

FOMenter — October 2005

FELLOWSHIP OF MISSIONS Email Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S POSTINGS



2005 FOM Conference Reflections

Gerald K. Webber, President

From the moment the first plenary session began, it was apparent that this would be a "special" meeting. The camaraderie expressed around the displays in the hospitable foyer of the host church spilled into the meeting room as the 36th Annual Conference of the Fellowship of Missions began. Since proper worship of God is at the heart of the Great Commission, it was fitting that representatives of the agencies opened each meeting with a season of God-honoring music, led by Mark Cizauskas, Associate Pastor of West Cannon Baptist Church.

Each plenary session featured an "Agency Exposure," enabling leaders to get better acquainted with the mission and function of sister organizations. In each of the two morning plenary sessions, time was also devoted to a specific Prayer Focus.

Dr. Kevin Bauder's forums on "Setting the Rudder" were masterfully delivered with a rare combination of wisdom and wit, as he reminded delegates of the importance of anchoring everything done in missions to the unchanging Word of God. As an educator with his "feet on the ground," Bauder was able to demonstrate how timeless truth and ancient dogma relate to contemporary issues, even offering some help in understanding the impact of the recent best-seller, *The Da Vinci Code*. Each address was followed by a time of lively interaction and discussion. Feedback since the meeting has suggested that this will be a "hard act to follow!"

Several helpful workshops filled out the schedule, each one with pertinent helps for the missionary leader. Thanks to David Little, Bill Jenkin and Kathy Webber for their insightful presentations.

As usual, business was limited to the essentials. A slate of officers was affirmed, with David Little assuming the chairmanship of the Executive Committee. Other members are Dan

Anderson, Vice Chairman; Robert Auffort, Treasurer; William Smallman, Secretary; and members-at-large Keith Davey, David Marcum and David Rozelle. Appreciation is extended to retiring member, Dick Mercado.

The President's Report was presented, including a brief review of the past year's activities and some pointed suggestions on how the FOM membership can (should) participate in growing and strengthening its ministries. That report, printed in full, follows.

Those who attended this year's conference left with a firm commitment to place next year's meeting in Atlanta on their calendars as "not to be missed." Details will be forthcoming, but it's not too early to mark off those days (September 18-20) and hold them inviolable. The theme, "Bridges to Islam" is one that affects virtually every region in which our agencies work, and each presenter is a recognized expert in his field. Don't miss it!

CEO's will soon be receiving information about next year's CEO Pre-Conference Retreat. If you are a President, Executive/General Director, or whatever the "main man" in your agency is called, you'll want to get geared up for this one, to be held Saturday through Monday before the Annual Conference. All the details are not yet in place, but if you miss this one—trust me—you'll weep!

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New page-turner Bible is launched

The BBC World Edition announced a new version of the Bible which its author says can be read in less than two hours has been launched. The 100-Minute Bible, written as a page-turner for those who do not have the time to read the full version, was unveiled at Canterbury Cathedral.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/4266564.stm

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British Missionaries now seek to convert the secular French

One church leader in the UK commented "We are beginning to see Europe as a strategic priority." One of the reasons is, according to a French mission, "there are more mediums and occult practitioners in France than there are registered doctors, and practicing Muslims outnumber practicing evangelical Christians by 12 to one."

UK Expat.Telegraph Sept 19, 2005

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Help Ministries

A very helpful website (pardon the redundancy) for busy Mission Administrators, Missionaries and Pastors seeking information on almost anything. This site (<http://www.hm.org>) is maintained by Steve Spacek, Director, who is changing from email to blog format. By the way he does provide a link to our FOM web site.

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