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By Rev. Roy Peterson, IMA Missions Director

This month the HERALD is emphasizing “MARCH FOR MISSIONS” and I am very happy to share with you the direction of our IMA mission program. The IMA was founded on bringing ministers together for encouragement as they seek to do the work of the Lord. The IMA has always had an emphasis on missions – spreading God’s Word to the unbeliever wherever and whoever they may be. It is extremely important for us and our congregations not to lose that vision. Jesus’ parting words to us are found in Acts 1:8 “...and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

During the 2010 General Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas the Mission Day service encouraged and touched many pastors with a fresh vision and determination to prioritize the mission direction in their lives and that of their churches. I want to thank everyone that participated in the service making it a success. Our guest speaker, Brother Dale Yerton, shared a tremendous message. It was very timely and worked seamlessly with our conference theme; “For Such A Time As This”. Brother Yerton’s message was entitled, “Just Do It”, a slogan made famous by Nike some years ago, but has a scriptural connotation for us today. I have thought about his message many times since September and it has encouraged my heart and given me strength to work out my faith by action.

The themes of the three evening messages, presented at the conference, were **relational**, **actional** and **missional**. We need to be **relational** by praying for our missionaries continually and communicating with them on a regular basis either by mail, email, phone, etc. We need to be **actional** by doing something like visiting a missionary on his field of ministry, inviting a missionary to your home when they are stateside itinerating,

etc. And we need to be **missional** by supporting our missionaries financially.

The Lord’s return is closer than ever and we need to stop putting off sharing God’s Word with those around us because of the busyness of life or stress over finances. James 1:22-25 says “*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*”

In spite of the tough economic times, we are currently experiencing, we must continue to walk in faith trusting God to supply all of our needs as well as those of our missionary brothers and sisters. That also means that we should trust Him to supply those needs to those on the foreign field through our giving. I believe when we give above and beyond there will always be enough. That is a foundational principle of God’s teaching and as IMA brethren we are blessed to be able to network together to help and encourage each other as we seek to spread the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ around the world.

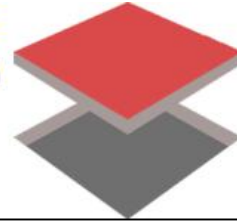
God has called us to be “doers” of the Word, He calls us and empowers us and blesses us in return. I was privileged to visit Brother Ghiorgi Cazacu in Romania last year and learned a new meaning for the word “compel”. My life was greatly impacted by seeing our brother share the Word of God with people every day and leading at least one person to the Lord each day. We can have these types of encounters ourselves when the brethren come together and support and encourage each other and they will not only affect us but also our missionaries. I know that when I visit a missionary on the field or donate to them financially, I am more likely to pray for them on a regular basis. (See **MARCH** Pg. 4)

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



Dr. Tim Warner

CHAIRMAN'S Corner



Missional Mindset

So built we the wall...for the people had a mind to work. But it came to pass, that when Sanballat and Tobiah...heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up ... [they] conspired ... to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God. Neh 4:6-9 KJV



Watch trends, patterns, and give quality time to what is biblically called the “mindset” of believers. A proper mindset produces the mental format to accomplish projects and can be the motivator of initiating great works for God. However, the wrong mindset can hinder forward motion in a church, group or organization. The Book of Nehemiah tells us that God’s people functioned well on the rebuilding of the broken down walls surrounding the temple in Jerusalem. This was true when they had a faith-centered mindset. Scripture points out that “the people had a mind [mindset] to work” and so they participated in God’s mission (Neh 4:6). Later, their mindset changed because of pressure from their enemy and the project seemed to take so long to accomplish. Proverbs says “hope deferred makes the heart sick.” Seeming delays can change the mindset and hinder those active in the work of the Lord.

In our case, the IMA is moving forward in world missions and we are developing a more biblical approach toward reaching our world for Christ. One of the ways we are doing this is by acquiring what we’re calling a “missional mindset.” Like the people of Nehemiah’s time we are blessed with good leadership and are growing in our missions department. Rev. Frank Brasel sparked renewed interest in our Missions Dept. a few years ago. Rev. Roy Peterson, who is our present Missions Director, has definitely brought us to the next level in terms of vision, communication, and participation of IMA members and churches with missions. What will it take to develop a **missional mindset** and move missions forward?

CLEAR VISION COUPLED WITH FAITH

When faced with unprecedented stress from the enemies of Israel, God had to inject spiritual confidence into His people from their leader, Nehemiah. Similarly, there are certain biblical truths that God wants to convey to His church and the IMA in order to move us forward in our missions thrust. First of all, there’s vision. Stated simply, *God desires His people to be involved in reaching the world for Christ by equipping, sending, and supporting missionaries as they “go” to the nations of*



the world. Thankfully, we have scores of dedicated missionaries who serve in many nations of the world. A missional mindset, with the cooperative faith of the entire IMA, will take our present missions activity and make us even more effective.

PARTICIPATION OF OUR MEMBERSHIP

The second principle is participation. In our story of Nehemiah, we find that he involved nearly everyone in the program of God. It took each saint working to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nobles, leaders, business people, and all inhabitants of Israel were participants of this great event. People worked on the wall near their homes (type of the local church); civilians were called to protect one another from attacks of the enemy (spiritual warfare); and everyone took shifts in doing the Lord’s work (member participation). Each member in the IMA is called upon to help with missions in some way. We all need a missional mindset so we can perceive ourselves as “workers with the Lord” in His mission (1 Cor 3:9). We all pray, most give, and many go! Everyone participates.



PERSONAL COMMITMENT FROM THE HEART

Finally, we need personal responders that will “sign the dotted line” and commit to adapting a missional mindset. A great missions thrust can be brought forth in Jesus’ name. This is done by attending Missions Services at the National Conference, honoring all missionaries in the district where you live or serve, making financial pledges and following through with payments, having an IMA missionary visit your church or fellowship group. Just a short time ago I was in an IMA District Meeting and a missionary shared a prayer request for a financial need. One of our members quickly responded, “I’ll give the first fifty dollars!” Within three minutes various pastors and ministers raised over \$1500 to meet that need! That’s evidence of a missional mindset. Thank you for your commitment to make our missions department a vibrant, strong, and forward-moving ministry in the IMA.





IMA WORLD MISSIONS REPORTS

San Luis Potosí Misión, Mexico

Rev. Nathan & Kim Thompson

The News reported five people dead in a shoot-out between the police and organized crime. This was on Friday, Feb. 4, 2011. This was also on the first night of the Agua Viva Church 15th Annual Missions Conference.

It seems that 2010 was a very difficult year for Mexico with the drug wars, corruption and violence in several hotspots around the country. Just recently the death of veteran Methodist Missionary Nancy Davis shot and killed by these criminals seems to get the “chatter” going in missionary circles. Some speak in fear some in faith.

Mexico is in turmoil these days. I also have seen and heard all the bad things that are happening. However, I would like to take these lines to share some of the totally awesome things that God is doing in Mexico in spite of all the evil around.



Last year we witnessed an incredible growth in our church. As public security seems to be a greater problem, we've seen people seeking for something secure. And they are finding the answers in Jesus. The results have been that we've seen hundreds of souls coming to Christ in the past year. We've seen this in church growth from an average weekly attendance of 350 to 600 in the Agua Viva Church. But this is not only in our church, but other churches in the city are also growing incredibly.



I believe that when the tide raises, all the ships in the harbor rise. Something incredible is happening in the spiritual realm in our city. I believe that there is a sovereign move of God. There is much evil and sin happening around us, but at the same time, God's grace is being poured out in San Luis Potosí, Mexico.

Vessels of Mercy Ministries Rev. Bob & Evelyn McCoy

We are really excited and blessed by what the Lord has been doing in the various countries that He has opened to us. We are so encouraged as we see that in many of the countries that we have worked in for years there seems to be a fresh wind of the Spirit blowing and people are responding.

In **INDONESIA**, in addition to teaching at local Bible Schools and printing and distributing salvation books, there is opportunity to record teachings and then the recorded materials are sent to 200 centers around the country to be aired. Our son, Bob, will be going there again next month to do some more recording and ministry in Bible Schools.

In **MONGOLIA**, a country that God has just opened, we have been able to translate, print, and distribute the salvation book that has been so well received in the four other countries where we have used it. Our recent visit there stirred our hearts as we encountered a people who are open and anxious to learn God's ways and ready for change. We are asking God what He would have us do to follow up this work.

In **BANGLADESH**, we have very exciting reports regarding the effect of the school program there. Last month, 223 Bengali Hindus were baptized in one location that we have targeted to build a school and another baptism is scheduled for next month. There are already 200 children who have been having school under the trees now waiting to attend this school once it is constructed. Bangladesh is on God's heart as He has already provided funds to build more schools and also funds for water wells that will bless whole communities along with the schools. People there are very poor and frustrated. They have no peace or hope and are searching for truth. Many people are genuinely turning to Jesus. It is a time of harvest in Bangladesh! We are very thankful that God has positioned and established us there ahead of time so that we can be on the ground and effective at this time.

In **VIETNAM**, the door continues to be open through the Cleft Lip and Palate Surgeries performed by the team of doctors from the Mayo Clinic. They will be coming over the first week of March to do fifty more surgeries. This is a great opportunity to touch people's lives. I will also be ministering in the Hanoi International Church where I used to pastor and we will be checking on the Deaf work and the ministry to the Lepers. Wonderful things are happening in both these ministries as well.

Western District Missions Report by Chairman Bill Wilson

The other day someone asked me what I thought of worldwide missions within the IMA both on a national and district level. As the chairman of the Western District I have given this question a lot of thought and wanted to share that with you.

First on a national level: The most exciting service of our IMA National Conference to me is the “Mission's Day” service. Not just because I serve on the National Missions Board but the chance to visit with our missionaries from all over the world and hear their exciting stories from their various mission fields. I have been privileged to get to know some of them personally and visit their mission fields. To see their dedication to Jesus and the Gospel is an uplifting experience. The last several years DVD's have been presented from various mission fields that have encouraged and enlightened us as to what God is doing through our missionaries and what to pray for. This has also resulted in greater offerings and we have been able to financially encourage our missionaries. (See **WESTERN** Pg. 4)

Church Tax Compliance

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

MISSIONARIES.....The IRS knows who you are !

You are either Foreign or Homebased

A **Homebased** missionary is a U. S. Citizen with established headquarters in the States. You travel back and forth to your field of foreign ministry. If you are not under a church or other tax-exempt covering, then you should have your own 501(c)(3) and EIN#. You would be responsible to file the necessary tax forms such as a 990, and W2's, or 1099's for individual compensation. If you take monies to foreign lands, make sure you keep receipts or have an accurate accounting of each expenditure.

Foreign missionaries who are not U.S. citizens and have an established residence in their country of ministry, do not have any filing obligations unless you visit The States to raise money for your ministry. In this case, you would complete a W-8 Form (Certificate of Foreign Status) for any compensation paid to you as an individual. For Example - if you are a guest speaker at a church. If you hold a "green card" while in the States, your compensation as an individual would be subject to the 28% backup withholding. Read the W-8 instructions thoroughly to know your obligations. (There are additional W-8 Forms for different situations). Also, more information is available through Publication 519, the U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens.

(**MARCH** From Pg. 1) I want to encourage you to keep up the good work you are doing in your ministry and expand your horizons to the uttermost parts of the world. Please continue praying for the IMA mission program and our fantastic missionaries.

(**WESTERN** From Pg. 3) On a district level: Within the Western District, missions has always played a very important part. In our district conferences, we always have a Mission's Service and feature our missionaries that attend. They are encouraged to speak to us and are given a generous offering for their conference expenses. We have started the Missions Assistance Support Team (MAST) that includes all who will support through prayer and financial giving. It is our hope that, through this plan, our district will realize our missionaries need our encouragement. Remember Jesus said "Pray that laborers will be sent into the harvest".

On a final note: If it is possible I encourage you to visit one of our missionaries at their mission field and be a helper. Most important of all, please promise to pray for them daily and support them with your offerings. This is something we all can do. Apostle Paul, one of our first missionaries, heard the call one night...."come in to Macedonia and help us..". He obeyed the call. If we can't go, we can pray and give.



THE UNCHURCHED

Knowing where a typical unbeliever is coming from is the first step to connecting with them. Researcher Thom Rainer interviewed thousands of unchurched Americans and published the results in: *The Unchurched Next Door*. Many of the following findings may surprise you:

- Most of the unchurched prefer to attend church on Sunday morning if they attend.
- Most are not anti-church or anti-religion.
- Most Americans have never been invited to church—never,
- 82 percent of the unchurched are at least "somewhat likely" to attend church if they are invited.
- Two percent of church members invite an unchurched person to church.
- Most of the unchurched feel guilty about not attending church.
- Very few of the unchurched have had someone share with them how to become a Christian. And Christians have not been particularly influential in their lives,
- The attitudes of the unchurched are not correlated to where they live, their ethnic or racial background or their gender.
- Many of the unchurched are far more concerned about, the spiritual well-being of their children than of themselves.

Seeds for the Parish, May-June 2007

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