

THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO ACMA

It is easy to be frightened by the worsening darkness in our world. Yet, even in times such as ours, it is wrong to assume that revival and awakening are both behind us. Contrary to what you may feel, God has not decreed an end to large-scale renewal. Such a day may be near, but we are not there yet -- not with a fourth of mankind having never heard the Gospel. There remains a last outpouring upon "all mankind" that will reach not only Asia, China and India, but also the entire Muslim world (Acts 2:17).

True men and women of God are not backing down nor abandoning hope; they are preparing for the next great move of God. Indeed, it is in this very hour that hope is rising to meet the challenge of destiny. Recall, that Jesus Himself heard the lamentation of His disciples. "The place is desolate," they argued, "and the time is already past; so send the multitudes away" (Matt. 14:15). Yet, even in the apparent lateness of the hour, Jesus answered with a word that compels me to this day: "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!" (Matt. 14:16).

We know the story. Together with His disciples, Jesus fed the 5000. It is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels, and it still speaks to us today: We should not assume the desolate conditions of the world around us nor the lateness of the hour are hindrances to Christ's compassion or power.

Yes, the hour is late, but there is still time to believe for breakthroughs. Remember the Lord's promise: "Darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples" (Isa. 60: 2). Yet, in the midst of such darkness, the Lord promised His presence "will rise upon" us and "His glory will appear upon" us (v. 2a,b). The result is that "nations shall come to [our] light and kings to the brightness of [our] rising" (v. 3).

I've shared these things with you previously, but it is this attitude of faith, of divine possibilities, that is at the core of our purpose as an association. To be perfectly transparent, I cannot offer you what IMF will give you in pastoral care, in advice, phone availability and specific support – all of which are vital for your ministerial advancement and licensing. What I hope to provide is the vision of Christlikeness, of becoming a society of redeemers -- individuals whose believe all things are still possible, even a spiritual awakening for our nation and in our times.

LOCAL CHURCH BENEFITS:

Resources for integrating ICIT values (Christlikeness, Humility, Prayer and Unity) into your church training/ordaining programs.

Help in establishing local citywide unity. Connection with other member churches from differing backgrounds in your city as ICIT principles blend into the attitudes of the praying, citywide church.