

# Our Worthy Initiatives



Les Lofquist  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

*Through these two initiatives we are attempting to strike an Acts 1:8 balance at home and around the world.*

---

Back in June, IFCA International conducted what might be regarded as a “bookend” or “companion” convention in Kalamazoo Michigan. The convention showcased the second of IFCA International’s Great Commission initiatives: Vision World. Based on the imperative of Acts 1:8, IFCA International has begun two worthy initiatives. Vision America, which was the theme of the 2008 convention, emphasizes church planting in the United States. Vision World, which was the theme this year, emphasizes church planting around the world. Through these two initiatives we are attempting to strike an Acts 1:8 balance at home and around the world.

During my keynote message on the first night of this year’s convention, I made the point that in Acts 1:8 Jesus did not give us the luxury of choosing either Jerusalem or Judea or Samaria or the uttermost part of the world. He said we were to reach them all. Healthy churches are committed to their neighborhood *and* the world, reaching across the world *and* across the street.

As with Vision America, the introduction of Vision World was accompanied by the presentation of a specially produced video. This video opens with the words of the great missionary to Africa Robert Moffat: “I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been.” Vision World is IFCA International’s response to the Robert Moffat-like challenge for our generation in which we can see the smoke of a thousand villages, smoke not only from the cooking fires of African huts, but smoke from the factories of an industrialized world ... where there is still a desperate need for the Gospel.

The immediate goal of Vision World is to recruit 100 IFCA related churches who will network together to win souls and plant churches

around the world. Such churches will commit to four simple requirements:

1. The Pastor of the church will be asked to regularly preach on the role and importance of the local church in identifying and training missionaries at home and abroad.
2. The Congregation will be asked to fervently pray that God would raise up from their midst a missionary headed for a foreign field.
3. The church leadership will work to identify a potential international church planting missionary by June 2011.
4. The church will coach, encourage and assist that potential missionary to reach the foreign field.

---

*Individualism, so rampant in the thinking of all Americans, keeps many of us in IFCA from ever entering into mutually beneficial relationships.*

---

The success of these twin initiatives, Vision America and Vision World, depends upon the involvement of the individual pastors and churches in our Fellowship. All of this will not just fall naturally into place. There will always be barriers to overcome in every IFCA effort. Individualism, so rampant in the thinking of all Americans, keeps many of us in IFCA from ever entering into mutually beneficial relationships. The autonomy of the local church is a biblical doctrine, with its God-ordained strengths and advantages. But because of the human condition and our inherent weaknesses,

the autonomy of the local church also has its disadvantages which must be honestly admitted and addressed. These weaknesses of the independent local church include a lack of unity with other like-minded churches, a lack of cooperation on large-scale ministry projects, and a tendency to become self-reliant, self-assured, and self-absorbed.

IFCA International will only be as strong as each member of our network is strong and as each does his part. Recommit yourself to our IFCA network. Start with Acts 1:8 and Vision America and Vision World. After all, it's your biblical mandate *and* it will strengthen your church and our bonds of fellowship in the IFCA.