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BEYOND OURSELVES... MISSION IN ACTION!

An official publication of the International
Fellowship of Bible Churches



Greetings to all in this new year! We are excited to come to you with this second edition of our quarterly electronic publication, "*Beyond Ourselves*". The purpose of "*Beyond Ourselves*" is to inform readers about IFBC work in the US and beyond. We highlight one or two IFBC ministries at a time, showing how God is using our people to make advances in the Kingdom of God. Our hope in doing so is not only to provide information for dissemination among our friends, but also to incite ever-expanding development of the Kingdom of God throughout the world. May God lift your hearts as you read this quarter's edition, and may He grant you ever greater effectiveness in your life and labors for Him. For additional information regarding IFBC visit our website at ifbc.org.

Dr William Sillings

General Superintendent

BEYOND OURSELVES...with Dr. Vic Reasoner

I appreciate the fact that our Fellowship is focused on kingdom ministry. We do not have to plant our institutional flag around the world, but we can partner with other ministries for a common purpose. As president of Southern Methodist College, a small Bible college in Orangeburg, South Carolina, I am pleased that Dr. William Sillings and Dr. Howard Russell both serve on our board of



Fellowship requirements for his education. Jason Cross, youth minister at Faith United Community Church in Nicholasville, where Mark Horton pastors, is also currently enrolled.

I also serve as chairman for the Fundamental Wesleyan Society. While we have members from several denominations, six of those members are credentialed with the Fellowship — including our general superintendent. In fact, the FWS has recommended that several of our colleagues consider affiliation with IFBC. The FWS has a two-fold ministry. We minister to each other through a monthly accountability connection that has functioned for over twenty years. The IFBC has adapted our accountability model for use within the Fellowship.

The FWS is also a publishing company. We continue to provide sound Wesleyan-Arminian literature to the Fellowship. In fact, our own “Fellowship Foundations” was adapted, in part, from my lecture notes first given at a FWS Bible Institute in 1997. Those lectures were recorded and are currently being reformatted into podcasts. I am pleased that the FWS and IFBC have partnered in publishing and training in the Philippines, South Korea, Nigeria, and this year in Brazil.

Cindy and I spent a week in Brazil last month. I had been in correspondence with a contact there and he invited me to give the fourth annual Phineas Bresee lecture series to about 250 Nazarene pastors in Rio de Janeiro. When we got off the plane, we did not even know what our host looked like. A week later our new friends were threatening to burn our passports so that we would be forced to stay in Brazil. They had already translated my “Hope of the Gospel” into Portuguese and it was released at the conference. By the end of the week, they were stating publically that they needed my book “The Importance of Inerrancy” translated into Portuguese ASAP. Before I left, I shook hands with the man who oversees their printing on a deal that included a Portuguese translation of my Peter commentary.



fervent responses. Afterward the pastor, whose father was one of the founders of the COTN in Brazil sixty years ago, told me that I was welcome to preach in his pulpit any time I was in Brazil.

And so who gets the credit? Was I in Brazil to promote Southern Methodist College, the Fundamental Wesleyan Society, or the International Fellowship of Bible Churches? My agenda is to teach truth and advance Christ's kingdom. I go through whatever door opens and wear whatever hat seems to be appropriate. When I was young, I heard, "There is no limit to what you can accomplish so long as you do not care who gets the credit." I am willing to take risks because of the principle stated in Ecclesiastes 11:1. For most of my ministry, I have received more blame than credit; more accusations than accolades! But I believe my ministry fits well within the philosophy of the Fellowship. I have been one of you since 1993 and I hope I have been more of an asset than a liability. You are among the dearest friends I have.



According to Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 we can do more in connection than we can in isolation. As we enter a new year, let's purpose to pray for each other, to be accountable to each other, and to support the kingdom work of the Fellowship to be best of

our abilities. Whether these are the best of times or the worst of times, all I know is that this is *our* time. Let's avoid the snare of playing it too safe. The advancement of Christ's kingdom is the greatest of all causes. Let's give it all we have and trust him to provide the increase.

For more information about Southern Methodist Bible College: email us at victorpau@aol.com

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