

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:

Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner, IMA PROCLAIM Editor

And emailed to: nlcasac@cheqnet.net Or to: imahdq@gmail.com

LOVE for IMA

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

Having just returned from a 17-day trip to Israel, I am totally refreshed and filled with joy to have been in the Holy Land. About half way through the pilgrimage, I saw this sign just outside Jerusalem. I quickly took a long-range picture of it because it reminded me of our beloved fellowship. It is really hard to write the letters IMA without placing a big, red heart in the middle. God has blessed the IMA in many ways. Along with the great and diverse membership, we have HEART; God's heart. We have heart for God, one another, world missions, and impacting local communities. **Relational, Actional, Missional**; that's us. Notwithstanding, everything we do, we do with heart.



Relational

Actional

Missional

FEBRUARY 2023

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Not Meant to Walk Alone

By Rev. Michael Bell
Destiny Church, Fredericksburg Campus

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel." Philippians 1:27

Is there anything in our lives more important than the Gospel? No, there isn't. Being a carrier of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest privilege, as well as the greatest responsibility. We as ministers know this. Each one of us has decided to heed the call of God, and to be those who lead and teach others to fulfill the Great Commission.

Is your manner of life worthy of the Gospel? Being carriers of the Gospel is quite a task. It's not just being able to share it with our mouths; it's more than that. It's living it out. It's RELATIONAL. It's ACTIONAL. It's MISSIONAL. Dr. Warner has often said that the IMA is a RAM Force (Relational, Actional, Missional). This is exactly how we need to be as carriers of the Gospel. I've personally benefited from this RAM Force, mostly, from the Relational aspect.

We cannot walk alone. We all need relationships. We all need support. We all need to be able to have each other's backs as ministers. This is a principle of the local church. We take this Biblical princi-

ple and apply it at a pastoral level. I think it's amazing.

In 2020, God called me to pastor a church in the city of Fredericksburg, TX. This was not where I lived. I lived in San Antonio, TX, exactly one hour away. This is where I was born and raised, serving the Lord at Destiny Church. 2020...what else can you say about that year that hasn't been said already? Certainly, you can say that it's not the ideal year to begin full-time ministry as a new pastor in a new city. This, however, is what us pitiful human beings think, with our narrow-sighted eyes. BUT, GOD! God's ways are higher than our ways. God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts. And sometimes, we, individually, need other brothers and sisters in ministry to be there to encourage and strengthen us, when we ourselves cannot see beyond the natural.

This is where people from the IMA stepped in. It was men like Don Crabtree and Tim Warner, who would encourage me by phone or text. Men like this, along with David Cook, Paul Mason, and Larry King, who showed their support towards

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National Board:

- ▣ **Rev. Chad Hayes**
- ▣ **Rev. Sean Dudley**
- ▣ **Rev. Dan Hernandez**
- ▣ **Rev. Kurt Juszczak**
- ▣ **Rev. Paul Mason**
- ▣ **Rev. Mike McCord**
- ▣ **Dr. Timothy Warner**

District Chairs:

- ▣ **Dr. Charles Dewing**
- ▣ **Rev. Philip Tolman**
- ▣ **Rev. Joe Campbell**
- ▣ **Rev. Romualdo Corpuz**
- ▣ **Rev. Karrie Landsverk**
- ▣ **Rev. Julie Wells**
- ▣ **Rev. Keith Owens**
- ▣ **Rev. Jason King**
- ▣ **Rev. David Spurlock**
- ▣ **Rev. Robert Garcia**

"Not Meant to Walk Alone" Article Continued from Pg. 1

myself, and the church where God had called me to. On March 21, 2021, we had an official installation service for myself and my wife, Jennifer. All the men I mentioned above made the effort to attend this service, along with other members from the IMA. I'll treasure this night for the rest of my life. It's things like this that make the IMA invaluable.

We cannot walk alone. We need others in our life who are going through similar challenges, successes, highs and lows. It's this unity and understanding that we can have together as ministers, that can really strengthen our resolve to fulfill the call that God has placed on each one of us—to live a life that's worthy of the Gospel of Christ!

Why I Love the IMA

By Rev. Sean Alexander; IMA Home Office Coordinator



I still feel like a relative newcomer to the IMA, having only been a member for a few years now. But in my relatively brief time with this fellowship, it has made an indelible impact on my life and ministry. I will be forever grateful for my involvement therein. While there are no doubt many reasons I could list, for brevity's sake, I will limit myself to only mentioning three reasons why I love the IMA.

have in common is INTEGRITY. I love that, from top to bottom, what you see is what you get. There is nothing fake or put-on about the people of the IMA. The IMA is simply replete with honest, hard-working, humble people who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of the Kingdom of God. They strive every day to live out the message that they preach. I am honored to be associated with men and women of the highest character.

PURPOSE

I strongly believe in the mission of the IMA. The IMA was founded not as a denomination, but as a fellowship; united in purpose but extending liberty to individual members and churches. Simply put, the IMA has always been a place where Spirit-filled ministers can find fellowship, support, and covering without being constricted by litigious doctrinal dictates or burdened by bureaucratic overreach. Now more than ever a fellowship is needed which adheres to Biblical truth in the face of cultural and legal decay; an organization that doesn't just quietly nod to its roots in Spirit Baptism but rather boldly proclaims its ongoing relevance and necessity. I am proud to be part of a full gospel association that provides me support and unity in the essentials and liberty and grace in the nonessentials.

PRIORITIES

I am privileged to serve the IMA in an official capacity by managing the Home Office. This gives me a unique vantage point to assess the actual – and not just stated – priorities of both IMA leadership and member ministers. Hands down, the one thing that consistently emerges not just in word but also in deed is a passion directed toward world missions. Every month as I process World Harvest Offering receipts and disbursements, I am inspired by the many IMA members and churches who give generously to faithfully support the work of ministry. I am proud to serve an organization that prioritizes the Great Commission and continues to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world.

I believe the IMA's best days are still ahead of us. I am honored to be part of a fellowship with pure motives and a rich heritage. I thank God for connecting me with other ministers "of like precious faith."

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2023 IMA NCD Winter Fellowship. Many IMA Districts host fellowship events throughout the year.

PEOPLE

The IMA has some of the best ministers – and more importantly, best people – I've ever had the privilege of knowing. I love the down-to-earth nature of its membership; there are no "big I's and little you's." The word that often comes to mind when trying to characterize what IMA ministers



Ministry Couples

Courtesy of Rev. Hal Santos



As Valentine's Day approaches, I thought it might be helpful to write something practical for ministry couples. If you are a married pastor, consider these seven ways to bless your wife:

- Remember you are her pastor.** In our zeal to become good pastors to the entire church, we may neglect being a good pastor to the one closest to us. Your wife needs you as much, if not more, than other members of the church. Never assume she needs less spiritual ministry simply because she's married to the pastor.
- Have a regular date night.** Regularly schedule an evening out together. Your date night need not be expensive; just make time to be together. Most members will appreciate that you have scheduled time together and, unless it's an emergency, will resist contacting you on your date night.
- Be a good father.** If God has blessed you and your wife with children, then be sure to be there for them as your family's primary spiritual leader. Because your wife spends a great deal of time parenting the children, you bless her enormously when you share that responsibility and support her decisions in the presence of the children.
- Invite her to minister with you.** Serving together is a great way for couple to draw closer. Invite your wife to go with you as you make ministry visits. Not only does she feel honored to serve

with you, but members are encouraged when they see a pastor and wife serving together. Consider the value of her presence when counseling members who may benefit from her knowledge and experience. You may also think about leading a marriage retreat together as another way to bless her by including her in ministry.

- Share with her what God is teaching you.** Your wife enjoys hearing how God is working in your life. Taking time to share with her what He has revealed to you in prayer blesses her. You also honor her when you share what God has shown in your study of biblical passages. Always remember the two of you are "heirs together of the grace of life" (1 Peter 3:7).
- Pray with her.** Because she is your divinely created helper (Gen. 2:18), your wife enjoys praying for you as well as praying with you. Taking her by the hand and talking to God shows your love for her. It also blesses her with a sense of security as she knows her husband is seeking God regularly in his efforts to provide spiritual leadership in the home.
- Worship with her.** If possible, sit with your wife during worship and praise God with her. Even if it's just for a few minutes before you preach, she will appreciate the opportunity to worship alongside her husband.

Quotable Quotes

"It is better to make a thousand failures than to be too cowardly to ever undertake anything."
~ Clovis G. Chappell

"Nothing paralyzes our lives like the attitude that things can never change. We need to remind ourselves that God can change things. Outlook determines outcome. If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory."
~ Warren Wiersbe

"Whatever 'call' a man may pretend to have, if he has not been called to holiness, he certainly has not been called to the ministry."
~ Charles Spurgeon

"The first and principal duty of a pastor is to feed the flock by diligent preaching of the Word."
~ John Owens

Religion says, "I obey; therefore I am accepted." Christianity says, "I'm accepted, therefore I obey."
~ Timothy Keller

"There were three things that Jesus didn't care about: He didn't care about the things going on around Him; He didn't care about what people thought about Him; and He didn't care about the plots against Him. He had confidence, faith, and perfect peace that everything that God had spoken would come to pass."
~ Instaquote

District Conferences

IMA CENTRAL DIST. CONF:

- **Dates:** Thurs-Sat., April 27-29
- **Theme:** Kingdom Culture
- **Speaker:** Apostle Greg Hood
- **Location:** Rising River Church; Vincennes, Indiana (US 41)
- **Host Pastor:** Dr. Kathie Eades

IMA SOUTH CTRL DIST CONF:

- **Dates:** Mon-Wed., June 19-21
- **Location:** Church of the Open Door; Hot Springs, Arkansas
- **Host Pastor:** Rev. Teddy Frye

IMA NORTH CTRL DIST CONF:

- **Dates:** Thurs-Fri., April 20-21
- **Location:** Amherst Bible Church; Amherst, Wisconsin
- **Host Pastor:** Rev. Derek Nett