

HIGHLIGHTS

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Jimmy Martin

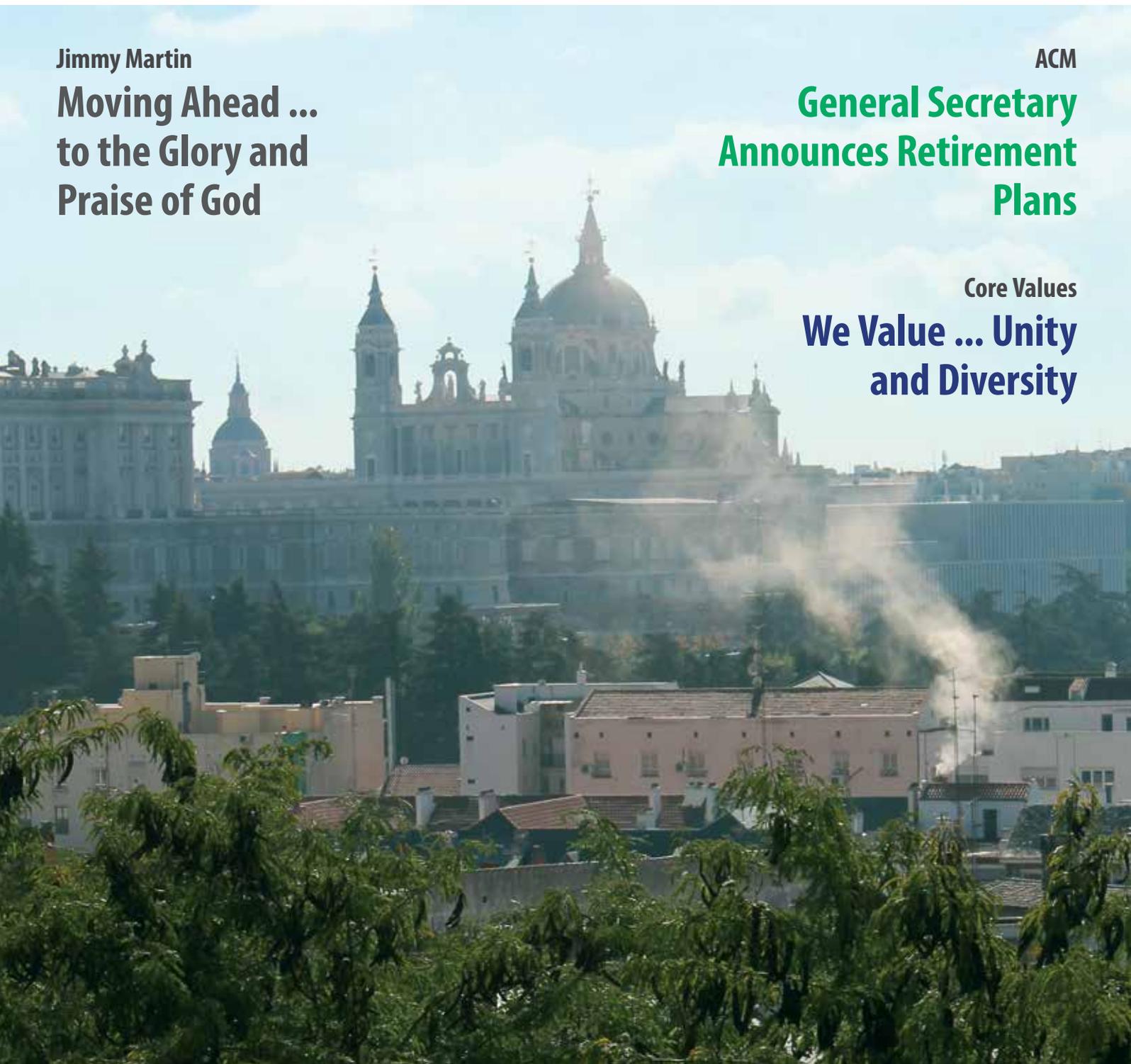
**Moving Ahead ...
to the Glory and
Praise of God**

ACM

**General Secretary
Announces Retirement
Plans**

Core Values

**We Value ... Unity
and Diversity**



Moving Ahead . . . to the Glory and Praise of God

And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. (Phil. 1:9-11)



by Jimmy Martin
General Secretary

At the Annual Convention Meeting of the International Baptist Convention in October we marked our 60th anniversary as a family of churches. 2018 was also my 15th year to serve as General Secretary. At the ACM we also marked the end of the second year of our new strategy and structure.

In my report to the convention I shared a few key objectives for the coming year. We have begun our third year under a new structure and strategy. We are in a good place. We need to build on the progress we have made in our five core strategies of multiplying churches, strengthening churches, empowering leaders, building connections, and developing resources. We need to continue moving toward our mission of “mobilizing and multiplying disciple-making churches” and toward our vision of becoming a “movement of global-minded churches that are reproducing healthy disciples, leaders, and congregations.”

Our IBC logo expresses the heart of who we are. At the center is the cross. We are a family of Gospel-believing churches. Our desire is to exalt and proclaim the crucified/buried/raised/exalted/returning Christ in every IBC church and in our work together – both in what we do and in how we treat one another. The church local and universal belongs to Christ. He is building His church. As we follow Him, we can be certain that our labor is not in vain and that we can participate in a work that is bigger than any of us.

The four green pieces of the pie remind us that the life of our churches comes from Christ, who brings growth and health. We can do nothing of eternal value apart from Him. And our convention is dependent on Him if we are to accomplish anything of value to the churches. Our convention must be Christ-centered and church-focused. We exist to equip, inspire, assist, come alongside, resource, and strengthen the local church. Life and growth stem from our connectedness to each other and to Christ, our Lord.

Together the life-infused churches form a circle, a globe. We do not exist for ourselves but for Christ and the world that He loves. We are called to be global-minded churches that are making global-minded disciples. We are a small family but are part of a global family of believers and churches. Our mission is the Great Commission. Our vision is a global vision.

The C of IBC is an arrow that represents movement. It denotes our role as a convention to be a mobilizer. We exist to mobilize disciple-making churches. We want to help all our churches move toward mobilization. We define a mobilized church as a church that is *filled with the presence and power of Christ, expressed in a biblical mission, clear vision, shared values, and effective strategies to impact its community and the world by reproducing disciples, leaders, and congregations*. We want to assist our churches of every size, age, location, and make-up to fulfill their God-given Biblical mission. We de-

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Cover photo: Royal Palace and Cathedral, Madrid, Spain, by Judith Lynn Maxwell

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sire to help every church to be moving toward greater health and growth and effectiveness.

Finally, our expanding lines of blue speak of multiplying. We want to see mobilized churches multiplying. We have put a renewed focus on planting new churches in strategic locations. Church planting is the most effective way to spread the Gospel to new places. We want to do all we can to inspire and assist churches to plant churches. And as it happens, we will celebrate. We are building some pathways for church planting, but we know that multiplication will happen when churches begin to plant churches that plant churches. That is a movement. Our Multiply conference following the ACM focused on churches planting churches.

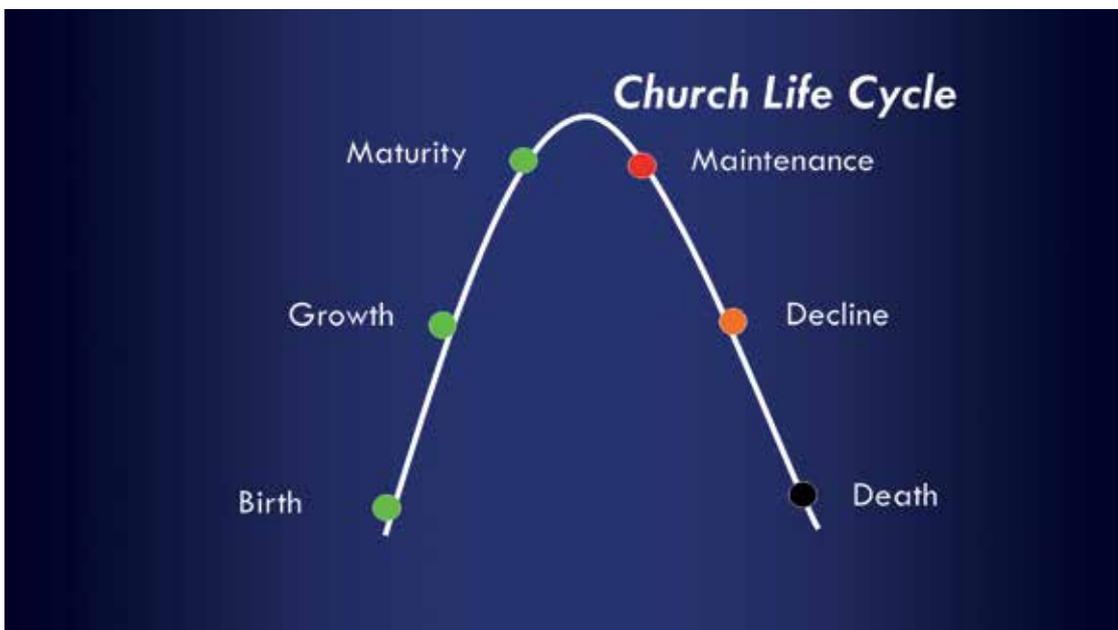
The IBC is an ever-evolving group of churches. Every IBC pastor learns sooner or later that he is “pastoring a parade” as people come and go constantly with their jobs, military assignments, and visa statuses. Our pastors and leaders have mostly been expats, coming from outside their passport country. In IBC churches, learning to develop teams, to make disciples who make other disciples, and to train healthy leaders have tremendous potential to touch the world, but they are also a challenge. It is

a moving target. The IBC’s new strategy, working with our ever-changing churches and leaders, is also a moving target. It is somewhat akin to building a plane while it is flying (See www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2zqTYgcpfg).

In this next year we intend to focus on building better and deeper relationships between church leaders and the IBC leadership. If we are going to meet needs in the churches, we need to hear from our churches what those needs are. Developing deeper relationships

among leaders often makes the difference in whether or not a pastor and his family stay in a church or how healthy he remains as a leader. We belong to each other because we belong to Christ, and we need each other.

A final goal I have for the coming year is to help one another by focusing not only on the struggling churches but also on the churches that are thriving and moving in the direction of growth and health. These churches can provide inspiration, encouragement, and an example for others. They can also reach out to help struggling churches. I want to encourage our healthy churches and find ways to come alongside them in their work. They have a lot to offer our family of churches.



We want to celebrate the wins of IBC churches where health and growth are happening. We also want to share challenges.

I have asked our leadership to make the effort to know what is happening in all our churches. I will also make this more of a priority by visiting with and talking with pastors more often. But all who are leaders need to take initiative to give us feedback and let us know your needs and share your joys so we can all share in our mutual struggles and victories. We will continue to help churches to remain

GOALS FOR 2018-2019

- Making progress in each of our core strategies
- Developing deeper relationships between church leaders and IBC leadership
- Placing greater focus on helping all our churches to make progress toward the mission, vision, and values we share.

true to their God-given mission and purpose. If they are in need of reviving their focus we want to come alongside. Perhaps you are familiar with the life cycle of an average church. This diagram shows how churches easily move through stages similar to other living organisms.

In the IBC we have churches at every stage, from birth to growth and maturity and from maintenance to decline to death. How can we help churches to return to their first love for the Lord and renew their vision, zeal, and effectiveness in seeing people come to the Lord and make disciples? One way is to remind each other often of the purpose for which God started our churches and the mission He has given us. We want to help churches who see their need and desire help. We want to encourage thriving churches to continue to move forward and to help others who might be struggling. And we want to celebrate with you as God begins to work in new ways of revival and spiritual awakening in your church.

These are some of the objectives I will strive to accomplish in the next year. I welcome our new Presidential Leadership Team – Tim Faulkner (Naples, Italy), Nick Howard (Wiesbaden, Germany), and Nathanael Fawcett (Sao Paulo, Brazil), who will be working with me this coming year.

At the recent ACM, I also shared my future plans for retirement. I feel it is time to pass the leadership baton on to others. I have served in the IBC as gen-

eral secretary for 15 years now and for 10 years before that as pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, Germany – 25 years so far. My closest friends and partners in the Gospel are in the IBC.

I am still excited about what God is doing and will do in and through the IBC. I want to leave the convention stronger than it has ever been and want to see it move ahead to more effective ministry than ever before. This is why I announced my future retirement for the end of 2020. Announcing early gives the convention two years to think about the future.

An important part of the search process is getting input from the IBC churches regarding members of the search team. We also are asking for input on important considerations such as qualifications and core competencies needed for my successor. Our written guidelines give us direction in the process, starting with the presidents naming a seven-member team. I will not name my successor but will give advice when asked and will seek to help in every way. Ideally, we will have a successor in place before I leave, with some overlap between myself and the new general secretary to allow for a healthy passing on of information and ideas.

The process began after our ACM concluded, with a letter going out to all our churches, followed by an appeal for input. We will not rush the process but want to get started as soon as possible to ensure we have a healthy, diverse team that represents the breadth of the convention. They will take input and the written guidelines that relate to the work of the general secretary to develop a profile of the person we are seeking. They will consider those inside and outside the convention to determine the best candidate. We need your prayers every step of the way as we seek God's direction.

Meanwhile, I want to finish well. I plan to continue to serve with all the energy I have until the end of 2020. God has a future for English-language international churches. We are at the tip of the spear for Gospel penetration in the future as the world continues to become more and more international.

A paraphrase of the prayer at the top of the article is one I pray often for our family of churches and especially our leaders. It is a paraphrase of Paul's prayer for the church in Philippi.

And this is my prayer, that our love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that we may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. 🌍

Every Church Planting Churches Theme of MULTIPLY

“Every Church Planting Churches” was the theme of our fall MULTIPLY Conference held in Madrid, Spain, on 1 November, following the IBC Annual Convention Meeting. Fifty-four leaders from 21 of our churches joined the “multiplication conversation.”

The energy was high! The excitement is growing! More and more IBC leaders and churches are embracing the heart of God for church multiplication. Conference attendees heard exciting stories about how God is opening doors and providing resources to plant new churches. We heard news about our young churches in Panama City and Rome and about our brand-new churches in Paris, Bonn, London, and Vicenza. We also heard from several of our churches that are being stirred by God to plant new churches in their cities.



During the conference we worked to unpack the concept of just what a *church multiplication movement* is – what it might look like, what is God’s part, and what is ours. There was tremendous insight and great ideas exchanged. Every attendee from every church brought something to the table. There was a huge amount of enthusiasm as we considered such a movement of God in and through our churches. We believe that a church multiplication movement is on the horizon.

We have seen success (God’s blessings) in recent years with our *collaborative* strategies employed by our LEAD teams. Our LEAD teams (teams of leaders from several churches in a geographic area) have worked together to find the right planter and the right place and bring them together to see a new church started. We are now adding to that strategy a new *supportive* strategy where our LEAD teams will come along side an IBC church to support that church in planting a new church. We believe that this is where we will see churches planting churches that plant churches. We believe that this is where we will see us move from “adding” churches to “multiplying” churches.

During the conference we celebrated what God has done and is doing. The following new IBC churches were started in the past seven years:

1. Converge International Fellowship in Darmstadt, Germany
2. Lifebridge International Church in Panama City, Panama
3. Tamarindo Church in Tamarindo, Costa Rica
4. Rome International Church in Rome, Italy
5. Waypoint Christian Fellowship in Kaiserslautern, Germany
6. GLACE Community Church in Vicenza, Italy
7. International Baptist Church in Bonn, Germany
8. Emmanuel International Church in Paris (Ternes), France
9. Multination Church in London, England

Praise God for nine new churches in seven years! Nine new churches is a great start!

We want ... we need every IBC church engaged in planting churches and the churches they plant planting churches ... then we will have joined God in a movement reaching the nations around the world.

We are moving into 2019 with the following strategic objectives:

- Invite every IBC church into church multiplication.
- Support every IBC church with their multiplication goals.
- Celebrate all multiplication efforts.
- Trust and follow the Spirit.



Darryl Evetts

Multiplying Churches Strategy Director



MULTIPLY participants discuss what makes a multiplication movement.

photos by Debra Evetts

General Secretary Announces Retirement

Jimmy Martin, general secretary of the International Baptist Convention, announced his retirement plans for the end of 2020 at the convention's 55th Annual Convention Meeting, held 29-31 October in Madrid, Spain.

Martin has served as general secretary since 2003. Before that he served as pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Martin said that announcing his retirement plans this early gives the convention time to plan.

The convention also approved the renaming of the Missions Endowment Fund to the IBC Endowment Fund. It also expanded the scope of use of the funds to include major repairs to existing church buildings, matching grants for smaller repair projects, and strategic initiatives of the convention. The endowment fund will continue to be used to help churches escape the "rent trap" by purchasing property or constructing buildings.

The convention approved a 409,687€ budget for 2019. This budget is a 7% increase over the 2018 budget.

During the final business session, Tim Faulkner, pastor of Il Faro International Baptist Church, Naples, Italy, was elected president. Nick Howard, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Wiesbaden, Germany, was elected 1st vice-president. Nathanael Fawcett, pastor of Calvary International Church,

Sao Paulo, Brazil, was elected 2nd vice-president. Each will serve a one-year term.

The evening sessions focused on the theme "Vision-Driven Leadership." Gary Preston, pastor of Frontline Community Church, Ramstein, Germany, and strengthening church core strategy director, spoke on vision-driven leadership and vision-driven deployment. Parker Windle, pastor of Emmanuel International Church, Paris, France, spoke on vision-driven strategy, while David Martin, pastor of Cologne International Baptist Church, Germany, spoke on vision-driven combat.

The convention also heard presentations from each of the strategy directors concerning their strategy and plans for the coming year. Darryl Evetts (multiplying churches), Gary Preston (strengthening churches), David Fresch (empowering leaders), Scott Corwin (building connections), and Judith Lynn Maxwell (developing resources) shared their vision for 2019. Gary Preston is retiring in April and Barry Cole, pastor of Aviano Baptist Church, Italy, was elected to serve as the strengthening churches core strategy director.

Fifty-six messengers representing 31 churches were part of the business sessions. Next year's ACM will be held in Naples, Italy.

PASTOR PROFILE

JOSE, GUTIERREZ – Family Pastor, San Jose, Costa Rica



WIFE: Bea

CHILDREN: Ari (19), Sam (15), Ellie (11),

YEARS AT CURRENT IBC CHURCH: 1 month (member for 6 months)

BRIEF PROFILE OF YOUR CHURCH: Our church is a very unique one in the country of Costa Rica, with a vision to reach unchurched English speakers in the greater metro area who don't know the good news about Christ and to build an international, God-centered, community where people can become mature followers of Jesus. The combination of Ticos (that's what we – Costa Ricans – are called) and foreigners from almost 30 different countries has built a dynamic congregation with a very special character and a great potential.

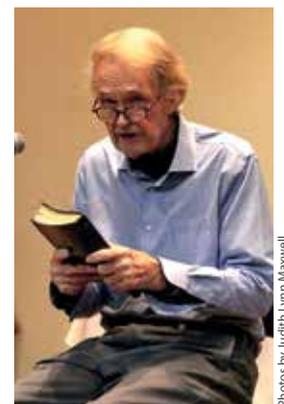
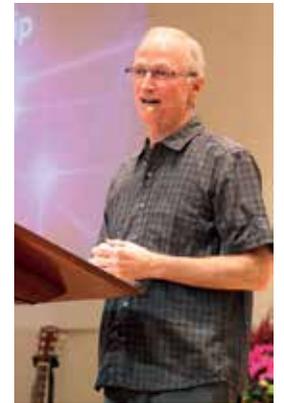
OTHER MINISTRY INTERESTS: I en-

joy teaching, preaching, and counseling. It is awesome to have the chance to share with others what the Lord has entrusted you!

PERSONAL INTERESTS AND HOBBIES: Traveling and getting to know others, their places, their culture, and their values and to be able to be close to others in sensitive times. I love reading, swimming, and gardening. Watching my kids play sports is more enjoyable than having them beat me every time that I dare to play, but it's still enjoyable!

FAVORITE/LIFE BIBLE VERSE: 2 Corinthians 12:15

Plans



Photos by Judith Lynn Maxwell

We Value .. A Series on Our Core Values

Editor's Note: Our core values show who we are and what motivates us. For the next three issues we will feature articles on two of our core values, written by leaders of the convention.

Diversity: The New Humanity and Its Implications



by Richmond Ofori-Tawiah,
Senior Pastor, Hope
International Bible &
Mission Church, Rotter-
dam, Netherlands, and
former Vice President of
the IBC

The International Baptist Convention values its diversity because it originates in God who lives in Christ. It is one of the uniquenesses that characterizes the convention, and anyone who visits any one of our churches will experience this truth. With more than 64 churches spread over more than 20 countries, the IBC truly resembles what the Apostle John saw – a wonderful apocalyptic vision of worshipers before the throne of God praising Him and acknowledging Him as the true author of their salvation (Rev. 7:9-10).

This evidence proves that the Incarnation was the incarnation of the Savior of all people in their cultural identities. Salvation, though ‘from the Jews’ (John 4:22), is therefore not Jewish. We distort this truth if we make Jesus a little more than a typical Jew, for Christ has revealed Himself to every culture by becoming like one of us and sharing our humanity. It is within this human heritage that our diversity unites us in Him.

Christ therefore challenges us to turn to Him and participate in the new humanity created in Him for which He came, died, rose, and was glorified. This paradigm shift shows how important it is to relate Christian understanding and experience to the realm of oneness in the Lord Jesus Christ. As a diverse convention our different nationalities should encourage us to work and connect well with one another within our congregations and beyond.

The vision of John showing our heavenly nationalities is a great reminder of what every person's quota is to this great assembly of the IBC – where every tribe has its representatives here: every region, every color, every language, every kingdom, every people, every age and century. In John's vision all nationalities meet in one great heavenly nationality, without jealousy or distrust; all are united in Him who redeemed them by His blood.

What are the implications of all this? In our diversity we have been engaged in a battle both spiritually and physically on this earth. Some IBC members can share their stories of suffering in crossing the borders to Europe. Though many of them are hard workers and well-educated immigrants who have left their countries of origin for various reasons, some countries and organizations see them as

threat to be resisted rather than as redeemed persons in Christ to be accepted as members of the new humanity.

What is important is to see and relate to them the way the Lord Jesus Christ sees and relates to them. That is how we value our diversity and celebrate our new humanity in Christ. The beauty and strength of the IBC as a family of diverse nationalities in Christ is to reach out to the refugees, the marginalized and the overlooked, both in Europe and beyond, to proclaim the good nature of the Lord Jesus Christ. This new humanity also has a moral character and is to be reflective of the Savior.

The new humanity is therefore challenged to live and become what they really are, living their new identity out. This means living as a new human being in Jesus, putting on love, holiness, meekness, patience, and all the other characteristics that are attributed to true people of God (Col.3:1-17).

As members of IBC families we all come from somewhere assembled in Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East. What matters is that our destiny is in the same place, where Christ is seated. That should encourage us to work together to build the Kingdom that is described as the “everlasting kingdom” for His glory.

Unity: Part of the Same Spiritual Family

Unity is a result of salvation. Through the work of God's Spirit, we become part of the same spiritual family, with "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (Eph. 4:5-6).

Subsequently, unity is a responsibility. Paul will exhort the Ephesians to make "every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (4:3). Maintaining unity isn't easy.

The end of October provided an illustration of these principles. I left the Annual Convention Meeting of the IBC and returned home to Naples, only to turn around and head off to meetings with an Italian association of churches. During the ACM, we had enjoyed an atmosphere of warmth (which was welcome given the unexpected cold temperature outside). The men and women of the IBC are like family. We look forward to getting together like cousins look forward to the holidays at Grandma's house. There is a close bond and a high level of trust that allows us to get business done in an efficient manner. And, even better, the reports and decisions highlight what God is doing so that we leave encouraged and inspired. (The food isn't bad, either!)

So having come from my IBC family, the contrast with the second group of churches could not have been more stark. I left the second series of meetings with people apologizing for what I had had to endure. Even there, decisions had been made with widespread support but not before we had to listen to member after member stand to voice his or her opinion, often without withholding an offensive word or an accusing tone of voice.

In both cases, there was an apparent unity as decisions were made. And this further illustrates that while we understand our part in God's family in terms of unity, we also must see our role in making sure that diversity will not divide us.

In the closeness of relationship, unity is put to the test. And that's why when unity shines, it becomes a testimony to outsiders that is difficult to deny or dismiss. Our value states as follows:

We value Unity. The unity of the Spirit among our churches exhibits the oneness of all believers in Christ. We will seek to work out differences that may arise because we believe the power of the Gospel to unite us

is stronger than the power of our enemy to divide us. (John 17:20-23, Eph. 2:19-22)

Our mission to mobilize and multiply disciple-making churches requires unity. Unity will show others that we belong to Christ and to each other. At the same time, our focus on the Gospel lifts our heads above the pettiness that might divide us and raises our gaze to the people that God is calling to Himself through us. May God receive the glory as His church manifests unity!



by Tim Faulkner, Pastor, II
Faro International Baptist
Church, Naples, Italy, and
IBC President

GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING
Sunday | December 2, 2018

30 percent **ebmi** INTERNATIONAL
Your giving will support church planting, church evangelism, and refugee ministry through our EBMI partnership with the Alliance of Baptist Churches in Turkey.
www.ebm-masa.org

40 percent **TOGETHER WE BUILD**
Recipient: IBC Jurbise, Belgium
The exterior of the IBC Jurbise facility was never fully finished with a waterproofed façade. As a result, much of the building has been water damaged and needed extensive repairs in recent years at great cost to the church. The final stage of fully weather-proofing the exterior by placing stucco on the entire façade has not yet been done due to lack of funds. Continual delay of this project risks additional water damage. IBC Jurbise is grateful for each gift given so this building can continue to be used to reach the SHAPE military community and others in the area.

30 percent **IBC AID**
Your giving will bring aid when disaster strikes such as flood relief and providing food for the hungry when urgent needs arise.

Please pray about giving to the 2018 IBC Global Missions Offering.
*Reaching the nations through giving!
Thank you for your support!*

IBC Helps Turkish Partners through Mission Trip

The first thing that caught my attention was the sheer size and population of Istanbul. Living in Paris, I'm used to the expanse of a global city, but Istanbul was a whole new kind of animal. Unlike other metropolises I visited, Istanbul was very much a "lived space." Paris and other European urban spaces seem very averse to people dwelling in one place too long, almost like a queue that you must keep walking through to the next destination. This wasn't the case with Istanbul. Merchants at bazaars were conversing in Turkish while rolling barrels down the street. People fished off the bridge at the city park. The call to prayer blared over our rooftop coffee shop. Old men played cards while drinking the traditional tea late into the night. College students laid relaxed in the lawn between the blue Mosque and Hagia Sophia. Even the cats, settled where they wanted, making a bin of lentils their bed. Istanbul was a lived space.



Istanbul is a lived space.

In addition to the city being a surprise, our team's plan just a few weeks before had changed. Our objective had shifted to encouraging locals involved in fellowships in the areas and assisting in an ongoing food distribution program to displaced peoples. After arriving to Istanbul a few hours later than expected, we were surprised to see that a fellowship had stayed hours later in anticipation of greeting us. As we shared our testimonies, they also shared theirs. We heard story after story of decisions being made. Many also shared what it had cost them, as many of their families did not support their faith. It became clear, there was much more work to be done.

Their building was tucked away on a street corner, but this fellowship was boldly working in the city for the faith. The leader talked of doing street ministry on his off-day and responding to phone calls throughout the night answering questions about his beliefs. We remained in the city for several days and enjoyed time with some local believers. We discussed our faith, listened to their stories, and shared some amazing meals. They encouraged us greatly with their hospitality and friendship.



photos by Melissa Perret

The team visits local families.

Next, we journeyed to Izmir (the former city of Smyrna). While there we visited Ephesus, which struck quite a contrast between these Biblical locations of antiquity and the present spiritual climate. In the midst of the area stands a cruciform church that not only informs locals of the Christian history of days past but also stands as an active center of faith itself. As visitors come through, the pastor openly shares the story of the Gospel as symbolized throughout the church. Our group assisted in the maintenance of the church and led several studies and times of sharing testimonies throughout the week. During the studies, we encountered a seeking college student who came ready with her questions about the faith. For the group and me, it was a great reminder of the communities around the world in need of addressing individuals just like her, with a defense for the faith. As she had not yet come to believe, it was beautiful to see that many gathered at that study were in situations like her before and had heard and believed. We're praying God continues to work in her heart.

With the church we distributed food to refugee communities, going into the mountainous outskirts to meet them where they lived. This brought back to our minds the needs in this community and even the difficulty in trying to meet needs. Nonetheless, this church persists in being a light in a hard place. As the Son was powerful in both word and deed, it was beautiful to see this fellowship being what they were called to be.

On trips like this, we often learn more than we actually "help." That was certainly the case here. As Istanbul and other places in Turkey continue to be "lived spaces," I'm encouraged and personally challenged to see those active in Kingdom work pointing to life – life abundant. Our hopes and thoughts are with all the friends we met as they continue to labor, trusting in Him for all things. And may we from afar not turn a blind eye to our fellow laborers around the world, for we truly have much to learn from their work and lives.

Justin Hendricks, Paris, France

Missions Mobilization

A mobilized church is a church devoted to missions! As a means of supporting our mission of “multiplying and mobilizing disciple-making churches” the Building Connections Missions Team want to challenge you and your church to connect with the IBC, IBC churches, and/or like-minded organizations to be mobilized for missions.

IBC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Children’s VBS and Autumn Bible School, Olaine, Latvia – Send a team of children’s workers to sup-

port our EBF Mission Partnership missionary, Oskars Lusis, in his church plant near Riga. Each summer and autumn during their school holidays they reach out to families in their community through these events. Contact person – Scott Corwin (connections@ibc-churches.org).

Young Adult Camp, Izmir, Turkey – Send a team of young adults (as many as 10) to join this annual event hosted by the Alliance of Baptist Churches in Turkey. They have requested that we provide one or two speakers, worship instrumentalists, fellowship game hosts, and partici-



pants to enjoy the fellowship of learning and supporting their young adult leadership team. Contact person – Justin Hendricks (jnh.eic@gmail.com).



same heart to serve those in need. For more information, see all4aid.org.

Contact Person: Rodrigo Assis da Silva, Multination Church (Bethel), Frankfurt, (rodrigo.assis.br@gmail.com)

Moldova Mission Firewood Project

For the past five years, Aviano Baptist Church (ABC) has been helping to bring firewood and the love of Christ through our Moldova Mission Firewood Project. You, too, can be a part of this project that ministers to some of Europe’s poorest people through this simple but powerful way of meeting a very practical need – firewood for winter heating. How can you or your church get involved?

- Pray – Pray for the people of Moldova and the team that ABC sends each year.
- Partner – Give financially to support the project in Crihana Veche. By God’s grace, the 25,000€ need has been met every year. Perhaps your church could sponsor the work of the Chrihan Veche Baptist Church foster home for orphans whose operating budget requires 500€ per month.

IBC CHURCH PROJECTS

Volunteer Trip to Lesbos, Greece



Serving at the Refugee Camp: The refugee camp in Lesbos is a crisis area where

you will see individuals, families, and children living in extremely challenging conditions. Your team will work with a Greek Christian NGO – our on-the-ground partner organization – doing a variety of practical, hands-on, servant tasks, such as:

- Welcoming newly arrived refugees, serving them food and water, and providing them with a hygiene kit, blanket and a set of clothes;
- Setting up tents or even cleaning toilets and picking up rubbish from the grounds;
- Sorting clothes and other goods at the warehouse;
- Supporting any special events such as concerts or crafts sessions for women.

The work is not glamorous. You will be there to serve (6 days per week, 8 hours per day). You will work alongside a wonderful team of people who have the

In Memoriam

Sympathy is extended to the families of:

HERBERT STOUT

Pastor, Bethel International Baptist Church, Frankfurt, 1958-1964 and one of the founders of the Convention

Born: December 2, 1927

Died: January 10, 2018

RAY SMITH

Pastor, Sofia International Baptist Church, 2009-2010;

served as interim, 2003, 2006-2008

Born: June 10, 1932

Died: June 16, 2018

ROY DE BRAND

Interim Pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Wiesbaden, Germany, 2010

Born: October 28, 1942

Died: February 6, 2018

- Participate – Pray about your church joining the ABC team that delivers firewood, and basic food items and shares the gospel through home visits, children & youth ministry activity, and evangelical services. Take your own team and extend the work to another village.

For more information about how to do any of these or if your church would like to start a similar work in another village, please contact us. Contact Person: Barry Cole, Aviano Baptist Church, (pastor@avianobaptist.church).

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES



Youth Missions Project: 9-14 March – Receive a team of 6-10 teenagers and their sponsors from First Baptist Church McKinney, Texas, for a week of evangelistic outreach. We are looking for six to eight IBC churches in Europe to host a sub-group of the 60-70 teenagers who are trained and equipped to do creative evangelism (homes, schools, youth outreach, community). Contact person – Scott Corwin (connections@ibc-churches.org).

Missions Port Elizabeth, South Africa (open) – Send a team of 6-10 adults to work with Bruce and Shirley Davie (formerly of IBC Zürich) on a pilot project of what they hope to become an annual event designed to strengthen their network of churches and their home and school for orphans. Contact person – Scott Corwin (connections@ibc-churches.org).

Hungary Missions

Hungary English Bible Camps 2019 – Send a team to partner with a Hungarian Baptist church or Baptist school to teach English using the Bible and Christian lessons to children and/or teenagers in a week-long English Bible Camp. Choose which week – 21-30 June, 28 June-7 July, 5-14 July – and you will be paired with a church and/or school. For more information, visit www.hungarycamps.com. Contact person – Janice Byrd (thebyrds@hungary-missions.com).

Receive a Team of University Students – Samuel Sims, who is with South Carolina Baptist College Ministry, wants to bring a group of up to 10 university students to Germany in June 2019 for 3-4 weeks of ministry in Germany. Contact person – Scott Corwin (connections@ibc-churches.org).



Jim Erwin, Executive Director of **International Baptist Church Ministries**, has a vision of connecting IBCM member churches with IBC churches that have short-term missions needs. Do you have a short-term missions need – church retreat, VBS, or evangelistic outreach? If so, we want to help connect you with a church that has a heart for supporting IBC churches. Contact person – Scott Corwin (connections@ibc-churches.org).

PASTOR PROFILE

K.J. PUGH – Paris (Ternes), France



WIFE: Lynn (married 14 years)
 CHILDREN: Ella (12) and James (9)
 YEARS AT CURRENT IBC CHURCH:
 1st year
 BRIEF PROFILE OF YOUR CHURCH:
 Emmanuel International Church Ternes
 is the first church plant into the city of

Paris from EIC Rueil. We launched on Easter Sunday 2018 and are steadily seeing momentum build for the work. We don't want to stop with just one new church planted in Paris, but we long to see the City of Lights littered with Communities of Light. You can find out more at www.PlantParis.com about our vision and mission.

WAYS YOU ARE INVOLVED IN THE IBC: Central Europe LEAD Team
 OTHER MINISTRY INTERESTS: I'm currently very interested in how to convey familiar truths in fresh ways that capture the imagination. I find C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and the Puritans

particularly helpful in creating word pictures that stick with you. At times I'll also try to encapsulate the message of a Bible passage in a hand-drawn illustration.

PERSONAL INTERESTS AND HOBBIES: I enjoy walks in the countryside, cycling (when the hills aren't steep), good stories, board games (when it's a lively battle of wits), 'Instagram-ing' family memories, and starting (but seldom finishing) creative writing projects.
 FAVORITE/LIFE BIBLE VERSE:
 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Ministry Leadership Conference

Global Church Global World Conference
29 April to 2 May 2019
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

2 scholarships per church provided by the IBC

For more information and to register:
www.ibc-churches.org/empowering-leaders/mlcs/gcgw19



Men's Conference Set for 18-21 January

This year's men's conference will feature Ian Coffey, an international pastor, teacher, and writer whose particular passion is to help men become godly leaders in their homes, work, and church. Coming from Great Britain, Ian will be our main speaker for the weekend which will

also include several other speakers whose seminars you will not want to miss. The conference is always a great time to refresh your spirit, relax your mind, and rejuvenate your passion for Jesus and the life He has for you. We hope to see you there, 18-21 January.



IBC Woman's Conference Set for 5-7 April 2019

The IBC Woman's Team recently spent a weekend in Rehe, Germany, planning the 5-7 April 2019 Woman's Conference. This spring conference will be held at Rehe retreat facility, nestled in the beautiful countryside, surrounded by hiking trails, quiet paths, and areas that allow a time of peaceful reflection.

We live in times of unprecedented change and upheaval in many areas we once thought were certain. Are there any constants in a snapchat world? How do we stay steady and unshakeable when the ground is shifting underneath our feet? Kim Blackaby's messages will explore the unshakeable truths and the unshakeable future we can hold on to. "He is my fortress, I will not be shaken!" (Psalm 62:2) Nicola Munster, along with a team from several IBC churches, will lead us in worship as we gather together.

The retreat facility will offer a place of stillness in a busy world. You will have opportunity to fellowship, enjoy seminars, and spend precious time with the Lord.

For those interested in joining us, registration will open in December at www.ibc-churches.org/building-connections/women. Check the website for conference details and prices and a downloadable flyer.

Do not miss the opportunity to join with other women who desire to draw near to the Lord through worship, stillness, listening, and reflecting. We are excited to see you in the spring as we grow together in Christian fellowship.

*Ruth Taylor
IBC Women's Team
Metterich, Germany*



Bratislava, Slovakia

SURPRISED BY THE LORD!

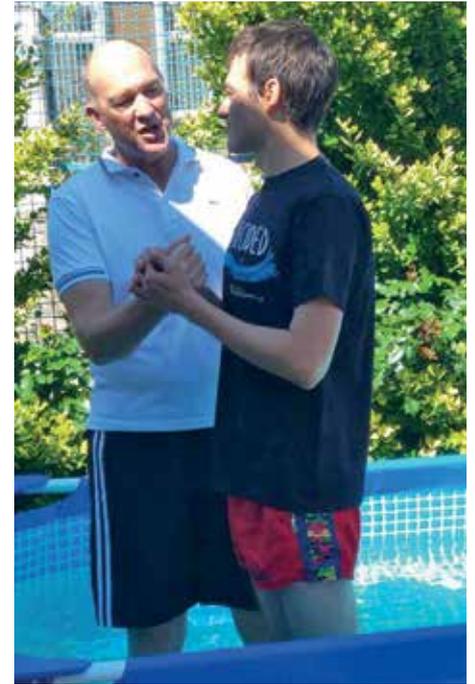
It's not every day that we have baptisms at Bratislava Faith Community, Slovakia. Most people who arrive and look for a church are already members of a church somewhere. But, as we seek to reach the expat community in our city, the Lord is faithful in allowing our paths to cross with unbelievers with whom we can share the Good News of Christ.

Recently a young man from the Slovak minority in Serbia, Janko Krajci, gave his life to the Lord. Since we don't have our own baptismal pool, we always had to use another church's facilities. However, being summer, we decided to buy a small swimming pool and have the baptism outside as part of our morning service. It turned out to be a great occasion of joy and celebration. And then, to our surprise, the Lord was not finished with us yet!

A few weeks later a whole family from a Muslim background and a closed country visited our church, having experienced Jesus in a dream. Four adults committed their lives to the Lord and soon asked about baptism. What a joy to see them follow Jesus through the waters of baptism, making our swimming pool work very hard! Although the family soon afterwards moved to another European country as a result of persecution in our city, they are on a steep growing curve. Please pray for them to continue in the faith. (For safety reasons we can't share their baptism photos with you, but thank the Lord with us for His faithfulness and wonderful surprises!)

Gerhard Venter

Pastor Gerhard Venter baptizes a new believer.



Darmstadt, Germany

OVER THE WEEKEND of 31 August – 2 September, Converge International Fellowship, Darmstadt, Germany, hosted a church retreat at the Lachener Gästehäuser in Neustadt/Weinstrasse, Germany. Twenty-six people, representing 4 IBC churches attended the retreat, with Nick and Susan Howard (Wiesbaden, Germany) serving as the speaker and praise leader. After a dry, hot summer, the pleasant weekend in the rural wine-region of

Germany's west was a great way to recover, renew, and prepare for the soon-coming autumn season of ministry.

The setting was beautiful, and the fellowship delightful. The focus of the teaching for the weekend was *Invest: Long-term Thinking in a Short-term Environment*. Nick stressed that it's easy in an international church to have a short-term mentality. We need to intentionally work at making long-term investments, even if

we are only present for a short time. Even short-term members of our congregations can have a positive impact on our long-term vision. Keys to this are to 1. Welcome heartily, 2. Love fully, 3. Engage early, 4. Send joyfully, and 5. Connect continuously.

As is true of most retreats, the relationship building that takes place was just as critical as the formal teaching. Those who attended grew closer to one another as they grew closer to Jesus. Bridges were built between churches and within congregations. The times of formal worship were supplemented by spontaneous praise around the fire, games and activities during the day, and connections made over delicious meals.

Other, future regional gatherings within the IBC are encouraged. If your church already hosts a retreat – why not consider extending an invitation to another congregation – even if it's some distance away. If there is such gathering in your church – look into beginning a new tradition – and include other congregations for an added blessing!



Susan Howard leads the praise time at the retreat.

Bob Marsh

Hoensbroek, Netherlands

ENGRAVED!

In October, the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hoensbroek, Netherlands, women's fellowship monthly event was an interesting afternoon of prayer time, Scripture devotional, pyrography art, and fellowship.

Jocelynn Dagosta shared the devotional and did a workshop on pyrography. Pyrography or pyrogravure is the art of decorating wood or other materials with burn marks resulting from the controlled application of a heated object such as a poker. It is also known as pokerwork or wood-burning. This art dates back to 17th century and even more to the pre-historic times. It was fun learning together the skill and patience involved in mastering the techniques!

In Isaiah 49:14-16 we read, "But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.' 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me.'"

According to Timothy Keller, these verses illustrate a beautiful picture of a dialogue between the Lord and us! Verse 14 portrays Israel's frustration of not feeling loved. God promises them a future where He will bring His people back to Him. But they were not feeling loved now. Their city was destroyed, in ruins. We often feel this way, when things are not going right or the way we would like. We can't feel God's presence. We believe in a living God, but we don't let that affect our lives. Our human imperfections, disappointments, or unanswered prayers make it difficult to



Hoensbroek women display their pyrography art.

believe that God still loves us. We keep questioning, "Why has the Lord forsaken and forgotten me?"

Well the answer lies in verse 15: God loves us like a mother loves her infant. One of the most intimate relationships one can imagine is the bonding of a mother and her infant. Our human actions are conditional, but God's love is unconditional. This is where God is different: He is perfect, but mothers are not! He gives us the promise: "Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" (49:15). His action speaks louder.

Our main verse says: "See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are ever before me" (49:16). The word engrave means to engrave in with a hammer or a chisel or a spike. In Hebrew the word "Katab" means inscribed or written. It appears more than 200 times in Scripture and represents writing down a message. It could be writ-

ten down on stone, paper, wood, sand, or skin. In every instance, it means more than just recording something for posterity. Inscribed refers to the unchangeableness and binding nature of the Word of God. God has said it, it is fixed, it is written, and it will be done!

The Lord cries out, "How can I have forgotten you, when I have engraved you on the palms of My hands?" Consider the depth of this! It's not just our names. "I have engraved your person, your image, your circumstances, your sins, your temptations, your weaknesses, your wants, your works; I have engraved you, everything about you, all that concerns you; I have put all of this together here."

Can we ever say again that our God has forsaken us, when He has engraved us on His own palms?

Leena Sundaram



São Paulo, Brazil

ON 20 OCTOBER the leadership at Calvary International Church, São Paulo, Brazil, met for one more round of discussions in the ReFresh program.

Pastor Nathanael Fawcett led the meeting where deacons and their wives talked about actions for 2019 that coincide with Calvary's mission, core values, and vision for the ministry God has for the church in São Paulo.

Douglas Pek

Prague, Czech Republic

INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH, in Prague, Czech Republic, has really been very active and involved in anti-trafficking ministry within especially Prague, but also including other parts of the Czech Republic. I hope that through hearing the story of how our church started an anti-trafficking ministry, you will be inspired to see that it is possible for any Baptist church to start getting involved in anti-trafficking efforts too.

We started with prayer. Prayer is always the starting point for any new ministry of God, and we knew that it was a crucial first step for our church. I shared a book on human trafficking with my pastor, Gareth Morris, and after he had read the book and learned more on the topic of human trafficking, we decided to announce to our church the possibility of doing a prayer walk in the main red-light district of Prague. We chose to do this prayer walk on a Saturday morning, when most of those involved in prostitution would be asleep. We knew this would make it safe, and that as we were a group walking around in broad daylight, it would not be dangerous. You don't have to do prayer walks at night when "business" is in full swing; it is in fact probably more effective to do it on a nice sunny morning.

The next step after our prayer walk was to start getting people in the church more informed on the topic. As we have a lot of students and young people in our church, we knew that screening an anti-trafficking film was probably the most culturally relevant way. As such we screened the wonderful film "Nefarious: Merchant of Souls" where Lauran Bethell, one of the European Baptist Federation anti-trafficking working group members, is actually interviewed. This film is one of the



most useful tools for creating awareness in your church. I have screened this film in my local church on a Friday evening, in a church in Africa, on university campuses, and in coffee shops. It is a great idea to get a small group of 10-15 people together to watch this film and then to discuss and pray over the subject content after the film.

I was already visiting brothels and building relationships with the women there, so I thought the next great step to get my church involved would be to hold "arts and crafts" evenings to make small handmade gifts, which I would later distribute to women working in the brothels. This is a wonderful way for both men and women to get involved in practically touching the lives of prostituted women with the love and care of Jesus, without actually physically having to go into a brothel. Our arts and crafts days were soon attended not only by people from IBC but by people from other churches too, and even some non-believers. It was a great way to get the community involved!

As I am in academia, I embraced Pastor Gareth's advice when he suggested the establishment of a training program for those who want to go into the brothels with me. I established a two-year training program, which involves reading materials which everyone reads in advance, and then we meet monthly to discuss what we have read over the past month. We read memoirs of women in prostitution, look

at what the Bible says about prostitution, and what the law says about prostitution, as well as different sociological paradigms on prostitution. We also discuss practical steps to take when going into brothels.

The monthly training sessions serve as both training and also follow a small group structure where we pray for each other, share our lives, and get to know each other well. Out of the training program we then developed a discipleship and mentoring program. At the height of our training program we had 25 people enrolled. It has been great to see what God can do from a small ministry started by one person within their local church.

You can do it too! This is just one example, but there are many other creative ways to get you and your church involved. For example, after some training you might choose to go visit orphanages and share this topic with teenagers who might be vulnerable to fall into the hands of traffickers. Prevention is something very needed especially in Eastern European countries, but also in all countries! You could also try to go into local schools to give a lesson on the topic or give talks at your local library or community centre. The possibilities are endless, as long as you start in prayer and allow God to be the One directing you and your church on this journey!

Natasha Schultz



Crafts allow others to participate.