of space in a newsletter. Newsletters are not like magazines or newspapers. Our newsletter is designed to be read quickly with information and inspiration for IMA members and others who receive it. 1. The articles need to be short. 2. Email is the best way to submit an article by attaching the file. 3. You can send your picture in a jpeg. file to go with the article. Small group pictures are good too. 4. Send articles anytime and unless they are dated I will archive them for future use.



## DISTRICT NEWS ARTICLES

New England District Chairman Pastor James Heard has submitted two recent reports on district activities. This lets the membership know what the district is doing or is going to do. This includes the District Conference, dinners, fellowships and etc. Send a report.

## FRONT PAGE ARTICLES

These are inspirational articles. You might call them "sermon starters". I usually advise writers not to use a lot of scripture verses in the article. The writer can give the scripture reference, then write your commentary or ideas about the text. If you have points to make, list them and briefly describe your position. The idea being that a preacher could grasp the concept and develop a complete sermon based on the article.

If the inspirational article doesn't work for the front page then I can use it elsewhere in the newsletter. Try to get the grammar right. We read it over for errors but even then a few minor (OK sometimes major) mistakes slip by. No one is perfect. We don't expect to get a Pulitzer Prize but we do want to catch the blunders. I am the editor, the publisher and in charge of circulation. So its easy to miss something.



## TIME SENSITIVE

The Herald Newsletter is always prepared a month in advance. I usually begin compiling the content during the second week of the month. For instance: This newsletter was prepared in December 2010 for January 2011. Any announcements should be sent two or three months in advance. The sooner I receive items the better.

## WORLD MISSIONS Newsletter Excerpts



## MEXICO

Rev. Nathan & Kim Thompson

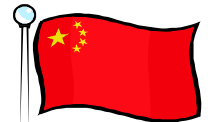


We give praise for the "Statewide Day of Prayer." The Pastors' Alliance of San Luis Potosi organized this event so that the whole state could come together and pray for safety and for the 9 states that surround ours. We joined forces with over 5,000 fellow believers in one of the main plazas (squares) downtown and enjoyed times of worship and prayer. We were honored with the presence of the military and police forces and had the privilege of praying for them. Thirty six pastors participated. It was definitely a turning point for the state of San Luis Potosi.

More exciting news is that the church has outgrown the building where we have been celebrating for the last 6 years! God has been so faithful and we have found a new building that is 3 times the size of the building that we have been using. The new building will seat more than 1,300. Sunday, November 28, was our last service and we celebrated after the service by having our congregation help dismantle and begin moving everything. We are working on accommodating and preparing the new building for the next Sunday service.

## CHINA

Rev. Tim & JoAnn Bauer



## A WIDE DOOR FOR EFFECTIVE WORK HAS OPENED... I Cor. 16:9a

GOD has opened this wide door and allowed us the privilege to partner with Him in China. It's been a joy to invest ourselves into the lives of these dear eager Chinese believers. This is what we have done in recent years through our Mission Discipleship Schools:

- Laying a Biblical foundation of Sonship in their lives and dispelling the enemies lies against His character.
- Awakening them (as sons) to receive their inheritance "among the nations". Yes, that Jesus has blessed them to be a blessing to the peoples of China, Asia and the world.

Now in 2011 along with these schools other opportunities have opened to us.

- Teaching young leaders at Gateway Missions Equipping workshops in Hong Kong and throughout cities in China (begins in January).
- Helping lead our summer Gateway Gathering in Hong Kong and the sending out of hundreds of Chinese in short-term missions. This is the beginning...

# Church Tax Compliance



Angie Childers, Executive Director/Treasurer, The Cathedral, Evansville, Indiana

In my last article, I mentioned that I was on my way to Los Angeles to attend my first seminar hosted by the IRS. I found this to be an interesting and very enlightening experience. The first enlightening experience was that I discovered I was in way over my head! Even with the knowledge I have gained over the years of studying the tax laws, it was difficult to follow the fast talking, regulation quoting panelists! I definitely recommend attending an IRS small workshop instead of the larger seminars, especially for your first time. However, I did manage to learn some new and helpful information. The 2010-11 990 form has received a facelift from the IRS, bringing many new changes. If you have a personal ministry exemption, go to the IRS website, or better, have your accountant or tax professional check out the information. On their website, you can also learn of the criteria for a ministry to file the 990 EZ, which is much easier to complete and file. This is really the preferred filing by the IRS for non-profits.

For now, churches do not have to complete and file a Form 990, (you should be praising the Lord for this!), but there has been some talk by the IRS that in the future they may require the church to do this filing. Also, after checking with the IMA Home Office, I found out that the IMA is not required to file a 990 for their group exemption. However certain income unrelated to church purposes must be reported on Form 990-T. See IRS Publication 1828 Page 16-17 for further information.

In the New Year, I will be writing about other new information I have learned so stay tuned! Wishing you a blessed and Happy New Year!

**P.S.** Just a side note. I encountered another interesting and enlightening experience at the Conference. I met some of the Chilean miners and their families. They were staying at my hotel and on my floor! None of them spoke English except for the miner who sung in English by the way of Elvis tunes. I was so involved with IRS regulations that I didn't even know who they were for a couple of days, but I did try to communicate with them in the elevator. Every time the Elvis impersonator would just burst into song!



## COFFEE CUP CORNER

*From St. John The Beloved, contributing author*

“So the Lord sent the prophet to tell this story...” (2 Sam 12:1) NLT

*Somebody wants to leave the church and what; who...?*

“Pastor, can you help me, someone wants to get off the membership roll at the church she attends and I’m not sure how to advise my friend.” “OK” said the pastor, “Tell me more about the situation.” “You see, I’m friends with this lady in town and she’s a pastor’s wife and wants to write a letter to be officially removed from the membership of the church where her husband serves as pastor.” “Why does she want to be removed from the membership?” asked the pastor, “She says the pastor doesn’t pay much attention to her, puts her down in public, he’s often out fishing or off doing his own thing apart from the family, and his sermons...well, they leave a lot to be desired.” “If the guy is that big of a jerk maybe she should leave the church” grumbled the pastor. “But you didn’t let me finish” said she; “Your wife is my friend and you’re the pastor!” The pastor sheepishly replied, “Oh, that’s different’.

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