



International Ministerial Fellowship

“COME MEET THE FAMILY” BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE

www.i-m-f.org

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Above: Dr. Leonard Sweet, brilliant, insightful Biblical scholar and anointed preacher, lifts up his “two” Bibles, one a King James Version and the other a computer with fifty six translations. Dr. Sweet is a prophetic voice to much of the traditional church challenging it to wake up to a transforming culture (here and around the world) and learn to live Christ in their language or run the risk of losing generations- to-come from the Church, the living body of Christ on earth.



Left: Board Chair, Chet Masserano, receives the Outstanding Community Service Award for his leadership in the Christian Community Golf Association and their contribution of our \$100,000 toward the IMF Headquarter building.



Above: Celebration Church's 60 Voice Choir and Band lead our Thursday evening service in worship and praise.



**With excerpts from
Opening Session
Sermon**

The Word God Sent

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICES



Pastor Mark Herringshaw, Senior Pastor of Vision of Glory Lutheran Church, our host church located in Plymouth, Minnesota gives a warm welcome to the conference. Mark has been a member of IMF for 11 years and serves a dynamic congregation that imparts the centrality of Christ and the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. Special thanks to Mark and all the leadership at VOG!



Frank Masserano (General Secretary) presents the John & Nancy Clark Distinguished Service Award to Outgoing IMF President, Dr. M.G. McLuhan.

Pastors and laymen alike fill the altar after the close of the service to rededicate their lives to Christ and renew their call to Christian ministry. Both Dr. Sheats and Dr. Sweet ministered to those who desired special prayer.



Genetter Bailey, gospel singer extraordinaire ministered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit as her gifted piano accompanist, Billy Young and backup singers lift their voices and talents in worship to God. Special thanks to Bishops W.H. and Sandra White from Emmanuel Church in Kansas City for helping bring them to us.



Carol Masserano sang a great gospel song about the Word God sent, "O What a Savior."



Lowell Lundstrom gives the opening greeting for the conference on behalf of local pastors.

Dave Plummer receives the Outstanding Achievement Award from General Secretary, Frank Masserano.



IMF Leaders and Conference goes worship and lift on high the Lord.



General Secretary, Pastor Frank Masserano greets the Conferees at the opening service.



The 60 voice choir and band from Celebration Church of Lakeville, Minnesota, under the leadership of Londa Hentges and the direction of Jeanetta Thulin lifted our spirits in worship and blessed us all as we worshipped our living and loving Lord!

Excerpts from Opening Sermon

John 1: 1-4; 11, 12; 14:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men... He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed his name, He gave the right to become children of God... The Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.

Somebody mentioned, I think it was Pastor Geabhart from Memphis, that we are a very diversified group. I've been acquainted with IMF for a number of years and I just love the diversity of this group. We have many different backgrounds but one spirit... the Spirit of the Word... the living Christ!



Standing ovation after standing ovation, Opus Dei (Ken Carter, Michael Rogers and Daniel Harper) all opera singers joined together to sing contemporary and classic Christian music.

(Excerpts from Opening Sermon continued on page 6)



Now, Christianity was cradled in Judaism. And the Scotch Presbyterian William Barkley wrote, "Within 30 years of Jesus' death and resurrection Christianity had traveled all over Asia Minor and Greece and had reached Rome. By 60 AD there must have been at least a 100,000 Greeks in the church for every Jew who was becoming a Christian." In other words 100,000 Greeks for every one Jew who was a believer. So the following question arises very quickly.

"How was Christianity to be presented to the Greek world?" The coming of Messiah had been a Jewish concept. How was it going to be presented to a world that didn't have any Jewish background or theological context?

About 100 AD there was a man in Ephesus who was fascinated by this challenge. How do we communicate this wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ? He lived, He rose, He died, He came, He was sent, He walked among us and He changed our lives. And how do we get



Pamela Rutherford, armed with a PhD in dance set all worldly acclaim and human crowns aside and led us into a realm of worship to an almighty and everlasting Father God. Through her expressions of sacred dance, we too laid our meager, earthly crowns at the feet of our Savior and eternal King.

Pastors Brian and Jacque Lotter, founding pastors of Hope Community Church in Corcoran, Minnesota, raised our spirits and led us into intimate worship of our almighty God. We know that God dwells in the presence of praise and worship.

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



Dr. M.G. McLuhan spoke on New Historical (Biblical language) on divorce and what it means for Christian families and those in Christian ministry (i.e. a core review of the Koma Greek language and the Biblical discussion on divorce.



Rev. David Clark, Founder and Director of Youth With A Mission base and IMF Board Member spoke on "Reaching Europe's Gypsies."



Rev. Tim Neet, IMF member, taught on AIDS and the Church: A Historical Opportunity.



Fred Stelter, President of InterBank and IMF Board Member shared a teaching on Biblical Stewardship entitled, "Where Your Treasure is ..."



Pastor Helmar Heckel of Baywind Community Church, Minnetonka, Minnesota and IMF member discussed the "Emotional Hazards of the Ministry."



Rev. Chasz Parker, Executive Director of Syracuse, New York's Gospel Rescue Mission and IMF Board Member taught on Personal Leadership Development.



Pastor Bruce Kotila, Executive Director for Lutherans for Evangelism spoke on Exploring the Cell Church.



Evangelist and IMF member Paul Olson shared on the Life and Ministry of the Evangelist.



Rev. Bill "Goody" Goodwin, IMF member and Youth Pastor at Celebration of Joy Church in Phoenix, Arizona taught on Youth Ministry in a Post-Modern Era.



Rev. Derryck McLuhan, IMF missionary described the Message of Missions: Achieving or Receiving?



Chaplain David Plummer, founder and Executive Director of Coalition of Spirit-Filled Churches, Head Chaplain at Sentara Hampton General Hospital in Hampton, Virginia, (served 14 years as Air Force Chaplain) and IMF member and Executive Representative for IMF's Ecclesiastical Endorsements taught on the subject, Added Value Chaplaincy.



Rev. Peggy Riley, Prayer Pastor at Woodland Hills Church, St. Paul, Minnesota spoke on Healing and Deliverance.



Rev. Mark Marxhausen, Pastor of New Vision in WORD International Church, Rosemount, Minnesota and IMF member taught on the need to provide a support and restorative program for wounded pastors (Looking for Lost Shepherds).



Rabbi Ed Rothman of Seed of Abraham Messianic Congregation in St. Louis Park, Minnesota taught on, "In the Likeness of G-d: Religious Anti-Feminism."



Past IMF President, Rev. Larry Kutzler developer and Director of the radio program CitySites and founder of CitySites Urban Media Production Company spoke on "What is God Doing in the Inner Cities?"



Rev. Dan Morstad, founder and Director of Love Lines (telephone) Crisis Center and weekly TV program with Rev. Demaris Faulkner discussed Ministering Via Crisis Centers.



Bruce Bruinsma, founder and President of Christian Retirement Coalition of Colorado Springs, Colorado shared on Personal Stewardship and Retirement Plans.

PLENARY SESSION



Dr. Leonard Sweet, researcher, educator, historian, professor and minister of the Gospel taught our morning plenary sessions, gave one afternoon seminar and preached the Thursday evening service. He informed us, challenged us and was humble enough to open the Word of God to our souls and call us to renewal. thank you Leonard and God's continued blessings to you!

AGAPE LUNCHEON

WITH PASTOR VARLE ROLLINS

Sponsored by IMF Women's Ministry



Rev. Dawn Lundgren, IMF Coordinator of Women's Ministries



Pastor Varle Rollins preached on the subject of a Continuing Revelation of an Exceptional God. Hearts were stirred, inspired to seek a greater understanding of God's desire to work His will in our lives.

RENEWAL LUNCHEON

WITH REV. TOM PAPANIA



Rev. Tom Papania (left), IMF member who left the Mafia to become a soldier for Jesus Christ, with his pastor of 20 years, Rev. Fred Kelly (right) who led him to Christ! Pastor Kelly serves as the Executive Vice President of our Board of Directors and is the founder and Senior Pastor of Landmark Church in Norcross, Georgia.

Rev. Papania spoke on God's power and process to renew our spirits and enable us to soar to new heights in our relationship with God.

TRANSPORTATION



Rev. Ron Brovold, Coordinator of Outreach Ministries on the IMF Ministry Staff at the home office, oversaw the complete and sometimes challenging transportation service we sought to provide to all conferees, leadership and guests.

BLESSINGS

Pastor Bob Geabhart, founder and Senior Pastor of Forest Hills Community Church in Cordova, Tennessee and Board Member of IMF pronounced the benedictions and blessings over our evening services.



FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET



Jearlyn Steele is a friend of IMF and an outstanding singer, performer and actress. She has performed off Broadway, at Carnegie Hall, and performed the lead role in the Life and Times of Mahalia Jackson. Our hearts were moved by God's Spirit and we enjoyed the evening as she interacted with members of the audience.



Jearlyn's brother Billy was an extra blessing as he accompanied his sister on the piano and shared his own personal journey of faith in Jesus Christ.



Dave Anderson, founder of Famous Dave's BBQ Restaurants gave an outstanding testimony to the grace and mercies of God as he told how God delivered him from alcoholism, preserved his family, helped him graduate from Harvard Business School and become a successful restaurateur. All to the Glory of God!

(Continued from page 3)

EXCERPTS FROM OPENING SERMON

that over to the Greek mind? Then the Holy Spirit moved on John. In both Greek and Jewish thought there existed the concept of the Word. The Word. Both cultures and races could understand the concept of the Word - the reason or mind of God. To the Jew a word was far more than mere sound. It was something which had an independent existence and which actually did things. In Hebrew words were power. So, to the Jew the word sent is a word sent in power.

Now to the Greek an ancient Ephesian philosopher named Herodotus put it this way, "Everything is in a state of flux." The primary story he gave to illustrate his point: it is impossible to step twice into the same river. Because once you step out, the river changes. So the big question among the stoics of the Greeks was what holds a changing world together? This great Ephesian philosopher who said quite clearly, "Well what holds it together is the Logos - "the mind of God. The reason (or mind) of God."

John comes along anointed by the Holy Spirit and he begins to tell us the solution. This word of power (Hebrew thought) and this Word, the mind of God (Greek or Hellenistic thought) - - - became flesh. A baby in a barn. Now that's a novel idea. A God who sends one to walk among men. That had never been conceived of before and so John says, "There was one sent by God to do what - to walk among us." The Word that God sent. So both Jew and Greek could believe.



Rabbi Ed Rothman, Rabbi of the Seed of Abraham Congregation in St. Louis Park, Minnesota closes the Conference with the Aaronic Blessing in Hebrew and English. It was a fitting close to an exceptional Conference. Thanks be to God!

There are three important words in our text and we can see them beginning in verse 3.

First of all John says it is a creative Word.

The scripture says you can speak that same creative Word because the same Creative God who revealed Himself in Jesus, the God-Man... that same creative spirit resides in you through the Holy Spirit.

The second thing is, it's a word of life.

John 1:4.

In him was life and the life was the light of men.

Our Messianic brethren have a wonderful word. I can't quite get the guttural sound and I love the Jewish folk. I was just presented with a marvelous plaque from the

IMF OPEN HOUSE & BARBEQUE

"I was blessed today as I listened at noon to Pastor Masserano over at the wonderful IMF headquarters, talk about how God worked to bring this together that brought that facility into existence. It's a wonderful place, a wonderful building, a wonderful gift of God to IMF. And you should all be very thankful that God has gifted us in such a powerful way. It's a good place to work. Pastor Frank talked about the offices first being in the house for nine years and then across the street. One day he looks out and he's praying, "Lord God, where can we go, where can we put this ministry? We've outgrown this place. We need some space." And he sees the very land across the street and he begins to speak the Word. He begins to speak the Word. He begins to declare this is that which God has sent unto me this day to believe that that land can belong to the IMF. And he began to do the creative thing, which was to speak the Word of God."



Members and friends gather in the parking lot of the headquarters building of IMF in the Minneapolis area for a beautiful time of fellowship and delicious food.

Open house was completed when a new wall plaque listing the names and groups who made a significant contribution to the purchase of the property, the construction of the building and the furnishing of the offices was unveiled. A prayer was made dedicating the property and its use to God's Kingdom. God bless all who helped make this day possible.

whole Jewish community in Dallas because of my love for Israel. And they often use it in their toast at a dinner, "L'Chaim" (leh hy-yem) Do you know what it means? To life! Jesus came according to John to give us life and to give it more abundantly.

The third word that God sent in Jesus beyond the words of creativity and life is the word of light!

Verse 4:

*And the light was the life of man.
Light puts chaos to flight.*

Genesis 1:3:

*Let there be light and the chaos left.
Light drives away darkness.*

I recently preached to several thousand people in Thailand. I preached on the light. I'm not talking about some ethereal Santa Fe, New Mexico kind of new ageism. I am talking about the light whose name is Jesus. And I preached my heart out and said something very revelatory by the Spirit. I explained to all of them that in Buddhism, which is the belief of 99% of those in Thailand, and in Hinduism as well, it is only a select few who are ever enlightened. But I said every one of you who comes to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died on the cross for you and rose again, He is the light

of the world. And if you will receive Him and believe Him this day you can be as enlightened by the light that God has sent whose name is Jesus. Because the light of Jesus is the light for everybody. There is no rich, no poor, no black or white, nor male nor female nor Greek nor Jew - we are one in Christ Jesus and He is the light of the world.

By the actual report from the counseling room over 100 Buddhists walked down the aisles of that church and received Jesus Christ as their savior. We've got to begin to glorify Him as King of kings and Lord of lords, the eternal God of the universe, who has sent the creative Word Jesus, the Christ who through His Holy Spirit resides inside of us. Yes, He is the creative Word and He is the Life that empowers us to be all that God the Father wants us to be and He is the Light that makes us charming and full of favor and full of winsomeness. Isn't it great that God can make us winsome?

You see, when the Word, the creative, living Word resides within you, it not only enlightens you . . . it lights up your life. He, Jesus, is the Word God sent!

- Dr. Morris Sheats

2003 International Ministerial Fellowship National Conference

“The Word God Sent”

Audio and Video Order Form

MAIN SESSIONS T = AUDIOTAPE CD = AUDIO CD V = VIDEOTAPE

T	CD	V		
			03IMF2	Dr. Leonard Sweet Thursday Morning Plenary Session
			03IMF3	Varle Rollins “Raising the Standard” (Agape Luncheon)
			03IMF5	Dr. Leonard Sweet Friday Morning Plenary Session
			03IMF6	Rev. Tom Papania * From Mafia to Ministry (Friday Renewal Luncheon)
			03IMF7	“Famous Dave” Anderson Friday Evening Banquet
WORKSHOPS				
			03IMF8	Bruce Bruinsma Personal Stewardship & Retirement Plans
			03IMF9	Rev. David Clark Reaching Europe’s Gypsies
			03IMF10	Rev. Bill “Goody” Goodwin Youth Ministry in a Post-Modern Era
			03IMF11	Pastor Helmar Heckel Emotional Hazards of the Ministry
			03IMF12	Rev. Bruce Kotila Exploring the Cell Church
			03IMF13	Rev. Mark Marxhausen Looking for Lost Shepherds
			03IMF14	Rev. Peggy Riley Healing and Deliverance
			03IMF15	Rev. Derryck McLuhan Message of Missions: Achieving or Receiving?
			03IMF16	Dr. M. G. McLuhan New Historical Light on the Divorce Question
			03IMF17	Rev. Dan Morstad/Damaris Faulkner Ministering Into Your Community: Crisis Centers
			03IMF18	Rev. Tim Neet AIDS & The Church: A Historic Opportunity
			03IMF19	Rev. Paul Olson Life & Ministry of the Evangelist
			03IMF20	Rev. Chasz Parker Personal Leadership Development
			03IMF21	Rev. Pilla and Panel What is God Doing in the Inner Cities?
			03IMF22	Rev. David Plummer Value-Added Chaplaincy
			03IMF23	Rabbi Ed Rothman In the Likeness of G-D: Religious Anti-Feminism
			03IMF24	Dr. Pamela Rutherford Biblical Foundations of Dance
			03IMF25	Dr. Pamela Rutherford Worship Through Movement
			03IMF26	Fred Stelter Where Your Treasure Is
			03IMF27	Dr. Leonard Sweet The Christian Church in a Post Modern Era

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* Tom’s personal testimony “From Mafia to Ministry” on video, CD or cassette tape can be ordered directly from Tom’s office by calling (770) 590-8775. This is a testimony worth hearing.