

Official Publication of the International Ministerial Association, Inc.

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VISION CASTING 2012



When there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but the one who keeps the law, blessed is he! (Prov 29:18)



IMA CHAIRMAN
 Dr. Tim Warner

Greetings and welcome to a brand new year. Ready or not, here we go! The time has come and vision must be cast for those we lead. **Vision should be given to the people of God through established ministers of God to ensure that the work of God is completed.** Components such as clarity, conciseness and calling make for palatability for adherents of our message to understand. You need to ask yourself, “Do the people God has called me to lead comprehend the call for this assembly or mission?” Remember the words of Habakkuk (2:2-3): **Write the vision down; Make the vision clear; Be sure everyone understands it!**

PERSONAL VISION



Vision starts with you! You must find out precisely what God has called you to do. **You need to analyze your gift mix, temperament, passion and irritations.** (A seasoned minister can help you with this). Sometimes reflection, alone-time or apprising forward progress with a group can determine this kind of vision. For example, there are four areas of ministry that define my wife (Sandy) and I and our ministerial calling. They are: Christian Education, Local Church Ministry, Foreign Mission Involvement and Leadership Development. As I look back, that is not only our calling, but also propels us to design vision for our future. What specifically has God called you to do? What are your strengths? What do you simply “love” to do? Now, you’re on the right path for vision casting.

CHURCH, MINISTRY OR GROUP VISION

Next, is foresight for the group or ministry to which God has called you. Mark this down: **God has specific vision for your church or mission!** You need interaction with the Holy Spirit here. You may ask God in prayer, “What is the Spirit saying to this group” (Rev 2:7, 11)? Pray for “ears to hear” the answer. Realize that the answer will be consistent with Scripture and will draw your group into greater and more effective service for Christ. Also, you must have your “ear to the ground” and listen to those in the group that are sensitive to the Holy Spirit and have a heart for the kingdom of God. Be especially attentive in conversations and ask spiritual authorities about vision (Heb 13:7). In the context of the local church the pastoral staff and elders can be of great benefit. People must have vision!

VISION FOR THE IMA

Last, but not least is ministerial vision. Because the IMA is a part of your church and ministry, **you can receive input and inspiration for your ministry from the members, leaders and vision of this great Association.** Remember, ministeriums such as the IMA have three living dynamics related to vision: **Values** (unchangeable calling); **Virtues** (increasing services offered); **Venues** (the varied manner in which you present vision). After much prayer, input from the National Board, interviews from those who were there at the IMA’s founding meeting and listening to the Holy Spirit’s active call upon us today, the vision is clear. **The IMA has RAM Force: God has called us to be a Relational (God’s love in fellowship), Actional (God’s work in unity) and Missional (God’s heart to all people groups) coalition of ministers to stand for and promote biblical truth locally, nationally and internationally.** Every member is to be an active member! All ministries are vital for the Kingdom. Each one of us are called, anointed and equipped to serve the Lord in excellence and humility. Together, we the IMA are a RAM force to confront the darkness and light the way! It’s time to cast vision!



Mission: To give ministers RAM Force Power: IMA is a Relational (fellowship), Actional (Every member active), and Missional (Reaching beyond ourselves) Association!



THE HOME OFFICE

Dr. Paul W. Todd, Administrator

IMA POLICY

WHAT IS THE IMA POLICY CONCERNING ORDINATION ?

This question has been asked so much recently that I thought it would be good to explain and clarify the IMA position.

First, in my opinion, ordination is not something to be taken lightly. The IMA makes a licensing distinction between those who are ordained and those who are not. Most of the ministers who are licensed in the IMA are ordained. The Federal Tax Code recognizes ministers who are ordained, commissioned or licensed.

It is important that the IMA be able to substantiate that ordained ministers are indeed ordained with proper credentials and documentation. The IMA Policy in regard to ordinations is in Section E.1b of the IMA *Policy and Procedures* manual. The requirements are basically condensed to this.

1. **NEW MEMBERS:** The documentation for date, time, place and who officiated is presented with the new application. This goes into the record attached to the application for future reference.

2. **CURRENT MEMBERS:** Usually this is a minister at the Ministerial Licensed level. First, it must be determined if the member wants an IMA ordination. If so, there is an application that can be obtained from the Home Office and submitted to the District Chairman. Then the time, place and procedure is decided.

We prefer that current IMA members who desire to be ordained, be ordained in a IMA official ordination ceremony. As often as possible we want them to be ordained in a church that has an IMA pastor.

In order for the ordination to be an IMA Ordination there must be an IMA Official, either district or national, at the ceremony. The IMA official does not have to conduct the ceremony.

There will be an increase in membership dues that must accompany the completed application. When the Home Office receives the application after the ceremony an updated certificate and membership card will be sent.

This IMA Ordination Certificate is not affected by membership in the IMA. Unless circumstances dictate otherwise the IMA Ordination will always be valid.

Ordination has gone from recognizing someone as worthy of ministry, to making some worthy. That is; ordination is the validation of the candidate as worthy to perform the duties of the office. Ordination places the ordained minister at a new higher level of Ordained Minister now equal to other ordained ministers. For that reason ordination should be bestowed with divine guidance.

Presenting



Dr. Russell & Lana Frase

The Frases have just recently qualified to become IMA supported missionaries. Dr. Russ & Lana Frase have been married and in the ministry for over 41 years. They have planted churches and established schools throughout the US and other nations. Russ conducts leadership conferences, trains pastors, and leaders to establish Bible Training centers.

- 2 children and 3 grandchildren
- BA, Purdue University
- M. DIV, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
- D. MIN, Luther Rice Seminary
- Pastored 23 years in Texas, Indiana and Colorado
- Established Christian Schools
- Dean of Rocky Mountain Bible Institute for 14 Years
- Former Nat'l Chairman of the International Accreditations Association
- Hosted TBN and Daystar Television

Their call to missions has developed over many years. While serving in the ministry domestically in the US for over 40 years, their family has served both in missions and as missionaries. When the Lord called them to full-time missions work throughout the world, they founded Joshua Nations with no idea of the incredible influence with which God was entrusting them with.

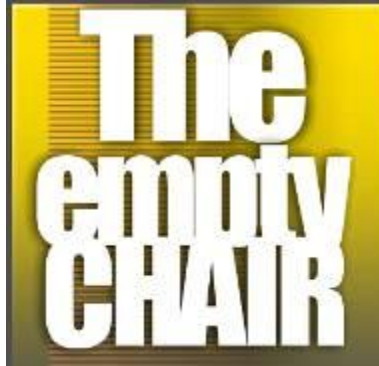
They began to experience explosive growth around the world through the Bible Training Centers. Soon they realized the need to develop a comprehensive, yet basic, infrastructure on both a global and national scale that could sustain the present rate of growth, as well as consistently imparting it to others.

Immediately they began to train and equip a Global Leadership Team with the tools for long-term growth. These tools include Curriculum, Strategic Planning, Structure, Financial Models, and most importantly, the motivation and passion to seek and save the lost. The results have been nothing less than an enormous and miraculous move of God!

The IMA is blessed to have missionaries like Bro. & Sis. Frase ministering around the world taking the gospel to the nations.



MISSIONARIES



By GUEST WRITER

Dr. Al M. Reimer

**Author, Former Professor of
Biblical and Church Studies,
International Bible College,
San Antonio, Texas**

Walking into a Jewish gift shop one day, my wife and I became involved in a good conversation with the owner and his wife, whom we had met on earlier visits there. Our conversation revolved around the Bible, God, and Israel and, after exchanging individual views and thoughts, he asked me to come to his book loft, wanting to show me something. As we walked past the numerous displays of Old Testaments, Torahs, and other related things, we also discussed various matters relating to the Scriptures. Rounding a corner, he stopped me and said, "My friend, see that chair over there? Our rabbis remind us that whenever two persons walk together and talk about our God, He walks alongside and smiles as He listens. Friend, you and I have talked about God and His Book, He is glad and I believe He is sitting in that chair that looks empty, listening to us and He is smiling?" I have carried that thought with me continuously.

A few years earlier, my wife and I walked into our church one Sunday for services. When our pastor got up to preach, he pointed to an empty chair on the platform that was situated against the wall. "The chair you see here on the platform," he said, "is for a guest who is with us today. He has been here often before but you may have missed him. Our guest is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ who has promised to meet with us whenever we meet together in services like this. I put that chair there, though seemingly empty, so we would all be aware of our Lord's presence here, even though we are unable to see Him."

Several days after my wife was called home to be with her Lord, I stopped in at a Christian Book Store to purchase some "Thank You" cards. Passing one of the displays on my way, I noticed a plaque that caught my attention and that tugged at my emotions. It read: →

In the den where my wife and I used to sit evenings and other times to read our Bibles and discuss the events of the day and other things, I still sit in one of the two recliners for evening relaxation and personal morning devotions. Sometimes, unplanned naps take place for a brief period and, when I awake, I still expect to see her sitting in the other chair – but to no avail. At first it bothered me emotionally, until one day it was changed. As I sat and thought of her, of God's ways, and of the plaque hanging on the wall, I remembered my encounter with my Jewish friend. Now, when I nap and wake, or have finished my morning devotional time, I turn to the seemingly empty recliner and say, "Thank you, Lord, for taking time to sit in that, empty " chair with me".

The Empty Chair

*Time cannot heal the emptiness
Nor fill the empty chair,
The one that's in the family room;
I see it empty there.
Or the chair that's at the table
Where together we would dine.
Although I sit there still,
The only hands that pray are mine.
Still, I give thanks to God each day,
I pray this prayer comes true:
You save an empty chair for me
When I come home to you.*

(Author Unknown)

And then, I can sense His warming, encouraging smile for me today. His promise is: "I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you to the end of the age"

Church Tax Compliance



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

Year-End CLOSE-OUT

Now is a good time to clean out your files and records to make room for the New Year's paperwork. I'm sure you know to keep contribution records, including envelopes, for seven (7) years. If your contribution records are on your computer, make sure you have sufficient backups.

All employee records should be kept for four (4) years. This would include all payroll records, W2-s, W4-s, I-9-s, 941-s, and W5-s, if applicable. Clergy Housing Allowance Request Forms should also be kept on file. As for independent contractor records, keep 1099's and W-9's for four (4) years.

My contact at the IRS says retaining three (3) years worth of bank statements and invoices should be adequate. You may want to keep major invoices for repairs or equipment, without unexpired warranties for a longer period of time.

If you haven't already done so, pick up your 2011 W-2's and a current Circular E (that is, if you do not have a payroll service), and 2011 1099's with transmittal forms at your local IRS. You will also need 2012 W-4's.

The IRS has some new pamphlets available that are easy to read and comprehend, such as charitable contributions substantiation and disclosure requirements. A quick view compliance guide for 501(c) (3) and a charity's guide to Vehicle Donations.

In my next article, I will share with you new IRS codes concerning independent contractors.

If you have questions, contact me at bethc22@aol.com

Blessings for the New Year!

2012 IMA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

September 24-27

Victory Church
Pastor Philip Thompson
Waupaca, Wisconsin

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND



Merry Medicine *from*

Pastor David Sininger
Abundant Life Christian Ctr.
Crystal River, Florida



A small boy stunned his parents after church one Sunday when he began to empty his pockets of nickels, dimes and quarters. Finally his mother asked the obvious question, "Where did you get all that money?" "At Sunday school," the boy replied nonchalantly. "They have bowls of it."

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