

VISIONS

A Quarterly Newsletter about IFMA members, activities, and growth

IFMA

INTERDENOMINATIONAL FOREIGN MISSION ASSOCIATION

M.V.P.

THE ESSENCE OF IFMA

In the world of sports everyone knows what MVP stands for. Whether in baseball, football, basketball or soccer, the MVP is that standout player who excels above all others during the course of the game. His or her displayed skills become the benchmark by which the other players strive to attain. He is the "Most Valuable Player."

The IFMA also has its MVP! But our MVP is quite different from that of sports. Ours, instead, relates to the essence of what IFMA is all about. Although from its inception this mission association has always had a purpose statement, it was not until earlier this year that the Board decided to clarify with some well-defined statements what we are all about. The results of those discussions are our new Mission, Vision, and Passion statements.

MISSION

"Our mission is to advance the effectiveness of our members in global mission."

"Just how does the IFMA advance the effectiveness of my mission?" asked a mission executive when he saw this statement. That very relevant question is easily answered by individual agencies taking advantage of the benefits IFMA offers: fellowship, networking, mission training, leadership workshops, disseminating mission information channeled through this office, and setting standards of integrity. These are some of the services IFMA provides. All of these are meant to further advance the effectiveness of our valued member missions. *(continued)*

Short-Term Missions, Long-Term Impact?

**2007 IFMA / EMS / MAS
Annual Conference
September 27–29, 2007**

Minneapolis Airport Marriott

INSIDE

**From the IFMA Canada Board President
Plenary Speakers**

Traditionally the Summer issue of the IFMA newsletter includes information about the IFMA/EMS/MAS Annual Meeting. Inside this issue only the Plenary Speakers are highlighted. For more information or to register go to www.ifmamiissions.org.



Continued from page 1

VISION

"Our vision is to see our members thrive in their God-given mission."

Each member mission has its specific area of interest and expertise by which it is reaching out to win people to Christ. That is what makes IFMA as note-worthy as it is! No one agency does the exact same thing as any other. Our members' relationship is like a quilt, not a blanket made of the same material that is uniformly woven together, making it look identical through and through. More accurately, our membership is like a quilt, made of individual colorful patches that are uniquely different that, when artfully sewn together, make a beautiful mosaic of unity. That's the composition of the IFMA and our vision is to see each individual "patch" not just survive, but to thrive in the specific mission God has entrusted to them. We try to keep this a thriving environment by staying abreast with current missiological thought and information and then passing it on through our network.

PASSION

"Our passion is to glorify God together by reaching people everywhere with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Intensity that is forceful, purposeful and intentional best describes our passion statement. Not many organizations have a "passion" statement, but we decided we should. The statement makes clear our genuine desire to corporately keep God at the center of all that we do as we fulfill His salvific purposes to all peoples.

There you have it – our MVP. These statements express the very essence of IFMA. Kept in balance while rooted at the core of our identity, these statements serve as the benchmark by which we measure ourselves. They also keep us on track as we take further steps to re-tool and strengthen the fabric of our association for the future.

Marv

Marv Newell
Executive Director
IFMA North America



"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become."

–Henry Martyn

"Missions is the overflow of our delight in God because missions is the overflow of God's delight in being God."

–John Piper

"I believe that in each generation God has called enough men and women to evangelize all the yet unreached tribes of the earth.... It is not God who does not call. It is man who will not respond!"

–Isobel Kuhn

From Gerald Hayes, President of the IFMA Canada Board

There is no doubt that we are living in turbulent times. Globalization was unknown a generation or two ago but now it seems to affect us from every conceivable angle. Information, capital and labor flow across national boundaries almost instantaneously for the benefit of some, while millions of others languish under the yoke of repressive leaders, economic hardship and spiritual darkness.

Clearly, much of the world does not function according to our Western values, culture or mindset. A Canadian author, Mark Steyn, calls attention to the rapid

biological growth of Islam, while the West seems intent on self-destruction by relentlessly advocating such practices as 'abortion on demand' and homosexual unions. Dr. Meic Pearse tries to help us understand "Why the Rest Hates the West" and concludes his book by focusing on 'the renewed relevance of a religious-and moral-vision'.

It is obvious that the forces of evil are arrayed against our Lord Jesus Christ and the Gospel of His grace. Jesus said that we cannot serve both



"Short-term Missions, Long-term Impact?"

PLENARY SPEAKERS



Leith Anderson, well known author and sought after speaker, is currently the president of the National Association of Evangelical (NAE). Besides serving as senior pastor of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, he also speaks daily on the radio program FAITH MATTERS. Dr. Anderson is the author of ten books, including *Dying For Change*, *Leadership That Works*, and *How to Act Like a Christian*. Leith and his wife Charleen have four children. Leith will share a biblical perspective on missions.



Bertil Ekstrom is the new Executive Director of the Missions Commission of World Evangelical Alliance. Born in Sweden, Bertil grew up as an MK in Brazil. He has worked in Brazil for the past 26 years with InterAct (a Swedish Baptist mission), during which time he has served as president of the Brazilian Association of Cross Cultural Missions and of COMIBAM, the Latin American Continental Missions Network. Bertil is married to Alzira, has four children, and lives in Campinas, Brazil. Bertil will share a global perspective on missions today.



Rev. Roger Peterson is the Executive Director of STEM Int'l, an international short-term mission organization he incorporated in 1984. Roger works to mobilize and increase mission activity among Christian churches across North America through short-term mission opportunities. He has trained and/or led more than 400 short-term mission teams, representing more than 6,600 people. Author of the book *Maximum Impact Short-Term Mission*, he is also publisher of the popular Mission Maker Magazine. Currently Roger chairs the Board of Directors for the Alliance for Excellence in Short-Term Mission (AESTM).



Scott Ross and his wife Debbie served with New Tribes Mission in Papua New Guinea from 1987 until 1993 and he presently serves as General Counsel with New Tribes Mission. He comes to us with a wealth of experience in crisis management and will be speaking on Short Term Missions, the Reality of Risk. The question is often asked by mission agencies and churches: Just what are the risks to our organization as we send out the thousands of short term mission's teams into often unfriendly arenas. Scott will explore the risks to personnel and an agency's ability to continue ministry, actual threats faced, lessons learned, and the risk unto death. Also discussed will be the results of a survey taken among agencies of what types and the number of incidents faced in the last 2 years.



Samer Abdel-Rahman was born into an Iraqi Sunni Muslim family. As he was growing up he became a devoted radical Muslim and trained to become a Muslim Cleric. Intent on converting Christians to Islam, "the true religion," he became a believer in Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit worked in his heart while reading the Bible to refute Christianity. After his father was executed by Saddam, he fled to the Netherlands and eventually to the United States. He is currently the Islamic Ministries Specialist with Avant Ministries and instructs classes at Ft. Leavenworth Command and General Staff College at Ft. Riley for the U.S. military.

God and mammon (Mt. 6:24), but many professing believers in Canada today seem unwilling to make a choice in this fundamental area. We want to enjoy the benefits of being God's children, without turning away from the temporal pleasures of the world around us.

It is from this cultural context, that we are seeking to mobilize, equip, encourage and support world changing soldiers of the cross! This is not a trivial task, but a profound responsibility. God has given us an

understanding of His truth, he has given us unparalleled resources, and He calls us to make His grace known to the billions who remain in spiritual darkness. And to whom much is given much will be required (Lk. 12:48). What a sobering thought!

We need not fear or turn back because He is our omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent holy and just God. He will inevitably place all things in subjection to His sovereign purpose and will. Today, He is building His church from every nation, tribe,

people and language of the world and the gates of hell will not prevail against it (Mt. 16:18). And He will continue to do so until the end of the age and the church is complete. He does not need us, but He has graciously invited us to join Him in His work.

There has never been a greater need for God's people to work together than at the present time. Let us commit ourselves afresh to this task for His glory.

— Gerald Hayes

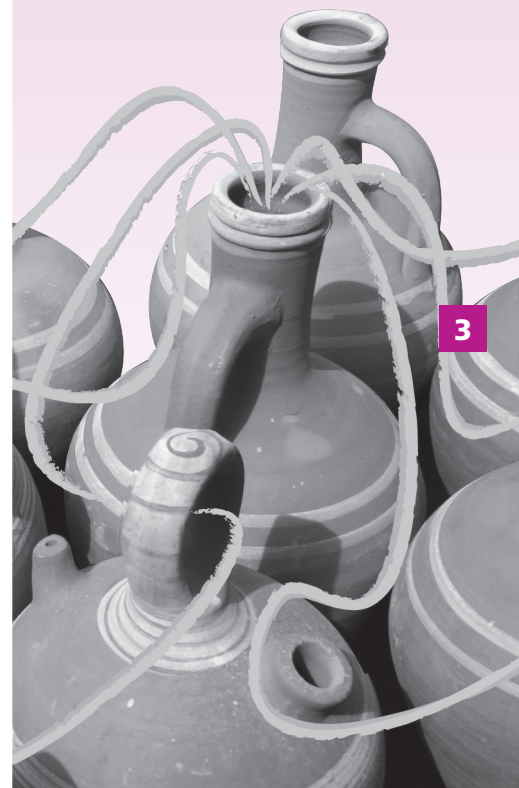
IN JARS OF CLAY

IFMA/EFMA Personnel
Conference is coming!

November 28–30, 2007

Online registration available!

www.ifmamissions.org



Calendar of Events

2007

IFMA/EMS Annual Meeting '07 & Combined IFMA Mission Administration Seminar

September 27–29, 2007
Minneapolis Airport Marriott
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Checkin: afternoon of September 27
Depart: morning of September 30

IFMA/EFMA Personnel Conference '07

November 28–30, 2007
International Learning Center (IMB/SBC)
Rockville, Virginia
Checkin: afternoon of November 28
Depart: morning of December 1

ReFresh '07 (CEO/Spouse Retreat '07)

December 3–6, 2007
Florida Christian Retreat Center
Bradenton, Florida
Checkin: afternoon of December 3
Depart: after lunch on December 6

2008

LeaderLink '08 – North America

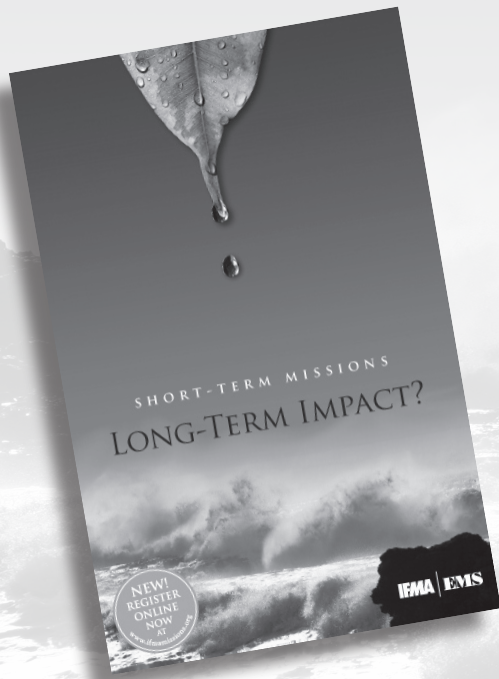
IFMA/EFMA Program of Leadership Enhancement
Canterbury Retreat & Conference Center
Oviedo, Florida
March 1–6, 2008

LeaderLink Kenya '08

IFMA/EFMA Program of Leadership Enhancement
May 4–9, 2008
Nairobi, Kenya
www.leaderlink.org

IFMA/EFMA/EMS Triennial 2008

September 24–26, 2008
Omni Hotel
Broomfield, Colorado



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now at
www.ifmamissions.org**

www.ifmamissions.org

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