

Happy New Year! ❄️

IMA Video Connect every 3rd Thursday of each month at 10AM Central Time. Contact IMA Home Office for more info.



To post events in the IMA Newsletter, please send info to IMA Home Office two months prior.

Comments, suggestions, or article submissions may be addressed to:

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"IMA's Call to Continue"

(Continued from Pg. 1)

backdrop of fasting and resistance to this present world.



Second, continue to teach biblical doctrines and balanced teaching. How many of the basic doctrines of Scriptures are being challenged today with the question of "hath God said?" Did God really make but two genders? Did He make male and female in the beginning as an unbreakable, unshakable, doctrinal truth? Does honesty matter? Will we speak out against lies of culture? Will we speak the truth?

We need to let people know that the Bible is not some outdated memoirs from the past. Rather, it clearly states the heart and mind of the Lord to every generation. The Bible is the "verbal, plenary, inspired Word of God!" We need to proclaim its truth with passion, love and authority. Scripture must be taught to confront this present culture of where people live. Martin Luther stated: "If you preach the gospel in all aspects with the exception of the issues which deal specifically with your time, you are not preaching the gospel at all!" Address the problems, expose national sin, equip saints to refute false doctrine and lies. Apply Scripture!

Thirdly, continue in the Holy Spirit. Proclaim that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all believers. An IMA minister recently told me, "People today want to learn of the Holy Spirit, but are afraid of speaking in tongues!" Many people are afraid of glossolalia because of misuses as described in I Cor. 14. However, it is still our responsibility to navigate through these troubled waters and bring people into truth. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13).



Speak about the Holy Spirit. Let people know you speak in unknown tongues. Let them know He, the Holy Spirit, is our HELPER. The Bible says, "Quench not the Spirit" (I Thess. 5:19). Recently, my wife and I attended a large A/G church in Central Florida. During praise time the Holy Spirit moved upon a person and he gave a powerful message in tongues, followed by an interpretation. The word was relevant for that service. No one was ashamed or embarrassed over the Holy Spirit's work.



The word to the IMA is a call to CONTINUE! Let's continue in the Word, accurate teaching and model Holy Spirit empowerment.

Relational

Actional

Missional



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Inside this Issue:

- ▣ **Guest Article:
IMA's Call to Continue**
- ▣ **Guest Article:
Elevated to a Higher Place**
- ▣ **IMA Home Office Info**
- ▣ **Guest Article:
Priorities in Missions**
- ▣ **Quotable Quotes**
- ▣ **IMA Announcements**

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IMA's Call to Continue

By Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner; IMA National Board



"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." | Timothy 4:14-16

The New Year will bring forth many new challenges for the American church. Our country is in dire straits right now fighting wars we've never encountered before. They call it attacks in cyberspace, computer hacks, and interference in the elections by villains who pilfer with voting results.

This is to say nothing of our teetering economy, a social agenda of cancel-culture, media outlets that pervert the truth and deny reality to a degree not seen since the founding of our nation for over two-and-a-half centuries. Sexuality and gender is taught as being "fluid" and tens of millions of citizens are confused. "Big Brother" of governmental overreach is rampant. The list goes on.

The real question to the church in the Western World is what message shall pastors of churches bring to their people? How shall Christ's flock be fed spiritually in the foreseeable future? More specifically, what shall IMA ministers bring to our pulpits in this New Year?



Let me suggest three biblical mandates to keep the church on track and empowered to reach her full potential in God.

First, continue in the Word of God. Immerse yourself in the Scriptures. The days are far past in which a "little dab will do ya." It was Amos that made the clarifying statement, "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, not a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord (8:11).

Many pastors and ministers of the Word neither pastor God's church, feed His flock, nor speak messages from Scripture that address the needs of people. The late Rev. George Dudley once told me, "I cannot speak messages I preached five years ago; they are irrelevant. I must hear what God is saying now. People are facing things much differently than they were just a few years ago." Truth is, we must speak God's Word with an edge that only comes by genuine study, fervent prayer, and a

(Continued on Pg. 4)



Elevated to a Higher Place

By Rev. Mike McCord; IMA National Board

Here is a challenge taken from the example of the children of Israel after leaving Egypt. It highlights God's call for His people to leave the bondage of Egypt and go up to the "mountain" of faith. May this stir you to fulfill God's call in this New Year.

It was not long after Israel was liberated from Egyptian bondage that God called Moses up to the "mountain." Exodus 19:1-3 says, "In the third month after the children of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt... and camped in the wilderness. Israel camped there before this mountain. Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain."

We can only imagine what living under those circumstances and conditions were like. For 400 years they knew only slavery, hard work and heartache. They had a sense of hopelessness, no better tomorrows, no light at the end of the tunnel. They were hoping for a breakthrough, and God gave them a chance to reach their unrealized potential.

Exodus 19:5-6, goes on to say: "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." Imagine this incredible change of identity: You are My special treasure; you are a kingdom of priests; you are a holy nation!

They probably thought: Who me? Surely not us! Don't you see who we really are, God? The Lord answers by His grace, love, and mercy. Actually, He desired to elevate His people. He wanted to

move them to a higher place. He wanted them to fulfill what He created them to be. He wanted them to be the "head" and not the "tail." God wants to elevate us, too!

Just like those of long ago, we become myopic and only see what we are on the surface; what we are in the present. We neglect and even refuse to see our new potential. Let's exercise faith, so He can raise us to new levels and opportunities.

So, how does that happen? What is the process or "secret sauce"? It's really no secret. Note these keys revealed in Scripture.

1. **We have to believe what God says (His Word).** Exodus 19:5-6, Remember, God said, "Obey my voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me..." Did you catch it? Obey My voice, keep My covenant; these are the Words you shall speak. So, if I hear His voice, obey, listen to and act upon His Word, then I am exercising FAITH. This is faith that causes me to stretch; to reach higher levels; to become what we are capable of. FAITH pulls us up to a higher level.

2. **I need to come into agreement with God.** Do I really believe that I am a special treasure, a priest to Almighty God? Am I really a part of a holy nation? I know God said that; but do I really believe it? It is not what others say about me, nor even what I have said about myself that matters. Paul wrote to the Corinthians and said, "Our confidence is in God's sufficiency." The Angel of the Lord called Gideon a "Mighty man of valor." Everything in what Gideon replied

was the direct opposite of what was spoken. "How can I save Israel? My family is the weakest of our tribe and I am the least in my father's house. I am a nobody." Gideon's elevation was incremental. He began by tearing down the altar of Baal. Then he put a fleece out to the Lord to know the authenticity of his call. He submitted to the winnowing of an army down to 300 men. Then he and his men conquered the Midianites through the plan of God. He had to not just know what God said, but come into agreement with it.

3. **Don't let your past hurts and failures keep you from future successes.** It's the lessons we learn along the way that prepare us for greater blessings. God has a process that so many are not willing to accept. You don't pick up a ball and bat for the first time and play in the World Series next week. It's in our trials and failures that we obtain the wisdom and strength to sustain success. Tests, trials and failures will come but we must keep moving in the direction of the dreams and vision given by the Holy Spirit. Let God take you to a higher place!

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Priorities in Missions

By Pastor Dan Slater; IMA Missions Team



I love the commandment that we see in all four Gospels to take the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ to everyone!

- Luke 24:47, Proclaim in His name to all nations; beginning at Jerusalem.
- Mark 16:15-16, Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.
- Matthew 28:19, Go therefore and make disciples in all the nations.
- John 21:15-17, Then feed My lambs; take care of My sheep, (then) feed My sheep.
- Acts 1:8, Go to Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

This mandate is placed on all believers and leaders of the Church. WE as individuals are commanded to share the gospel with those that are lost. We, as a church body, are also commanded to support those who are reaching out to the lost.

By defining these two groups, we can see that if an individual gives money to missions, but never shares a gospel with a coworker, he lacks something. Just as if an individual shares the gospel with a coworker, but never supports missions is also lacking. Jesus didn't just say you're responsible for only one group. Jesus said to take the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the end of the earth. He was saying we are responsible for all of them.



Jesus, as a man on this earth, clarified the fact that He could not be everywhere at one time. That is why He sent the Holy Spirit. We as individual human beings can't support all missions, worldwide. As a church body, we can make a global impact. Which leads me to the question, "Where on your priority list is the global impact of the commission given by Jesus?" Church leaders need to help people to fulfil the mandate to reach out globally.

We often don't want to think about the enemy ravaging our communities and destroying people's lives around us. It's easy to have a single focus. That is not what Jesus asked us to do. He wants us to have compassion for all who are lost.

A leader of any organization has a priority list and must have that to keep things in order. What is your priority for global outreach? Is it something that you bring before the church body once a year? What do you do when compassion wells up within you? Do you see the hearts of people through the eyes of faith?

I watched my pastor for 30 plus years of ministry lead our congregation in supporting global missions. He did this because he had compassion for the lost globally. I watched him raise funds and stand in front of the congregation saying, "I will give the first \$500 or \$1000 toward this need". He made it easy for people to follow in his example, thus helping to fulfill their mandate.

Sometimes we want to put all the responsibility on the congregation. However, the truth of the matter is that the church is following the leader and his calling. When we as leaders have passion and excitement, we show it to others. When something is important to us, it will be important to others as well.

People tell me they are not seeing the promises of God in their lives, then I ask them "Are you fulfilling His mandates? Are you appropriating those promises?" The truth is that we never have to remind God of His promises. When we step out in faith and promises He's given, (even when we don't see immediate results), it stirs the Father's heart.

I would like to challenge you to evaluate your priority list. Ask yourself: Father, what are you asking me to do? How can our group or church farther reach out globally? There are benefits to fulfilling God's commands. God grants fulfilment to His promises when we do what He calls us to do. Let's refresh ourselves as to the Gospel commands in the Four Gospels and the Book of Acts.

Quotes

Faith...involves trusting in the future promises of God and waiting for their fulfillment.
- R. C. Sproul

Our quitting point is God's beginning point.
- Woodrow Kroll

A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God. - Charles Finney

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. - Psalm 40:3

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned. - Peter Marshall

God specializes in giving people a fresh start. - Rick Warren