



Connect

Volume I

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“Keeping us informed and connected.”

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LCMI

It is a wonderful privilege to walk alongside of the men and women who lead our LCC churches, and the many others who are members of our LCMI network of churches. Your faithful, loving service has blessed so many people. Thank you for demonstrating and sharing the Gospel of Jesus to the broken people in your cities, barangays, villages and communities.

We are forever grateful and constantly amazed at the growth of this ministry over the last 12 years. God has been so gracious to allow us to partner with great people who have embraced the same vision and strategy for advancing the Kingdom of God. We are all committed to the fulfillment of the Great Commandment through loving God and others (Matthew 22:37-39), and the fulfillment of the Great Commission through the multiplication of disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). Our strategy for accomplishing this vision is Jesus’ model. The strategy is simple, but powerful - **WIN** the lost, **CONNECT** them to the body of Christ, **TRAIN** them to be effective disciples of Jesus, and **SEND** them out to reach others with the Good News of Jesus.

Why Is LCMI’s Vision and Strategy Working Effectively?

- Because it is **Christ-Centered** and is based on His example. (Col.2:2-10, 1 Cor. 2:1-5)
- It is **Biblical**. It is based on the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. (Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 22:36-40)
- It is **not program or event focused**. It is people focused. (2 Timothy 21-2)

- It is **anointed** by the Holy Spirit, and it is **empowered** by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
- It **promotes real relationships** that go beyond the surface (life-on-life relationships that are transformational). (John 13:1, 12-17)
- It is **intentional, personal, and practical**.
- **Everything that we do is based upon it**. All of our training leads us to it. It is not only a ministry – it is our life! *This is who we are, what we do, and how we do it.*
- Our leadership is united, committed, submitted, and willing to lay down their lives for the vision and strategy of Jesus. We have sacrificed our time, tithes, and talents for this vision. We are willing to work around the clock to see it fulfilled. Our spouses and our kids are trained in it and have given much for it. We have taken it back to our home countries, have seen our families embrace it, and it has begun to change our communities. This is our passion, and we will continue to walk in complete obedience to Him and His commands.

Because of your faithfulness and your commitment to the call of God for your life, our LCC churches and our LCMI fellowshipping churches continue to grow and prosper. Each year we are planting new churches and receiving existing churches that desire fellowship and mentorship. In fact, the LCMI Presbyters are currently preparing “Vision 25/25”, that includes an aggressive church planting vision and strategy over the next seven years. We want to continue to be obedient to the Lord and the direction of the Holy Spirit, but we know that this means a lot of new challenges. *(Continued on page 2)*

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As you can imagine, the result of this will be expansion--and this expansion means that we will be moving into more and more new territory. This is truly exciting, but it is also very challenging for your leadership. We want to continue to be a blessing and an encouragement to all of our pastors, leaders, and church members, but the task before us has become more and more challenging with each passing year. So we are praying and seeking various avenues that will enable us to stay in better touch and provide you with the mentorship that you desire.

Therefore, the first step we are taking is to create a newsletter for our pastors, ministers, and leaders that will come to you on a bimonthly basis. This will be sent via email and in a format that you may print if you choose to do so. We are also currently in the process of building a new website for LCMI. It will be up and running in the next couple of months, and it will be a place where you can check in often to see what is happening and receive video messages, etc.

We pray that we can improve in our communication and that it will help us to stay closely knitted together as a "Framily" (Friends and Family). Please keep your leaders in prayer as we seek to keep you better informed and better connected to one another.

We love you and are excited about the future of LCMI and our Life Connection Churches worldwide.

In Him,
Bishop Timothy W. Dailey, D.Min
President of LCMI

FAITHFULNESS AND FRUITFULNESS

As a teenager, I had my life all figured out. I wanted to be a successful businessman. I had it all planned that I would be a millionaire by the age of thirty. Apparently, though, I must have factored God into my decisions--somewhat. I reasoned that it might be a good idea to get in a year of Bible college first--and find a good Christian wife. (After all, where would be a better place to find one than at a Christian school?) However, little did I know that in that first year, God would "rock my world."

My whole perspective changed as I sought to fulfill the reading requirements for my freshman "Introduction to Missions" class.

My fellow students and I were assigned to read some missionary biographies--and one of these in particular especially changed my world. Yes, the man Adoniram Judson had a profound, life-changing impact on this young college kid! I would have never dreamed that someone born in 1788 would have any relevance to me whatsoever--but he most certainly did. God used this man's life to change my life--and the lives of multitudes throughout the years.

When missionary Adoniram Judson entered Burma (today Myanmar) in July 1813, he found an unreached people in a hostile land. Today there are thousands of congregations that trace their origin to Judson's pioneering work. Primarily, however, his legacy is the complete translation of the Bible into Burmese--still in use today.

Judson's path was difficult, to say the least. He faced incredible opposition, rejection, imprisonment, serious illness, pain, torture... He lost two wives and seven children to death. But through it all he persevered for the cause of Christ. HE NEVER GAVE UP!

Adoniram's faith sustained him. His God sustained him. He threw himself into translating God's precious Word into Burmese, which he finished in early 1834. And when he died after 38 years of labor, there were less than 20 believers and no churches there! BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP! God gave the increase, and now we see tremendous fruitfulness for this man's faithfulness.

At the 150th anniversary of the translation of the Bible into the Burmese language, the speaker for the occasion asked his interpreter, "What do you know of this man?" The translator (a Burmese Christian) began to weep and said, "We know him--we know how he loved the Burmese people, how he suffered for the gospel because of us, out of love for us. He died a pauper, but left the Bible for us. When he died there were few believers, but today there are over 600,000 of us, and every single one of us traces our spiritual heritage to one man: the Rev. Adoniram Judson."

Adoniram did not see all the fruit in his lifetime. BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP! And the fruit goes on--even until this very day. Even to that day years back when I took up that biography and begin to soak in the testimony of this faithful man of God.

Sometimes we think we aren't making a difference. We begin to fall for the lies of the enemy. *(Continued on page 3)*

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We think that we are wasting our time trying to help people—that God isn't blessing. We are tempted to fall into discouragement. But WE MUST NEVER GIVE UP! Never forget that we are investing in the future, and only God knows what He intends to do with the labor you are putting forth today. We want instant gratification. But with God a thousand years is as one day. SO BROTHERS AND SISTERS, NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP!!

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)

BUILDING YOUR MINISTRY TEAM

A. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MINISTRY TEAM

1. Members are raised out of the local church. Gen. 14:14--*“And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he led forth his trained servants, born in his own house (three hundred and eighteen) and pursued them to Dan.”*
2. Members must be faithful. 2 Ti 2:2--*“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit the same to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*
 - a. God can make the faithful able.
 - b. It is difficult to make the able faithful.
3. Members must have one vision.
4. Members must function in their gifting.
5. Members contribute from their strength.

B. RAISING LEADERS FROM WITHIN

1. You must believe that leaders can be raised up from within.
2. Discern if they have the heart of the vision.
3. Do they follow the Bible without question?
4. Are they willing to pay the price?
5. Do they love the Word of God?
6. Do they have a servant's heart?
7. They do not rely on the flesh.
8. They do not have an independent spirit.
9. They love people.
10. Is their life disciplined?

C. THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR TEAM

1. The potential that is within them.
2. The signs of fruitfulness in their ministry.
3. Remember, you are not raising a team to serve you, but raising people you can serve.
4. You are to be raising up healthy ministries, not building your own.
5. You are not to be seeking your life, but laying down your life.
6. You are building people--not using them.
7. Do not motivate by pressure, but by relationship.
8. Your relationship with your team must be based on the principle of love.

D. HOW TO MOTIVATE PEOPLE

1. Love them without pressure.
2. Help them before you demand from them.
3. Make sure they are healthy before you demand fruit.
4. Pay attention to them.
5. Believe in them. Be confident in them.
6. Show mercy and forgiveness.
7. Only administer correction with justice and a good spirit.
8. Appreciate their sacrifice.
9. Defend them spiritually before others.
10. Encourage them rather than criticize.
11. Lead with character.
12. Stand with them no matter what.

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