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Thursday of each month
at 10AM Central Time.
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Comments, suggestions, or
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addressed to:

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IMA PROCLAIM Editor

And emailed to: 
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Or to:
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"Faith of Our Fathers" Article Continued from Pg. 1

panied by laying hands on the person. Jesus gave this type of blessing to His disciples (Luke 24:50). He also blessed the children in Mark 10:16. God chose to prepare Abraham for his journey by encouraging him with a blessing. "I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you" (Gen: 12:2). The Old



Testament Hebrew word for blessing is, "Berakah." That is the word used for the transmission or endowment of the power of God's goodness and favor through the spoken word and often was accompanied by the act of laying on of hands.

One of the most renowned blessings in the Old Testament is the Aaronic Blessing spoken

over the nation of Israel (Numbers 6:24-26). It was the priestly blessing over them.

"The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Fathers are the priests of their families. There is incomparable effect upon your family when you speak blessings over them. Every father wants to remain in the hearts of their children. Every shepherd wants to remain in the hearts of their flock. True fathers of the faith speak blessings over their families and flock. God will reward those who speak blessings, just as He rewards those who receive the blessings. Romans 12:14 says, "BLESS, and do not curse!"

IMA 2023 NAT CONF:

- **Dates:** Mon-Wed., Sept. 18-20
- **Place:** Grace Church; Fairview Heights, Illinois
- **Travel Info:** Near St. Louis Airport
- **Theme:** "Send Out the Dove"
- **Special Speakers, Breakouts**

IMA MID CTRL DIST CONF:

- **Dates:** Mon-Wed., June 19-21
- **Location:** Church of the Open Door; Hot Springs, Arkansas
- **Host Pastor:** Rev. Teddy Frye
- **Featured Speaker:** Pastor Charles Johnson; Heart of Worship Ministries
- **Theme:** "Victory through Strengthening the Things That Remain"
- **Scripture:** Isaiah 43:1-3; Revelation 3:2

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JUNE 2023



FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

By Rev. Virgil Amundson

I am inspired to write this article to honor all the fathers and grandfathers whose legacy of faith and Godly integrity is passed on to the succeeding generations. The power of the blessings on each generation has sustained the wisdom, faith, courage and integrity that casts a safety net against failure morally and ethically in ministry and in family. "The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them" (Proverbs 11:3).

I was blessed to have a natural father who was loving and kind to me growing up. He structured with loving discipline and assured all of my siblings he would always be there for us. And he was. I also was blessed to have a spiritual father, my pastor, who mentored me in the ministry. There were times when he would lay hands on my head to bless and

empower my faith and confidence with each opportunity God gave me. He exemplified humility and an excellent spirit and took time with me to impart that same spirit of Christ into my life. I trusted his motives in speaking into my life so as to live above reproach before the people who would follow me. He was a true spiritual father in the faith!

THE POWER OF THE BLESSING

Numerous accounts in the Old Testament tell of the Patriarch Fathers who spoke blessings of God's favor and power over peoples lives. Isaac spoke blessings to His son Jacob, and in turn, Jacob spoke blessings to his sons (Gen. 48 and 49). The blessing was an intentional act of speaking God's favor and power into a person's life. It was often accom-

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FATHERS OF OUR FAITH

By Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner, IMA Proclaim Editor



Elected and appointed (by due process of IMA) representatives of our IMA ministerial fellowship.

“Be eager to keep the unity of the spirit in the band of peace... [endeavoring to keep it] until we all come into the unity of the faith” (From Eph. 4:3, 4:13 respectively; quoted in IMA Purpose Statement, 1959). One of the fundamental precepts which our fathers of faith laid down for themselves and future members (us) was the Biblical mandate for Christian unity. It is referred to no less than five times in the IMA Statement of Purpose and then directly quoted from Scripture in the verses written above. No doubt, the fathers of our faith had a belly full of disunity that was modeled by contemporaries of their time (perhaps the 1940s and 50s).

Notice this direct quote from the IMA Purpose (constitution and bylaws). It reads:

“There being a desire in the hearts of Spirit-filled ministers throughout the world of greater love, and closer fellowship among all God’s people, a desire

to be free from malice, hatred, envy and strife; and since there is a need for more cooperation, it is our purpose to form and promote an association of brethren... Who will preach the Bible truths with compassion, and who will give honor to whom honor is due...”

The heart cry of fathers of our faith is first of all “unity of spirit.” This means our hearts must be together before we get our heads together; love is greater than our differences. Our respect goes beyond smaller, less significant doctrines and focuses on the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord. We honor all “Spirit-filled” ministers and seek to work together.

The second is followed by “unity of faith” which means that in the process of time God will help us to see eye-to-eye on matters of faith. In effect, we can get our heads together, dream big and accomplish much for God’s Kingdom.

The third kind of unity is to connect “ministers throughout the world” with “greater love” and enjoy that wonderful dynamic called “fellowship.” Here we grow to the point of standing shoulder to shoulder for missions around the globe.

If we take time to reread our Statement of Purpose (as our Chairman Rev. Chad Hayes had the National Board members do at the last IMA Planning Session) we will find something powerful. It has everything to do with our present vision for the IMA. We are RELATIONAL, i.e. we make every effort to keep the unity of spirit. We are ACTIONAL, work along side the brethren as we come into the unity of the faith. Then, of course, we are MISSIONAL.

We take God’s message (values); our gift mix (virtues) and use a variety of ways to manifest His grace (venues) to “urge mankind to turn from sin to serve the live God” (First paragraph, Purpose Statement).

OUR FATHERS WHO ART ON EARTH

By Rev. Richard Bolte

Rev. Richard Bolte is a long-time inspirational evangelist who has served with the IMA for decades. He has visited dozens of our IMA churches and is a seasoned father of the faith. He and his wife Sandra have raised two grown daughters. He now has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

No person on earth has as great an opportunity to influence a child for God as does the child’s father. The Bible doesn’t say, “Mother’s, bring up your children”; the Scriptures say clearly, “Father’s do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

What is happening to Fatherhood in our society? American fathers neglect the spiritual leadership in their families. Forty percent of all children in the U.S. will spend some portion of their formative years in a single-parent family. The percentage is 65% for African American children. Thank God for godly mothers, but they are no substitute for the absence of a godly father’s example.

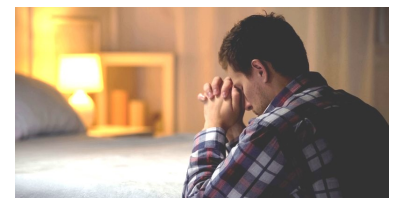


The relationship a child has with their father on earth becomes the basis for that child’s ideas and attitudes toward their Father in heaven. Relationship with your child is more important than career ambitions. Satan attacks the father/child relationship. He knows that children who form a strong love bond with their earthly father are more likely to develop healthy love relationship with their heavenly Father.

Here are some suggestions that will help win this battle for your child’s spiritual well-being:



- Share projects. When they can assume tasks themselves, give them responsibility.
- Know the difference between authority and influence. Authority resides in a position and functions through delegation. Influence resides in a person, and functions through personal contact.
- Our authority will be respected by the amount of influence we have gained over and with our children. When children become teenagers we will have lost the leverage of physical intimidation.
- Inspire your children.
- Modeling is the most powerful form of teaching. Remember, you are the forerunner of your child’s image of God.
- Express your approval of your children. We all need approval from the authority figure we are trying to please. If you criticize, make sure you commend.
- As you pray for your children, make sure you pray for yourself. We must have God’s help in order to fulfill the great task of being a father on earth.
- Don’t neglect playing with your children. If you think this humiliating, think about how humiliating it was for God to become a human being. He got involved in our world in order that we would grow up to be part of His world.
- Instruct your children.
- Let your children discover you to be a loving teacher.



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IMA National Conference

We invite everyone to gather in Fairview Heights, Illinois for the **IMA National Conference Monday—Wednesday, September 18-20, 2023.** We will be meeting at Grace Church with host pastor Ben and Michelle Godard (and Rev. Hal and Pam Santos). The theme for this year is **“Send out the Dove.”**

Evening Keynote Speakers are the following: Rev. Aeneas Williams (Monday); Rev. Richard Hilton (Tuesday); Rev. Chad Hayes (Wednesday). Breakout sessions will be offered on Tuesday morning. Missions, IMA Spotlight, and more will be on Wednesday morning. **Mark the dates!**

