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THIS MONTH

HOW TO STAY
UNSHAKEN

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BAUER

OBITUARY

COFFEE CUP

“If you can keep your wits about you while others are losing theirs, and blaming you. The world will be yours and everything in it, you’ll be a man, my son.” (English poet Rudyard Kipling) We live in shaky times and there are those who are losing their wits with enough blame to go around. The Bible speaks about these times and how to deal with them as a Christian. One of those passages is in Hebrews 12:28 (CEV).

“We should be grateful that we were given a kingdom that cannot be shaken.”



10 WAYS TO STAY UNSHAKEN IN A SHAKY WORLD

The next chapter (13) poses at least 10 directives to help the Christian to stay unshaken in a shaky world.

- 1. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.** *Let brotherly love continue.* (V. 1) This helps to ward off selfishness. Shaky times will promote a “me” mentality. Love others through their times.
- 2. BE HOSPITABLE.** *Do not forget to entertain strangers...* (V. 2) Here’s the action side of the previous verse. Someone needs to be upbeat and positive with joy and laughter.
- 3. BE SYMPATHETIC.** *Remember the prisoners as if chained with them ..* (V. 3) Somebody is probably suffering more that we are. Try to understand their dilemma. Comfort them.
- 4. KEEP A HIGH MORAL STANDARD.** *...but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.* (V. 4) Christians are part of the answer and should not join the world’s values.
- 5. CONTROL MATERIALISM & MONEY.** *...be content with such things as you have.* (V.5) Being aware of what created the shaking to start with. Being good stewards.
- 6. RETAIN YOUR TEACHING.** *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you...* (V. 7) The instruction of the leadership will now become vital.
- 7. STAY DOCTRINALLY SOUND.** *Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.* (V. 9). This is no time to be “wishy washy” about what you believe.
- 8. KEEP PRAISING THE LORD.** *...let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God,* (V. 15) Praising God for his goodness will temper the times of adversity.
- 9. OBEDIENCE TO SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP.** *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls,* (V. 17) God will show his spiritual leaders the way out of the quagmire that the world has caused. Worldly leaders are clueless.
- 10. PRAY.** *Pray for us;* (V.18) This goes without saying. Pray for these shaky times.

Pastor Robert Schuller wrote a book in 1984 titled *Tough Times Never Last, But Tough People Do!* God’s people can be tough and stay unshaken in a shaky world.

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



Dr. Tim Warner

Chairman's Corner

Divine Direction for the IMA; Part 4

Run with the Vision!



And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. Hab 2:2

We have been considering the VISION of the IMA over the last three (exempting conference last month) issues of the Herald of Truth magazine. I trust you have read and reread them. In this article, as God enables, I will endeavor to briefly review, synergize our thoughts, and cast a vision to empower each member and district to “run” with divine purpose! Here’s the review:

Move forward (on the initial and progressive prophetic utterances)

Make the vision clear (explaining our name [IMA] and its application)

Mobilize the next generation (observing the call on this generation)

Now, let’s synergize. Remembering that God has raised us up for His own glory, realizing the our name [International Ministerial Association] reflects His calling upon our beloved fellowship, and recognizing that we have a future together, the following principles are offered to help us grasp and impart the our vision to other

1. We must draw from the well of the Holy Spirit, not the traditions of man.
2. We need to move from seeker-friendly sermons to equipping the godly saints.
3. Change from “business as usual” bias to “bold new moves” of faith and vision.
4. Let go of previous methods and embrace fresh passion and dynamics for today!

One of my favorite verses in the New Testament is found in 1 Peter 3:15 and says: **But sanctify the Lord God* in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense [an answer] to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (NKJV).** In this instance, I would like to apply this verse as it would refer to an individual or ministerial group in response to those who would inquire as to the IMA’s corporate vision. Let’s consider these principles:

1. We must draw from the well of the Holy Spirit, not the traditions of man. First of all, let’s go back to the basic principle of hearing what the Holy Spirit has to say about and to the church in this present time (Rev 3:7,11,17, etc). Jesus continually fought with the Pharisees and Sadducees concerning listening to the Holy Spirit over against traditions of man (MT 7:21; JN 5:17-20, 6:32-36; etc). He was ultimately crucified for standing strong in the truth of maintaining an intimate relationship with His Heavenly Father and operating in power of the Holy Spirit. May our vision, purpose, and ministry of the IMA reflect this as well!

2. We need to move from seeker-friendly sermons to equipping impacting saints. It was necessary for the church to learn to move away from the catering to the entrenched church goers and become more “sensitive” to “seekers” attending our churches (1 Cor 14:23-26). This helped seekers to find answers about God, life, and eternity; therefore, the “seeker-sensitive” movement was born. However, as so often happens, truth is taken out of balance and actually works against the very move that God inspired it to assist. Christians in today’s world must not be “catered to” but rather equipped to stand strong in a perverse, corrupt, and death-orientated society. Gone are the days of prayer in public schools, the Bible as our source of truth for governmental policy, the Ten Commandments as the standard for conduct in the culture. Wish it were not so if you will, but our culture [USA} has changed to a “secular” and “antichrist” system. The church, preachers in particular, must help people to face this ungodly regime by giving sermons that equip believers to overcome the evil spirit of this present age.



3. Change from “business as usual” bias to “bold new moves” of faith and vision. It is so easy to become ensnared with the “usual” in leading and teaching ministry of the church world today; especially if you’ve served in ministry for many years. Maybe that is why God caused the Cloud of Glory to move from place to place and time to time for His people Israel. Even saints in the New Testament who were called, saved, baptized in water and Spirit were called “hardened” and unable to embrace a vision of living truth (Heb 5:11-14). (See VISION Page 4)



REPORT FROM CHINA

Rev. Timothy &
JoAnn Bauer



THE HOME OFFICE

Dr. Paul W. Todd, Administrator

STUDENTS say "YES" to GOD'S APPOINTMENT

We have just completed leading our first Missions Discipleship School in China JoAnn & I "lived-in" with the students – 18 of us sharing an apartment.

- 15 students plus 5 staff from across China
- Intense 5 month school
- 3 mos. together in an apartment classroom
- 2 mos. mission assignment
- 11 of the 15 students are today serving in China

WE WILL RETURN TO NE CHINA TO LEAD ANOTHER SCHOOL IN THE NEW YEAR

In prayer we believe God would have us return early next year to lead another school. God has called the Believers in China at this time to be at the forefront for bringing the Gospel to the remaining unreached peoples. Our role is to help equip them for the task. So we're establishing a Missions Training Center in NE China and hope to see this multiplied into other Centers to other regions of China. I plan to focus on learning some Chinese in the months to come.

TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON CHINESE YOUTH TO PURSUE \$\$\$\$

Many of the youth that come to our training are college educated because of our University campus ministries. These youth are also their parent's only child (because of the Govt. 'one child policy'. To even make it to the university in China is extremely difficult and very competitive. To give you an idea: education at Jr. High level is no longer free but requires tuition therefore it's the end of the road for many children. Completing High School is a huge accomplishment for the child and often at a great sacrifice to the family - how much more to graduate University.

It's culturally expected the son or daughter would financially care for them in their retirement years. Thus the issue question facing Chinese Believers called to missions: "If I obey God and go to the nations with the Gospel, will I be able to fulfill my responsibility to my parents?" Many are saying "Yes" to His call and walking a path of obedience, trusting HIM for answers to this question. What a privilege to walk at their side!

WE'RE STILL HERE ! Hopefully you were in attendance for the National Conference. National Conference for me is reminiscent of the homecoming of Paul and Barnabas to Antioch after their lengthy and very eventful journey. When they got together, with the church, they rehearsed all the good things that the Lord had done. (Acts 14:27) In today's language we would probably say "they shared together what the Lord was doing." Isn't it exciting to hear about what God is doing all across the Land? It's also interesting to receive accounts of the struggles as well and how the Lord was faithful. God is still doing great things and we are grateful that the IMA can be a participant in the movement. The Cathedral with Pastor Rick VanHoose, in Evansville worked very hard to make this a great conference.



WEB PAGE UPDATES. Keeping the IMA web page up-to-date is a constant chore. Changing the Directories on the site is fairly simple. Our computer data base can export that information for the web site. This is also the case with most other documents located on the site. However, church and individual web sites, emails, addresses, phone numbers, church names and etc., are more complicated because that requires several man hours of data entry for the particular category. Ordinarily we do that after we have received the bulk of the renewals for the year. We are working on that now as time permits. So, we indulge your patience with our efforts.



CHURCH IRS GROUP COVERAGE LIST.

The IMA's fiscal year ends on July 31. Shortly after the close of our fiscal year we are required to send a list of the churches that have renewed as well as those churches that have become new affiliates. We have just sent that list to the District Office of the IRS. If you have a question as to whether or not a church was on that list you may call our offices. The churches are listed as an affiliate of the IMA and not listed individually. If you have a letter from the IMA asserting the church affiliation, in most cases, that is sufficient. I am writing this because sometimes pastors fail to renew the church coverage. Be sure the church is on the IRS list.





Pastor Phillip Nottingham, Dallas, Texas, pastor of Bethany Lighthouse Church, Garland, Texas, suddenly went home to be with the Lord on Monday August 31, 2009. We send our deepest condolences to the Nottingham family. Please pray for his wife Sis. Barbara Ann, the family and Bethany Lighthouse Church during these trying times. The address and phone number for the Nottinghams: 11041 Erhard Dr, Dallas, TX 75228-2416, Phone: Home: 972-279-8768, Office: 972-240-9119. Pastor Nottingham was a member of the IMA for 28 years.

EVANGELIST AVAILABLE

Evangelist Mark Daniel, Winston Salem, NC, has recently joined the IMA and is available for meetings. He can be contacted at 336-784-0887, 336-723-0888 -608-0248 email: farsidepaxx@yahoo.com. For references contact Bishop Robert Neal, 336-627-5826.or cell: 336

(Some Contact information contained in the November, '08 Herald was incorrect)

(VISION From Page 1) **4. Let go of previous methods and embrace fresh passion and dynamics for today!** The final point of helping we who are in the IMA to *run with a vision* is to let go of what is irrelevant and unnecessary and to learn the "typical reaction" principle. I.e., when confronted with [new] truth, people typically have a threefold reaction; first we get *mad*; then we are *sad*; and finally we become *glad*! Remember "Penny Marches?" They had to go!! What about singing hymns only in church? That, too, had to change to make room for spontaneous praise. Then there's the "pastor-pope" syndrome where the pastor did everything from moving the lawn, to turning on/off the heat/AC, to being the sole source of hope to the church! Ministers and churches had to "let go" of that mentality to embrace a Body-life ministry and learn that God had given "every member" a gift (1 Pet 4:12); that each of God's people have a measure of grace given to minister.

IN CONCLUSION: God is calling each of us to understand, live and impart vision to others. Principles such as *networking* have to trump over the sole-proprietor mentality. As you know, the IMA National Board, Administrator, and District Chairmen work together as a team. In fact, the entire constituency of the IMA are being called to stand together, share resources, and network as never before. **IT'S A NEW DAY FOR THE IMA!** Let's live in its maximum potential and run with the vision.

COFFEE CUP CORNER

Four preachers were discussing the importance of power, authority and having the right credentials. They were touting the pros and cons of seeking a position within their denomination. They were making a pretty good argument for high office until someone came up with this story.

A cocky Department of Agriculture representative stopped at a farm and talked with the old farmer; "I need to inspect your farm." The old farmer said, "You better not go in that field." The Agriculture representative said in a "wise" tone, "I have the authority of the U. S. Government with me. See this card, I am allowed to go wherever I wish on agricultural land." So the old farmer went about his farm chores. Later, the farmer heard loud screams and saw the Department of Agriculture man running for the fence; close behind was the farmer's prize bull. The bull was madder than a nest full of hornets, and the bull was gaining at every step. "Help," the rep shouted to the farmer, "what should I do?" he screamed helplessly. The old farmer, hooking his thumbs in his overalls, called out: "Show him your card!"



Story submitted by Pastor David Sinniger, Crystal River, Florida

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Rev. Paul Todd

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