

Official Publication of the International Ministerial Association, Inc.

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USED BY GOD

By Evangelist Richard Bolte, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Understanding how God prepared Moses and how God prepares us

He begins with your character, then works on your calling

Usually this begins in obscurity. In Moses' case God spent 40 years tearing down the old structure and rebuilding it from the ground up. Those years in the wilderness must have seemed unending. Yet it was during this time that he encountered God in the burning bush and learned to know the voice of God from every other voice. How valuable is that, especially when you are working with stubborn, opinionated people?

He never wastes experience

If Moses hadn't been raised in the palace Pharaoh would probably have viewed him as some crazy shepherd with a bad case of sunstroke and killed him. But his past prepared him for his future. Because of his desert training he was able to protect and lead Israel through the Sinai wasteland. And the very fact that he had been born into slavery, gave him the compassion to say yes to such a task. So, don't run from your past— learn from it



He will give you an emotional investment in the work He has called you to

How ironic, Pharaoh ordered the death of every Hebrew male under two, yet he was raising one in his own palace who would liberate Israel and bring down his throne. The Israelites were not some unknown group; they were Moses' own people. Their cries had echoed in his ears for 40 years, now he was willing to lay down his life for them. That's what it takes to be used by God— an emotional investment.

Before others catch the vision, it is born in the heart of one person

Before one Hebrew slave caught the vision of the Promised Land, Moses "saw" it. He saw a people no longer bound by chains, building homes and businesses, growing crops and worshipping God. But how did he keep his vision alive in a wilderness? The Bible says: *"He persevered because he saw Him who is invisible"* (Heb 11:27 NIV).

Moses was sustained by what he saw. So your vision, if it is of God, will sustain you through the worst of times. Actually, without a vision we perish.

God will never give you a vision you can fulfill alone

He will bring others alongside to compensate for your weaknesses. He gave Joshua to Moses to be his personal assistant. He gave him Aaron and Hur to hold up his hands so that the battle could be won. He gave him his father-in-law, Jethro, to save him from a leader's most dreaded fate— death by administration. Finally He gave him 70 more leaders with the right "spirit" to complete the job.

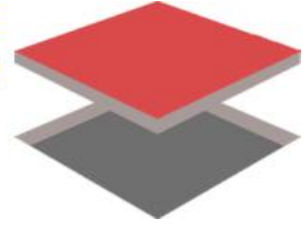
"But I'm getting old," you say. Moses changed his life at 40 and found his destiny at 80. Had you seen him at 40 you would have said, "Surely he's the man for the job; educated by royalty, trained by generals, with instant access to Pharaoh." But you would have been wrong. The 80-year-old Moses may smell like a shepherd and speak like a farmer, but he is God's choice! When you surrender your life to God you will discover something wonderful— God is not limited by your limitations!





Dr. Tim Warner

CHAIRMAN'S Corner



Let's Not Forget Our Conference Theme!

"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." James 1:25 (NKJV)

Less than 90 days ago the LORD brought hundreds of us together in the lovely city of Evansville, IN for our 2009 IMA National Conference. Excitement filled the air as we celebrated the goodness of the Lord, had fellowship one with another, and heard several messages on the theme of being DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH! Bible Center Cathedral and their fabulous staff brought a variety of songs, drama, dance, and the printed page to emphasize this glorious truth. Preachers preached it; singers sang it; teachers taught it; and the Holy Spirit bore witness to the fact that our theme was and is right on course for the day that we live. We are called to defend this glorious gospel.

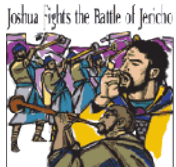


As Americans who live in the "Land of Plenty" it is awfully easy to hear a word from God or a penetrating truth from a conference and then lose its glowing impetus when we get back to our homes, churches or mission field. Our text, however, tells us not only to "look" in to the word (which in this case means to hear the truth through a number of sermons and seminars), but "continue" in it. The word *continue* here means *to stay near or remain beside*. In other words, we must fight to hold onto the word of God that was given to us by the Holy Spirit when we were at Convention 09. We must not let it "slip" away.

Let's look at the relevance of the word that was given [Defenders of the Faith]. We know that our national freedoms which came by way of Christian influence are quickly being stolen away because of the mindset of our political leaders, public opinion, and of course the work of the spirit of antichrist. Recently our president signed "hate crime" legislation that is intended to stop the true ministers of Jesus Christ from exposing our national sins. Reportedly, an elderly lady was arrested for holding up a sign at the time which read: *Truth is hate for those who hate the truth!* Apparently she was released because of public pressure, but her sign tells the story of the war we wage as ministers and highlights our need to defend the faith.



The real war we're fighting, however, (besides the natural wars in Iraq and Afghanistan) is that of a spiritual nature. It's a war of words, concepts, presuppositions, philosophy, and yes theology. The conflict is typified in the Old Testament wars of Israel and her enemies; personified in Ephesians 6 (10ff); explained 2 Cor. 10:4-5; veiled in the two beasts of Revelation; and played out daily in the lives of true believers... at least those who will take up the initiative to be DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH.



Never has there been a time in history when the Christian Church needs its saints and particularly its ministers to rise up, stand up, speak up, and hold up the precious truths of Scripture. From the basics of one man-one woman marriage; to the sanctity of human life; to the truth that Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to God for salvation; the word must be proclaimed in power. The faith must be for that which we contend (Jude 3). It's time to apply Heb. 2:1 which says: **Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.** Christmastime and the New Year are great times to defend the faith in the ears of our hearers and minds of our readers. God has given the IMA a tremendous word at our conference; let's not forget it!

Rev. A.S.W. Jaikumar
Dr. Shelia Jaikumar
Rajahmundry, India



Rev. Vicky Witt
Durango,
Mexico

At the time of writing this letter our country (India) is facing the onslaught of an awful pandemic. The H1N1 virus is causing havoc among our people especially in our state of Andhra Pradesh. We had a tough time when the children of the children’s home started falling sick and we had to remove some of them to the hospital and some were treated at home. As per the government’s orders all the schools were closed from September 19th to October 5th. We prayed a lot and thank God the children are doing well now but since last week viral fever is prevailing here again.

Another great problem which people of our town are facing is that a gang of about 900 outsiders have come to our town and are kidnapping the children and young people by making them unconscious and selling them for their organs. Some doctors are also involved in that. We need your prayers constantly for God’s protection upon us all.

We had three days fasting and prayers from September 24th to the 26th. This was especially for the young people to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost and for receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I praise and thank God that there was an awesome move of the Holy Ghost and people were filled with the Holy Ghost and danced and some saw visions and some prophesied. Many young people dedicated themselves for the work of the Lord. All glory to God. I had to go to our village church at Annaparty and also at Kaverapally for the fasting and prayer meetings. Other churches in our fellowship are also having fasting and prayers.

The church construction at Zion village is almost completed and another church construction has been started at village Salugi. The construction of a church building at Devancheruvu is completed.

I have shared with you before how difficult it has been for our students to adapt themselves to our society. Preparing meals has been such a challenge! We are constantly asking them what it *is* that they like. Last week, I asked them how they usually liked their eggs cooked. I was surprised to hear them say "hard boiled eggs". I made the observation that I had never seen then eat eggs that way when I go visit them. They told me that "it takes too long to cook and we cannot waste the firewood". It took me several seconds to let this answer sink in. I have never had to stop and consider whether I can boil an egg or not. I just do it. But to them, it is a luxury to be able to do it.

Not a day goes by that I do not learn something about them, their culture, some concept that to me goes unnoticed. Having these teenagers with me is a training school and I thank God that I have been given this opportunity to serve them. I have seen them change before my eyes and I know it is God working in them. There are times when the challenges are so great that I feel I am going to be over-powered by it, but I have seen how God has not left me even for one second. I have seen how He continues to provide the finances for everything . One time I went to the ATM I left it with nothing. A few days later I felt I needed to check my account again, and when I did I saw that there was enough money for that week. This is confirmation to me that I am doing God's will in my life and I joyfully continue!



CHURCH PASTORATE OPENING

The Gospel Lighthouse Church
Nyssa Oregon

Nyssa is located in Eastern Oregon next to Idaho The Lighthouse is a church of about 35 to 40 saints, with a nice building and parsonage.

Interested parties, please contact:
 Les or Janell Abston at 208-452-6745.



EVANGELIST INFORMATION

Rev. Orvil Shindoll
 6419 FM 636
 Kerens, TX 75144-4085
 Phone: 214-435-4743

Reference: Pastor George Dudley
 Phone: 501-455-1506



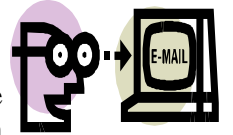
THE HOME OFFICE

Dr. Paul W. Todd, Administrator

IMA WEB LINKS

We have just completed the updating of the IMA Web Site information. Verda & I always do this after the third quarter of the year. We do this at the end of the year after all the renewals have arrived. This is a monumental task. We updated the church's information, the missionaries' information and the Member Links. Hopefully we got it right but by now there is probably more changes to be made.

One thing I did was to check all the web sites to see which ones were still working before I made additions and changes. While this was an arduous, time consuming job I made a very interesting discovery. **THERE ARE SOME AMAZING IMA MEMBER WEB SITES.**



When you have opportunity take some time to "click" on either the Church Web Sites or the Missionary Web Sites and especially the Member Links. You will be flabbergasted. (How's that for a descriptive term?) While the IMA Web Page is basically informational, the member websites are exceptionally unique with all kinds of "bells and whistles."

You will also be surprised at some of the diversity of this association. There are singers, evangelists, outreach programs, and even a radio and television station that has one of our members as a host. You can "stream" and listen in to the Christian Radio station. I did and it was just superb.



Looking at these sites reinforced what a privilege it is to network with the high caliber of membership we have in this association. We have Pastors with progressive and growing churches, many of them are large and others are on their way. There are Missionaries who are making a powerful impact on the world with the gospel. Pride is something that Christians try to avoid. But, I am proud of the members of IMA. I am also proud to be a co-member with excellent ministers who are using the tools and technology of this age to reach the world for Christ.

A TRIBUTE TO MY DAD REV. EUGENE HOLDER By Rev. Nola Warren

Daddy founded three different churches; One in Kennesaw, another in Cartersville, and one in Marietta, all in Georgia. Open Bible Tabernacle was founded in the early 1950's and he was the senior pastor for more than 55 years. Along with the church he also founded Cobb County Christian School and Faith and Fellowship Youth Camp, all of which are still operational. He also helped to found a Haitian congregation, an African congregation as well as a Hispanic congregation.



Some people thought my dad was hard on his children, but, I, as the oldest child in the family, can testify to the fact that I give thanks to God every day that my dad was strong enough to put the "fear of daddy" in me until I grew up enough and matured spiritually enough to discover the "fear of God". When I think of all the grief he saved me from I can only say "Thank You Jesus!"

Daddy was a person who loved God, loved His Word and the People of God. He loved a good laugh and had no trouble laughing at himself. He stood with us and supported the work here in Mexico since it began more than 47 years ago. He loved his family and could always be counted on when one of us would get into problems and needed help. I loved my dad and appreciated him very much. I will miss him greatly.

From the International Ministerial Association Membership, National Board, Chairman Tim Warner and the Home Office



Merry Christmas

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