

HIGHLIGHTS

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Tim Faulkner
**Looking Back
to Look Forward**

Church Multiplication
**Vision Becoming
Reality**

ACM
**Celebrating Our
Baptist Heritage**





Photo by Judith Lynn Maxwell

God's Vision for the IBC

As we enter the 60th year of the International Baptist Convention, we look back with gratitude. God had a vision for English-speaking churches among displaced peoples living on foreign soil. When twin brothers Herman and Herbert Stout and their families returned to Germany from Texas, they came because of vision. Ten years earlier, as 18-year-olds serving in the U.S. Army, their Sunday School program for German children grew from four to 1,000 in just two years. Back in Germany in 1958, the Stouts were convinced of the potential to reach Americans that were stationed there. Two churches were born. The vision caught on. The two churches quickly became more than 30. By 1964, 32 churches were planted, predominantly American, military churches – 23 in Germany plus seven in France and one each in Spain and Luxembourg. The vision spread. A new name, the European Baptist Convention, marked the next growth beyond the borders of continental Europe. God wasn't done. Eventually this movement would settle on calling themselves "The International Baptist Convention." By then, in 2003, there were 60 churches in 22 countries. Emirates Baptist Church International in Dubai had joined in 1997, and boundaries continued to expand as churches were welcomed from

Central, South, and North America as well as Africa. The vision has progressed for 60 years and according to the general secretary of another Baptist association: "When I consider the urgent need for the gospel and the significance of a strategic cooperative association of churches, no other international network holds as much potential for kingdom impact as the IBC. The best years for the IBC are directly ahead of you."

I couldn't agree more. As I visit IBC churches, I get to witness a vision that has developed into the expansion of 60 churches in 25 countries. Add to those encouraging numbers the presence of 144 nations worshipping together on any given Sunday. You cannot help but reflect on the impact of the IBC in our world today.

It was God's vision: a family of international, English-speaking churches with significant resources to invest in serving one another to reproduce healthy disciples, leaders, and congregations. There is nothing else quite like it! In the year ahead we will find many ways to praise God for the 60 years of the IBC and renew our commitment to His vision for the next 60!

Tim Faulkner

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site of the 2022 ACM by Desiré Dyer

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Looking Back to Look Forward

Psalm 131 A song of ascents, by David.

*O Lord, my heart is not proud,
nor do I have a haughty look.
I do not have great aspirations,
or concern myself with things that are beyond me.
Indeed, I have calmed and quieted myself
like a weaned child with its mother;
I am content like a young child.
O Israel, hope in the Lord
now and forevermore!*

You and I are replaceable. The psalmist unveils a general principle – true then and still true today. The leaders, lay leaders, members, attenders, and myself, the general secretary of the International Baptist Convention, require a sober confidence (v. 3), the kind born out of humility.

David observes that a lack of humility shows up within a short time after one's birth. The young child struggles with overconfidence, saying, "I can do it myself." Compare this to the life of a growing disciple: we, too, are tempted to overestimate our contribution. However, God's people have been on this journey long before us, and they will continue on when we are gone.

We are replaceable but at the same time, we are also resourceful. David looks at a child a second time and sees another struggle – selfish dependence. A child looks to mom for food. This is not an expression of the joy of simply being in her presence. We also have that tendency. God does not discourage us from insistently requesting assistance (compare Luke 18:1-8) but since we have God Himself, we should be able to say, "I am content" (v. 2).

David's song of confidence is one of the songs of ascents. It is part of the hymnal used multiple times a year by those returning to Jerusalem for celebration. This hymn is not one of the early ones. The climb upwards has reached the 12th day and the destination is only a few days off. This traveler turns to Psalm 131 – to a vision of humble confidence that is neither premature arrogance nor selfish dependency. This pilgrim is not childish, but childlike: "Hope in the Lord!" (v. 3).

With the confidence provided by resting in what God will continue to do, let's take a moment to look back and then to look ahead. As a convention we have a lot for which to be grateful. We also have reasons for hope.

LOOKING BACK: A TRUSTWORTHY GOD

In preparation for this year's Annual Convention Meeting theme of "Celebrating Our Baptist Heritage," I have been reading the books of reports since the beginning of our convention. Today we are a family of 60 churches in 25 countries. This is a big jump from 1958 when twin brothers returned to Germany to begin work with American military families stationed there. By 1963, God added. The two churches in Wiesbaden and Frankfurt increased to more than 30 churches in five European countries.

More and more people of the world are finding a home in IBC churches. Today, on any given Sunday, around 8,000 people from 144 nationalities gather to worship and receive encouragement from God's Word through the English language. Since the 60s, name changes trace the geographical expansion. The Association of Baptists in Continental Europe became the European Baptist Convention. We were called the EBC for approximately 20 years. The switch to the International Baptist Convention in 2003 signaled expansion beyond Europe into new territories.

Recently a pastor spoke to me after completing some research in order to apply with an English-speaking international church. He told me, "In the Protestant denominations doing English-speaking work among internationals, no one is more connected than the IBC."

The gratitude that we have for being a part of the IBC is worth repeating to our congregations, leaders, and the world at large. God has been faithful to His promises, His plan, and His people.

All of these benefits might be grouped under three categories:

- Mobilizing (Strengthening) and Multiplying Churches
- A Sense of Family Belonging
- Service to the Local Church

The three categories listed above are what emerged in answer to "Why does the IBC exist?" The Executive Leadership Team evaluated the activities of the IBC in connection with our mission, vision, and values. We asked ourselves if we were fulfilling our "why?" through an exercise called "fruit/function/form."

As I begin my third year as General Secretary, I look back with many personal reasons to be grateful. It has already been a year since Jacki and I completed the B1 German language requirement. It has been 10 months since Covid restrictions lessened enough for us to confidently travel on a regular ba-



by Tim Faulkner
General Secretary



sis. Since I began this role, I have made 41 church “visits” – in person on a Sunday morning (most of them), for church retreats, or via Zoom.

Jacki and I made our first trip to IBC churches in Latin America stopping in Panama, Costa Rica, and Argentina. We attended the Ministry Leadership Conferences in both Buenos Aires and Dubrovnik. We were able to join the Church Multiplication Leadership Team for a meeting in Berlin. I have represented the IBC at meetings of the European Baptist Federation, EBM International, and the German Baptist Union. I met with the board of the International Baptist Church Ministries, both online and in person for their annual meeting. Additionally, over a dozen times, Jacki and I have hosted pastors or church leaders and their families at our residence and office in Frankfurt. I have also appreciated many Zoom calls with pastors.

It is hard to narrow down the most satisfying aspects of my role. I have a front-row seat in watching God provide time and again. He sends interim or long-term pastors to churches that are without. Pastors and leaders receive encouragement from the God-sized results of their disciple-making efforts. God regularly sends people that need to find a church home, receive the gospel, grow and serve, and make disciples. God does not forget our churches!

Against this backdrop of change, we draw our gaze to the future.

LOOKING AHEAD: A TRUSTING CHURCH

Like the pilgrim that had already been hiking for 11 out of 14 days, many of us have been on the journey toward Christlikeness for quite some time. There are moments when the road is not easy to travel. Our confidence wanes, and our faithfulness wavers. The solution is neither false hope in ourselves nor desperately insisting on certain kinds of provisions from God. Rather we follow the psalmist’s counsel and commit our ways to the Lord.

I have one big objective for this year – engage with the pastors of the IBC in identifying convention-wide measures. As we think about reproducing churches, leaders, and congregations, how will we know if we are fulfilling our “why”?

The “why” has been described in our operations manual with “dream statements” which form our vision:

We envision a movement of global-minded churches that are reproducing healthy disciples, leaders, and congregations.

WE DREAM OF...

- ... stimulating churches toward mission advancement.
- ... helping churches to keep their focus on making and multiplying disciples.
- ... developing pastors and leaders in essential ministry skills.
- ... becoming a catalyst for strategic church-planting.
- ... nurturing a spirit of love that bridges cultures, nationalities, ethnicities, generations, politics, privilege, position, and religious backgrounds.
- ... fostering fellowship and connections among pastors and churches.
- ... supporting churches in times of need and transition.

Here we have broad brush strokes of what we desire to see in the IBC. This year we will flesh out these statements in ways that we can identify the progress that we are making. This is not something that we are unfamiliar with. It has been done throughout our history.

For example, at the 12th ACM, General Secretary John Merritt reported that memberships and baptisms in 19 of the churches had increased approximately 40% over the previous five years. The number of churches with an income in excess of \$30,000 also increased from two to eight in that same time period. Totals of attendance and enrollment were reported for 12 different categories.

The reports at the 13th Annual Meeting of the IBC went further, showing the increase or decline between the 12th and 13th years in each of those categories. The chart below illustrates the gains and losses.

Numbers have traditionally been the measures used in evaluating progress. Numbers capture some of the results (decisions, baptisms, membership, giving) but stories are needed to measure gospel transformation. Although potentially harder to measure, we have the opportunity to produce a different blend of measures of progress. Some examples of measures for churches that are reproducing disciples, congregations, and leaders might include:



- Abiding and praying
- Training to shift church culture
- Creating relational environments
- Developing reproducible processes
- Defining the wins
- Describing a pathway to maturity
- Helping a disciple to assess his/her stage of growth
- Engaging in coaching/mentoring
- Considering becoming a parent church

Through conversations, panel discussions, correspondence, surveys, and more, I would like to hear from the leaders of our churches. I would like to know how they evaluate disciple-making progress and other kinds of results that flow out of their mission, vision, goals, and objectives.

I am not looking to increase the burden of gathering and reporting, but I do want to have something for us to look for as we celebrate what God has done and continues to do as we mobilize and multiply churches of disciples making disciples.

The psalmist reminds us that we are replaceable yet resourceful. God uses men and women like you and me to accomplish His work. We have a message of humble confidence. We can rest knowing that He is faithful.



Category	1974-75	1975-76	+/-
Members	6011	6822	811
Baptisms	579	628	49
Letters of Transfer	1205	1261	56
Sunday School Enrollment	4188	4849	661
Sunday School Attendance		3248	
Church Training Enrollment	1675	1804	129
Church Training Attendance		1289	
VBS	2773	3161	388
WMU	264	475	211
Baptist Men	213	209	-4
RA's	165	231	66
Acteens	44	85	41
GA's	185	220	35
Mission Friends	91	156	65
Youth Music		270	
Adult Music		431	

In Memoriam

Sympathy is extended to the families of:

PAUL HENDRIX

Pastor, Fulda, Giessen, Heidelberg, Stukeley
Born: 26 November 1938
Died: 20 September 2022

CHARLES BRADSHAW

Pastor, Stavanger, Athens, Vienna, 1980s-1997
Born: 12 April 1932
Died: 14 September 2022

MARY FAWCETT

Pastor's Wife, Sao Paulo, 1981-2019
Born: 16 November 1939
Died: 3 February 2022

BOB BADE

IBC Staff, 1995-2003
Born: 10 June 1934
Died: 15 July 2022

SALLY BADE

IBC Staff, 1995-2003
Born: 10 November 1936
Died: 8 October 2020

DONNIE BOND

Pastor, Vienna, 1990s
Born: 7 May 1935
Died: 13 September 2021

CATHY DELAY

Pastor's Wife, Düsseldorf, 1985-1996
Born: 16 June 1936
Died: 13 February 2021

Members of our IBC churches who died this year.

Multiplying Churches:

Living the Dream! Vision Becoming Reality



Darryl Evetts
Director of Church
Multiplication

Our IBC vision describes a dream...it's God's dream that we have joined.

"We dream of helping churches to keep their focus on making and multiplying disciples. We see churches being equipped to teach and train their members to be lifelong, loving, and loyal followers of Christ who are actively sharing their faith."

In the last several years we've taken reproducible disciple-making training to hundreds of our leaders. We've taken it to our leaders at Multiply Conferences, regional conferences, individual church workshops, online at our Church Multiplication Network gatherings, and even to individual pastors and other church leaders. We've developed and provided reproducible disciple-making resources specifically for our IBC churches...and they're using them and finding them very effective. As is intended, our church leaders have begun disciple-making in such a way that they're reproducing disciple-makers. The goal is for every church member to become a disciple who makes disciples who will go on to make other disciple makers.

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2).

My greatest joy is to hear the many testimonies of disciple-making experiences. Pastors and elders are in disciple-making groups together enriching their personal walk with Jesus and their ability to shepherd their churches well. Men and women are in disciple-making groups, respectively, and lives and families are being changed. As has been my personal experience, leaders have shared how people are coming to salvation through their disciple-making efforts. Exactly!



Pastors and leaders pray for each other at Multiply Conference.

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19-20).

More and more, reproducible disciple-making is becoming more than something we talk about. It's becoming something we do...becoming who we are. Disciples making disciples who make disciples.

"We dream of becoming a catalyst for strategic church-planting. We see churches praying for, contributing to, and supporting an ever-increasing number of church plants to reach people with the gospel, blessing the communities and churches where they are located."

This year is our 10-year anniversary of starting new churches in this most recent season of IBC church planting. In the beginning we partnered with another convention that was instrumental in coaching us and helping us get started. Early on, several churches partnered together to see a single church get started, but church planting proved to be contagious. More and more of our churches started planting churches themselves. And soon those new churches were helping other churches get started. That's the dream! That our churches would start churches that would go on to start more churches.

We praise God and celebrate the new churches God has birthed in and through the IBC!

1. Converge International Fellowship, Darmstadt, Germany (2012)
2. Lifebridge International Church, Panama City, Panama (2012)
3. Tamarindo Church, Tamarindo, Costa Rica (2012)
4. Rome International Church, Rome, Italy (2015)
5. Koinonia International Christian Fellowship, Aalborg, Denmark (2016)
6. Waypoint Christian Fellowship, Landstuhl, Germany (2016)
7. GLACE Community Church, Vicenza, Italy (2018)
8. International Baptist Church, Bonn, Germany (2018)
9. Emmanuel International Church, Ternes, France (2018)
10. Multination Church, London, England (2018)
11. River of Life Church, Frankfurt, Germany (2019)
12. Mittelpunkt Brazilian Fellowship, Berlin, Germany (2019)
13. New Song Church, Copenhagen, Denmark (2021)

14. Internationale Gemeinde Köln, Cologne, Germany (2022)

(And I know of at least three new initiatives underway right now!)

This year also marks 20 years in mission partnership with the European Baptist Federation to plant new churches together. Daniel Trusiewicz of the EBF reported at our 2022 Annual Convention Meeting that together we have supported 41 indigenous church planters in 15 countries: Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Georgia, Estonia, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Latvia, Lebanon, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey, and Ukraine. This partnership has been a tremendous blessing to both the churches supported and the supporting churches.

Additionally, we have IBC churches supporting church planting through missionaries in the Middle East, Philippines, and Brazil; supporting local host-nation-language church plants in their cities; and one even supporting a street church in their city.

Twenty years ago, church planting in the IBC seemed to be a bit of a foreign concept. It was certainly something we had done in our past. It was something that people did somewhere else. It was something that only select people did. It has become much less foreign to us now and becoming ever-more familiar. Church planting has grown from a



value we aspired to have to a true value of the IBC. “We value church planting. We believe that every church should be involved in some way in helping to start new congregations. We desire to expand our reach to strategic places around the world where the gospel is needed” (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:18-20).

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants, nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

It's ALL God, but He's so gracious to let us participate.

We're living the dream, but it's far from over! God is always at work redeeming His creation, and we are all invited to join Him in his work. The fields remain ripe for harvest. The children of God all over the world need the family of God. Praise God for including us in His dream, His glorious mission!

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!
(Psalm 145:3). 

Brasilia Receives Endowment Fund Grant

Bridges International Church, Brasilia, Brazil, received the 2022 Endowment Fund Type 1 grant at the International Baptist Convention's Annual Convention Meeting, 24-26 October, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The grant will be used to complete construction of a holistic social ministry center integrated into the church's current facilities. Bridges is located in an affluent section of the capital city. While the congregation is made up largely of the educated and employed, the fringe of the community are not. This “compassion ministry” space will allow Bridges to minister to the largely “invisible” and “the least of” in Brasilia.

The new ministry space will provide temporary housing for refugees, homeless, victims of domestic violence, and others in need of basic necessities. The space will include three private rooms, bathrooms

with showers, kitchen and laundry facilities, a communal living space, and a classroom. It will be a place to share a meal, sleep securely, wash, and be given clothing. But just as importantly, it will be a place to hear and receive the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Tim Faulkner presents Brasilia Associate Pastor Marcelo Ruis a check for the endowment grant.

Developing Resources:

Coloring the Vision of the IBC



by Judith Lynn Maxwell
Director of Resource
Development



The mission of the IBC is at the heart of what God has called us to do – we exist to mobilize and multiply disciple-making churches. But, an integral part of the mission is the vision – the picture that moves us toward the mission and the future. Our vision is to see a movement of global-minded churches that are reproducing healthy disciples, leaders, and congregations. We illustrate that vision statement a bit further with seven dream statements.

As we look at these dream statements, it might be easier to classify some of them to one of the core strategies. But for the Developing Resources strategy I see us working to color in the picture of all the dream statements.

WE DREAM OF ...

... stimulating churches toward mission advancement. We see churches intentionally and consistently sending members to live out the mission of the Gospel. We see churches working in partnership with one another and with other Great Commission organizations.

We love telling the stories of people being sent out from our churches with some returning to their home countries where doors may be closed to others. We love sharing the stories in *Highlights of News from Our Churches* of what is happening and how we are working together.

... helping churches to keep their focus on making and multiplying disciples. We see churches being equipped to teach and train their members to be lifelong, loving, and loyal followers of Christ who are actively sharing their faith.

RightNow Media subscriptions for all our churches is one of the ways we do this. The convention-wide subscription allows us to provide this resource to some of our smaller churches who could not afford it otherwise. The media resource provides videos and training programs in a variety of areas.

... developing pastors and leaders in essential ministry skills. We see pastors and leaders equipped with knowledge and skill and filled with passion for Christ and love for His people. We see churches where Scripture is being preached and taught with relevance, power, and clarity.

When we initiated the IBC Residency program, we envisioned a program that would develop leaders from within our IBC churches. In its initial years, the program has been just that – giving IBC church members an opportunity to see if full-time ministry is their calling.

... becoming a catalyst for strategic church-planting. We see churches praying for, contributing to, and supporting an ever-increasing number of church plants to reach people with the Gospel, blessing the communities and churches where they are located.

One of the areas we focus on is resource procurement. We are seeking new ways of funding some of our ministries – including new church plants.

... nurturing a spirit of love that bridges cultures, nationalities, ethnicities, generations, politics, privilege, position, and religious backgrounds. We see churches learning to manage, celebrate, and leverage their diversity to become worthy examples of grace and peace, encouragement and unity, acceptance and compassion.

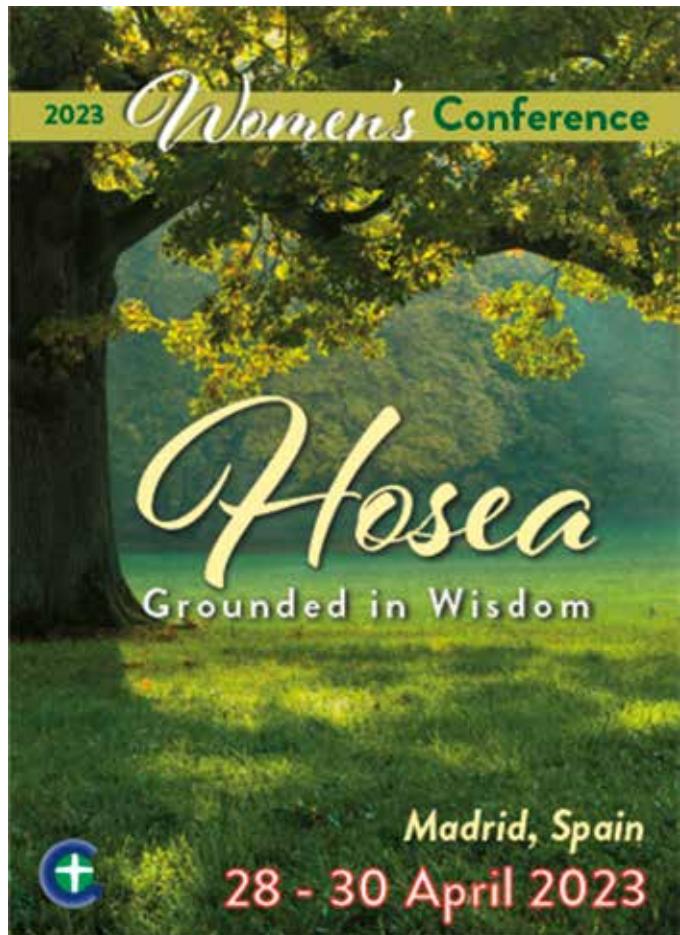
We know that IBC churches are different than national churches. That is why we seek to find resources that meet the diversity found within our churches. The Recommended Resources website page has resources that work.

... fostering fellowship and connections among pastors and churches. We see leaders and churches taking initiative to start and develop deep relationships with one another because they view themselves as utterly dependent on God and mutually dependent on one another.

One of the dreams of the Developing Resources strategy is to have a resource brokerage system or network. It is something we've fondly called the IBC matchmaking program. We would like to match up church needs with other churches who can help them fulfill those needs.

... supporting churches in times of need and transition. We see leaders being assisted to help their churches take steps toward achieving and maintaining health and growth in their congregations.

Our IBC Resources page lists resources developed for IBC churches. On this page, churches can find resources on financial systems, churches in transition, constitutions, and membership tracking. New resources such as safe church procedures and emergency preparedness are planned.





We welcome International Church of Wrocław and River of Life, Frankfurt.



FIBC Copenhagen leads in musical worship times.

all photos by Nicole Horn

Celebrating Our Baptist Heritage

The International Baptist Convention held its 59th Annual Convention Meeting, 24-26 October, at First International Baptist Church, Copenhagen, Denmark, with the theme “Celebrating Our Baptist Heritage.” From hearing the history of Baptists in Denmark to electing a new president for the convention, the three days were full of business and worship times.

The convention welcomed two new churches as associate members. River of Life in Frankfurt, Germany, is a church plant of International Christian Fellowship, Oberursel, Germany. Launched in the midst of the Covid pandemic, the church is led by Pastor Sam Dyer. The International Church of Wrocław was founded in 2012 by the Polish-speaking First Baptist Church of Wrocław to meet the increasing number of English-speakers in the city. The church is pastored by Brett Hamilton.

The convention also voted to take two churches off the list of member churches. The International Baptist Churches of Nice and St. Paul de Vence in France have not actively participated in the life of the convention for a number of years. Attempts to re-engage them have not been effective.

The convention just completed its second year with the new fiscal year of October-September. President Erik Nielsen reporting for the Finance Team said that giving for the year was at 82% of the budget. Expenses for the year were at 93% of the budget. The Finance Team in conjunction with the Executive Leadership Team proposed a budget of €355,397 with a projected income of

€300,000 based on previous years' giving. Any deficit would be covered by retained earnings. The proposed budget was a 1.08% decrease from the previous year. The budget was approved.

As part of the budget package, the convention also approved several Type 4 grants of the IBC Endowment Fund. These grants include €15,000 for the IBC Residency Program, €5,000 for outsourcing specialized work, and €5,000 for staff transition needs. It also approved a €10,000 matching grant to replace the furnace at the IBC Office. During the course of the year, the convention has awarded grants for two projects to Bridges International Baptist Church, Brasilia, Brazil, for renovating its children's education building and adding bathrooms and a kitchen to another building. They also awarded a matching grant to North Sea Baptist Church, Stavanger, Norway, for bathroom and kitchen renovations.

The convention also approved a \$50,000 Type 1 Endowment Fund grant to Bridges International Church for the building of a social ministry center (see related article on page 7).

The convention also heard presentations from the general secretary (see article on page 3) and the strategy directors concerning their strategy and plans for the coming year. Darryl Everts (multiplying churches), Dan Maxton (strengthening churches), and Judith Lynn Maxwell (developing resources) shared their goals for 2022/23. David Fresch (empowering leaders) and Scott Corwin (building connections) have stepped down from their roles as strategy directors.

Praying for the work of the convention.



FIBC hosts the ACM.





Fellowship is a key part of ACM.



Technology at work.

The Executive Leadership Team of the convention also presented a new statement on women and men in partnership for the gospel and answered questions on the statement. The statement was approved by the convention.

During the final business session, Nate Korpi, pastor of Life-Bridge International Church in Panama City, Panama, was elected as the third president. He joins Erik Nielsen, pastor of the First International Baptist Church, Copenhagen, Denmark, and Roland Eskinazi, pastor of the International Baptist Church, Brussels, Belgium, on the Presidential Leadership Team.

During the opening session on Monday evening, Bent Hylleberg, a Danish pastor and historian, shared the history of Baptists in Denmark and how they connected with the wider Baptist family. He shared four lessons that we could take away:

- We should seek to fulfil the saying of “each Baptist a missionary,” and God’s kingdom will prosper (Oncken).
- We should always seek the highest ethical standards, otherwise we will fall (Førster).
- We should seek to always be ready to overcome difficulties on our mission (Bredahl).
- Love one another; this is our task (Wümpelmann).

IBC President Nick Howard, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Wiesbaden, Germany, shared about “What Baptists Taught Me” in his message on Tuesday evening. Nick wove his testimony of

faith throughout his message, focusing on three things that being a Baptist taught him:

- Centrality of Grace: We come to faith by grace, and we must live by grace.
- Centrality of the Church: Baptist churches are autonomous but interdependent. We need one another; we’re better together.
- Centrality of Missio Dei: The mission of God is God with us – Immanuel.

He concluded his message with the reminder from 2 Corinthians 9:8: *“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”*

General Secretary Tim Faulkner concluded the ACM with his message and charge to the churches on Wednesday morning. We need to be communities of conviction. We need to be gospel communities. As another Baptist general secretary said, “When I consider the urgent need for the gospel and the significance of a strategic cooperative association of churches, no other international network holds as much potential for kingdom impact as the IBC. The best years for the IBC are directly ahead of you.”

Members of FIBC Copenhagen led in the musical worship times during the meeting.

Thirty-nine messengers from 25 churches as well as more than 15 guests participated in the meeting.

Twenty-five churches are represented.



IBC Residents pray for the ELT.



GMO 2022 to Declare His Glory among the Nations

The IBC's 2022 Global Missions Offering will go to help people in three different continents – South America, Africa, and Europe. In doing so, we will help to *"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples"* (Psalm 96:3).

PARTNERSHIPS: REACHING POMERANIANS IN BRAZIL (EBMI PROJECT)

Following two years of “radio silence” due to the pandemic, Valério and Sandra Kurth, are once again broadcasting messages of hope to the Pomeranians living in Brazil. Each week, a worship service as well as “The Daily Gift” are broadcast on two radio sta-

tions in the Pomeranian language. They are also using Facebook and WhatsApp to distribute the messages. These messages are a blessing to those who listen and are reaching believers and non-believers. One listener recently asked that the audio messages be resent to her because she had lost them and friends were asking for them.

Pomeranians live in a bleak, mountainous area of Brazil, suffering from great poverty and with no perspective. They are heavily influenced by superstition and the occult. They speak their own Pomeranian dialect with many not speaking Portuguese at all.



Potatoes and onions are needed in Ukraine.



Valério Kurth broadcasts to Pomeranians.



Sustainable living and ministry is key in Lesotho.



Wood stoves are also needed in Ukraine.

IBC MISSIONS:

SUSTAINABLE LIVING IN LESOTHO

For several years now, North Sea Baptist Church, Stavanger, Norway, has been working with Touch Me Lord Ministries to minister to the poor in South Africa and the Kingdom of Lesotho. Last year they helped to build a multipurpose center in Van Royen. The center is used for a church on Sundays and for other ministries throughout the year. The money from this year's GMO will be used to install electricity and purchase a stove and refrigerator and provide support for the first year of ministry. Ministries include a soup kitchen; medical supply, clothing, shoe, and Bible distribution; leadership training; youth outreach; and food parcel distributions. The ministry and church already have plans in place to become self-sustaining after the first year.

IBC AID: ONGOING MINISTRY TO UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine continues and so does the work with Ukrainian refugees within our IBC churches. Our IBC Aid this year will go to support IBC Bucharest in three areas of need:

- Ukrainian Ministry: purchase wood, stoves, medical supplies, and winter supplies such as potatoes, onions, and blankets.
- Moldovan Ministry: help Moldovan churches purchase wood for heating in southern Moldova.
- Nepalese Ministry: support evangelistic outreach to the Nepalese community in Bucharest.

GLOBALMISSIONS OFFERING

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples. Psalm 96:3

30 percent PARTNERSHIPS

Baptist Convention of Brazil
Valerio & Sandra Kurth
Mission among the Pomeranians

40 percent IBC MISSIONS PROJECT

This project from North Sea Baptist Church targets its mission partner 'Touch Me Lord Ministries', a Christian NPO founded in 2003 by South African pastor Johan Meiring. This project entails the building a multi-purpose centre in Lesotho that will be used both as a church and as a community centre, offering various types of support.

30 percent IBC AID

IBC Bucharest has set up a fund exclusively for relief work in Ukraine. The project will provide relief in the form of wood and stoves for winter, potatoes and onions. The project will also provide support outreaches run by Moldovan and Nepalese churches during the winter.

Please pray about giving to the 2022 IBC Global Missions Offering
Reaching the nations through giving!
Thanks for your support



2023 IBC Men's Conference

13 – 16 January 2023 Lenk, Switzerland



**Speaker:
Carl Beech**

Early Bird Offer
Teens <15 years: € 165
Adults >16 years: € 195
Offer expires on 30.11.22

Regular Price
Teens <15 years: € 185
Adults >16 years: € 215

For more information visit:
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Darmstadt, Germany

Converge International Fellowship Turns 10
ON 9 OCTOBER, our church family had the great joy of celebrating our 10th anniversary. Birthdays and anniversaries are times of reflection, and this was no different for our church. We looked back at the last 10 years and were able to praise God for His faithfulness over the last decade, in fact, over the previous two decades!

Twenty years ago, God began to work in the hearts of a few people. He grew in them a vision to see a church planted to meet the gospel needs of the many English-speaking ex-pats now calling the broader Darmstadt area home.

For 10 years, God moved people into place, and He prepared the ground in Darmstadt so that this vision could become a reality. In 2012 Bob and Carol Marsh, along with those whose hearts God had been preparing, celebrated as they officially welcomed the birth of this new church; Converge International Fellowship was finally here!

The decade that followed indeed had bumps but overwhelmingly true is the reality that the bumps were small compared to the many blessings poured out on Converge as God provided. For 10 years, we have had a growing relationship with our host church (EFG Darmstadt), who graciously opened their doors so we could use their facilities. God has brought a



Converge Darmstadt celebrates 10 years.

steady stream of people through the doors for 10 years. For 10 years, God has provided financially. For 10 years, God has equipped His church to be an effective gospel witness to our local community.

On reflection, we could stop and praise because God has indeed been faithful to our church.

But anniversaries are not only a time of reflection. They are also times of contemplation as we look forward to the future. This anniversary celebration offered to Converge the opportunity to do just that – as we reminded ourselves that the vi-

sion and mission of the past remain true of us as we head into the future. We are a church that holds to “Knowing Jesus - Making Him Known – To Every Nation.”

As we head into the years ahead, we can continue to praise God because we know that He will continue to equip His church for the gospel, kingdom-building mission He has placed before us. What a joy to know that as we build, we do so with His help and equipping.

Chris Horn

Bratislava, Slovakia

AT BRATISLAVA Faith Community, we started a men's discipleship meeting in September. We spent the summer sermon series looking at core foundations of following Jesus, and we are using the Scripture passages associated with this sermon series as a springboard to talk about discipleship.



We have seven men from five countries (and three continents) that have agreed to meet twice a month over the next year to talk about the content of discipleship while also talking about accountability and practice of this content. We invited each man to participate in this group on one condition: each individual is expected to pass this same discipleship mindset along to other people after our time together is complete.

Some of these men hope to be with our church for many years and some know they will only be with us for one, two, or three years. Our goal is not just to build a disciple-making mindset in our church family (though that is a goal within our church), but we actually hope to send out some of our best and brightest to pass

along a disciple-making mindset to other people in other places around the world.

One individual is a university student, and we hope to see him discipling other students in the coming years. Two are teachers, and we hope to see them discipling other teachers. One wants to begin discipling those that are married with children within our church. Two others are young professionals that we hope to see begin to disciple other young professionals in the future.

This is a small effort from our church, but we trust that the God of the universe can use such small efforts to have lasting kingdom impacts not only in our church but around the world.

Nick Gagnon

Naples, Italy

THE THIRD ANNUAL *Alba Run for Recovery* happened the weekend of 15-16 October. Il Faro International Baptist Church, Naples, Italy, put together a team to run (some walked) in support of this important fundraiser and to help raise awareness around the issue of human trafficking here in Italy.

The group met in Villaggio Coppola on Saturday afternoon with everyone wearing their Alba Run for Recovery t-shirts.

Before the run they heard a little bit about the Alba Safe House and Recovery Program project and the need for a safe house in Italy that provides a place of true recovery, restoration, and reintegration for survivors of sexual exploitation. The group prayed together, took pictures, and then completed their run.

The Il Faro family raised funds to help support Alba and also, by their presence together in the center of Villaggio Cop-

pola, raised awareness regarding this very important issue.

Joyce Zick



Portimão, Portugal

"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations" (Psalm 89: 1).

IT WAS A SPECIAL JOY this year to be able to celebrate Easter together as the International Christian Fellowship Baptist Church, Portimão, Portugal, family again after three years. Since the pandemic hit here in March 2020, our last Easter Sunday together face-to-face was in 2019. How wonderful it was this year to be able to celebrate our Lord's victory over sin and death and be together with our brothers and sisters. We are so blessed to be part of His wonderful family worldwide. The pandemic has helped us to really appreciate the joy of worshipping together and not to take it for granted.

In March of this year, many Ukrainian refugees arrived in Portimão, fleeing from the war in their homeland. Fifty-nine of the women and children were welcomed to a hostel here which, amazingly, is owned by a Russian couple who had planned to set up tourist accommodation. Instead of making a business for themselves, they gladly offered their premises for the Ukrainians to use. What a great example to the rest of the world! For several weeks our soup kitchen provided meals for them three times a week until the local council stepped in to give them funds to do their own cooking.



Ukrainian children enjoy special Ukrainian Easter cakes.

Another Easter joy this year was the opportunity to visit this Ukrainian hostel and deliver special Ukrainian Easter cakes. These delicacies were home-made by an elderly German man in our community who is familiar with their customs and took great delight in baking for them. The cakes were received with great joy, as you can imagine. In the absence of translators, the only language we had in common was smiles.

We have several other Ukrainian families (mothers and children) coming to our soup kitchen for food and clothes. One or two of them know some English so we are able to communicate a little. They are delightful people and always so grateful for everything they receive. One of our soup kitchen volunteers is setting up an apartment for a Ukrainian family, and several helpers at the kitchen have offered furniture and appliances. It's a joy to see people working together to provide for those in such need.

Our soup kitchen is now providing approximately 200 meals three times a week. This is quite a change from 12 years ago when we began with 12 meals once a week! Back then we were serving people primarily from Portugal and former Portuguese colonies like Mozambique, Angola, and Cabo Verde. Now our customers also come from more diverse places as well such as Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Uzbekistan. Everyone is very welcome, and we even offer a non-pork menu for our Muslim friends. We pray that all those who come for help will see the Lord's love in action and come to know Him.

Joy and David Borgan

Naples, Italy

IL FARO INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST Church, Naples, Italy, is nearly back to its pre-Covid level of activity. Small groups for men and women resumed this fall, as did Neapolitan cooking classes. Several men attended a retreat at the Isola Evangelical Center in Abruzzo. Additionally,

Il Faro participated in two unique events. In October, the Alba Run for Recovery raised money and awareness for the Alba Safe House and Recovery Program, which will minister to survivors of sexual exploitation (see page 15). And in November, Il Faro hosted “Unashamed,” a

one-day conference with Christian counselor Emanuele Di Maio. It’s an exciting time to be working for the Lord in Naples!

Joe Schoonmaker

Stuttgart, Germany

CHANGE IS in the air at IBC Stuttgart! For starters, we have a fresh new facility, a new and gifted pastor – Keith Lategan and family, and a new milestone reached in the churchwide strategic planning effort. Our Mission, Vision, and Values Team took on the exciting task of developing the new governing statements that will provide a clear picture of where our church is headed as well as provide an understanding of our means to get there.

The Mission, Vision, and Values Team met over the course of nine months during late 2021 through spring 2022 to explore the dynamic study of vision, mission, and values and to develop statements that reflect God’s plan for the church. This intense study allowed for multiple perspectives and interpretations

of the aspects of the foundational statements, which made us thoughtfully ponder: What does God want to accomplish in the lives of people at IBC Stuttgart, Europe, and beyond? In essence we sought to cultivate a reflection of the faith and culture alive in the members of IBC-S and the spiritual home we offer to the community who may enter our doors. After a time of much prayer, the consensus was reached for the following statements:

Our Vision: Growing in Christ, growing his kingdom.

Our Mission: As followers of Jesus Christ, we love, reach, and serve our communities by providing a spiritual home for people of all nations, empowering them to share Jesus and to see lives transformed by His Spirit, for the glory of God.

Our Values:

- Faithfulness to God’s Word and His mission
- Love for God and people
- Belonging to the local family of God
- Unity in Christ
- Servant-mindedness in leadership, service, and relationships

What is up next at IBC Stuttgart? The 2023 strategy will focus on building both evangelism and discipleship into the DNA of our church. With the help of our Lord, we will be an evangelizing and discipling church, in step with the momentum God provides to realize our new vision, mission, and values. To God be the glory!

Marcy Schelly & Jeremy Fairbass

