

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

ANNOUNCEMENT:
Missionary Bob McCoy, Sr. went home to be with the Lord on Monday, February 22, 2021. He was a beloved missionary and friend of the IMA. Our love and prayers are with his wife Evelyn and the McCoy family.

>> IMA Announcements >> Quotable Quotes

A. D. Van Hoose

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“When you frequently meet together, the powers of Satan are overthrown, and his mischief is neutralized by your like-mindedness in the faith.”

~ Ignatius; Bishop of Antioch of Syria, AD 35-108

“The mission of the church is missions.”

~ Oswald J. Smith

“God will guide your footsteps if you are willing to move your feet.”

~ Copied

“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.”

~ Ignatius

“Advisors advise; ministers decide.”

~ Margret Thatcher

IMA 2021 National Conference ~ M-W, Sept. 20-22, 2021

Faith Bible Chapel; Pastor Jason King; Arvada, CO (Denver area)

World Renowned Special Speaker: Rev. Rob Carman



**Relational
Actional
Missional**

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PROCLAIM

MARCH 2021



Maintaining the Bond Between the Missionary & the Sending Church

By Sheldon Dwyer; Gospel Ventures, IMA Missionary

Since we have been church supported for forty-eight years, and have had very good relationships with our home church pastors, maybe that is the reason I am called upon to write on keeping the bond between the missionary and the sending church. They say, “The largest room in the world is the room for improvement.” In order to help us improve, we will look at some guidelines on the responsibility of the local church, and the responsibility of the missionary.

Local Church’s Responsibility:

- ▣ **Create a climate for Foreign Missions** (Acts 13:1-4). Our home church opened the door for missionaries to speak in the church. They also started a Missions Conference, and opened the door for Missionaries to come and promote their various mission projects. Once people start seeing what is happening, it creates a climate for Missions.

- ▣ **Understand a call from God** (Acts 9:15). How does God call? Through Scripture (I Tim. 3:16,17); audible voice (I Sam. 3:8); still, small voice, or whisper (I Kings 19:12), a nudge in one’s spirit (Rom. 8:14); and an open door (Rev. 3:8). A calling should have two or three witnesses (Mt. 18:16), and often there will be a prophecy, dream or vision to confirm; but not always. Once a call is evident, what is the responsibility of the local church? Will we get with it? Or reject it? I will let you answer that one!

- ▣ **Must understand that there is a difference between being called, and being sent.** Paul was called in Acts 9:15, and he was sent in Acts 13:1-4, several years after his call. Now it is not a question of whether or not he should go. It’s a matter of when he should go. A door must be open and timing is important to the call.

- ▣ **It is important for the home church or churches to get behind the missionary** (Acts 13:1-4; Phil. 4:18). The word “sent” means to send with substance. You don’t just send them away and forget them, you send them with substance, and you faithfully stand behind them with prayers and finances.

Responsibility of the Missionary:

- ▣ **Faithful in home church** (Acts 11:25, 26). It is just common sense that anyone sent out from a local church, has been faithful to that church with his talents and his finances.

- ▣ **Communicate with the home church and others who support you** (Phil. 4:18, 19). There was a missionary supported by our home church who was dropped several years ago, because he would not write or contact our pastor. Communication is a vital lifeline to maintaining good relations with pastors and churches. The pastors also told us to keep the newsletters short and sweet. **(Continued on Pg. 3)**



Motivating a Church for Missions

By Rev. Matt Bell; Destiny Church; San Antonio, TX

A lot can be said (and has been said) about Pentecost. I'm not referring to the Pentecost of Acts 2, but rather the movement that traces its roots back to the Azusa Street revivals. This movement that started with a handful of believers a century ago has multiplied into a global force for the Kingdom of God.

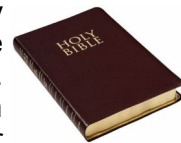
Undeniably, one of the great strengths of Pentecost was that it always had a very strong emphasis on missions and fulfilling the Great Commission. Growing up in this movement, some of the most beloved and formative events in my life took place at missions conferences. I'm sure the same can be said for many of you as well. As we are now several generations removed from those that pioneered the movement, the questions arises; how do we keep that passion and flame for missions burning strong within our churches?

To answer that question, we need to look at one of the foundational ideas that birthed the movement. That idea can be summarized as "We believe the Bible is God's Word; inspired, authoritative, infallible, and true. Therefore, we will do what it says, in obedience to God." Though this idea is simple, it is also extremely powerful. We can see how this belief culminated in believers gathering and seeking outpourings of the Holy Spirit like the early church experienced in Acts 2.

The fruit of this idea doesn't stop with seeking Holy Spirit baptism. A movement that values God's Word as such, will inevitably be thrust into missions and fulfilling the Great Commission. There's no way to escape it. All four Gospels culminate with the words of our Lord commanding His followers to make disciples of all nations. Acts likewise begins with the same

commandment. These words are not a suggestion. They are not up for debate. Jesus, as Head of the Church and King of the Universe, has issued marching orders.

At Azusa Street, they got the message. The founding fathers of the IMA got the message. Those who went before me got the message. If we are going to keep the flame for missions burning in our churches, we must once again plant our feet firmly on the truth that the Bible is God's Word. We must instill within the hearts of our people the supremacy, sufficiency, and authority of God's Word. We must foster devotion to God by obeying His Word. If you will do that, one of the many wonderful things that will be birthed is a church that is passionate for missions and fulfilling the Great Commission.



DNA of IMA

Part 2: Love for Missions



By Dr. Timothy L. Warner; IMA National Chairman

DNA of a church or ministerial alliance is vital. You can accurately chart your course in ministry to the future if you understand your identity in God. We need to ask: What is the original purpose for which this association was created? The DNA of the IMA certainly has missionaries at heart.

Last time, we talked about the IMA and "Our Distinctive," which is the empowering factor of the Holy Spirit. Today, our topic turns to missions; no less empowered, but much more reportable. Let's consider **Our Love for Missions!**

Originally, the IMA was filled with ministers with a variety of giftings. Some were pastors, others, evangelists; still others had a call to go to the foreign mission field. So, missionaries went to England, Japan, Haiti, Africa and beyond. Because we are relational, IMA churches and pastors "got behind" these ambassadors for God, sent them out and supported them financially. IMA loves missions!

Having the treasure of reading previously published articles that date back to the 1940s, it's not hard to see that the IMA supported missionaries; we still love missions today. Most of our founding publications included articles about missions. Take, for example, the November 1957 issue of the IMA HERALD; note the words, picture and passion for missions:

The IMA has made great strides in missions over the past three years. This is especially true

Witches in the Missionary Department; the offerings have increased over twelve times.



Supporting missions runs deep in IMA history. Financial giving reports of "IMA churches" are replete in past issues of IMA newsletters. From the "witches" pictured in heathen nations; to evangelistic crusades of IMA ministers to Jamaica, Japan, and a host of others, IMA was and is there!

If you are a pastor, keep missions alive in your church. If you are a missionary, seek to expand your horizons in the IMA. We feature a missions service each year at our IMA National Conference. Under the capable leadership of Dr. Don Crabtree and crew, IMA missions continues to grow and increase.

Funds from pastors and churches send finances bi-monthly to support our precious missionaries around the world. Several IMA pastors sponsor mission conferences across the nation. Relationships are built, challenges are given, finances raised, and missions moves forward!

IMA is **RAM** force! **R**elational is first; we bond with fellow ministers. We are **A**ctional; every member serves. Finally, we are **M**issional; we support and honor fellow comrades of faith. IMA loves missionaries! The DNA of the IMA is to love missionaries and support missions!

(Continued from Pg. 1; "Maintaining the Bond Between the Missionary & the Sending Church")



IMA MISSIONS REPORT

By Dr. Don Crabtree, Missions Committee Chairman



We send greetings and hope of wellbeing to you and your family. At our IMA National Conference in Clarksville, IN this past fall, the Rev. Virgil Amundson announced that he would be retiring from his position as an Advisor on the IMA Missions Committee. We are pleased to announce that after prayer and consideration, the Rev. Reg Myers, Senior Pastor of Shell Lake Full Gospel in Shell Lake, WI has accepted the appointment to fill this vital roll. The Missions Committee now consists of Rev. Kurt Juszczak and Rev. Reg Myers, Advisors; Rev. Sean Alexander, IMA Member Services Coordinator, Sec/Treas; Dr. Don Crabtree, Chairman.

Being mindful of the varying hardships that have been forced upon virtually all of us, and due to the economic impact of Covid-19, the IMA Missions

Committee asked the IMA National Board to help alleviate this economic burden for our Missionaries. The National Board readily agreed, and voted unanimously to send a one-time offering in the amount of \$200 above their regular WHO support. We ask all of our IMA Members and Churches to remember to pray for our Missionaries and to prayerfully remember their financial needs that in many cases are greater now than ever due to the extenuating circumstances.

We also want to encourage everyone who made faith pledges toward our mission's budget during the National Conference to continue to be diligent in fulfilling their commitments. May God bless each and everyone in this year, 2021.

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☐ **Furlough or return home to give a report of your work** (Acts 14:26). There are two main reasons for this. First, your children need to get back to your home country so they do not lose their identity with their home country. Two, it is important to renew relations with your sending church, and encourage them in the work of spreading the Gospel to other nations.

☐ **Missionaries must keep faithful relationships on the Field** (Acts 15:36-40). This includes other missionaries that he or she is working with. Paul and Barnabas had a falling out, and they eventually went their own ways to two different

works. One thing that stands out about this, is that they agreed to disagree, and did not malign or denigrate one another after separating. Later, they came together, and it all came out for the good of the church. This is an excellent guide for modern missionaries as well.

These are some guidelines that we have found useful over the years. I hope it will help others as well. As missionaries know, it does not always go as smooth as silk, but the most important thing is how we handle both the difficulties and blessings of missionary life. To know the will of God is the greatest knowledge, and to do the will of God is the grandest achievement.