



MISSION AMERICA COALITION MOVES FORWARD IN 2001

At the end of 2000, the *Mission America Coalition* felt led by God to focus efforts in three major areas: ***Evangelism, Spiritual Unity*** and ***Revival and Spiritual Awakening***.

Throughout the year, the *Coalition* expanded and developed ministry outreaches in these three areas, with the mission of mobilizing the Church to reach America with the Gospel. We praise God for all He did in and through the *Coalition* during 2001!

9/11 MINISTRY RESPONSE

When 2001 began, none of us could have imagined that events nine months later would forever change the way we view our country, our government and the world around us. As the world looked on with shock and grief at the attacks on New York City, Washington, D.C. and the crash in Pennsylvania, churches and ministries moved into action responding with the love and grace of Jesus Christ and with an increased sense of urgency to share the Gospel.

Immediately following the September 11th attacks, members of the *Mission America Coalition (MAC)* responded:

- ***With prayer*** – The “*Prayer By The Nation, For The Nation*” was released through *USA Today Newspaper*, the Internet, email, etc. and helped Americans speak to God with one voice and address feelings of fear and anger following the tragic events. Rev. David Bryant of the *National Prayer Committee*, a member of the *Mission America Coalition*, called the prayer a “ministry of hope to the nation” in a dark hour. Thousands of

churches participated in reading the prayer together on the *National Day of Prayer and Mourning*.

- **With evangelism** – At the *MAC* annual meeting in October, leaders formed a new ministry outreach, appropriately named *911 Remembrance*, to help meet the spiritual needs of Americans by getting the Gospel into every home. *MAC* denominational leaders, denominational evangelism leaders and city leaders are now focused on distributing booklets with a Gospel message in 100 cities, in 100 days, reaching 100 million people in 2002. One of booklets is “*Fallen But Not Forgotten*,” published by *Campus Crusade for Christ*, a tribute to the men and women who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks and to the rescue workers who heroically responded. Woven throughout the booklet is a clear call to a personal relationship with Christ.
- **With information** – Through the *Lighthouse E-Newsletter*, a weekly email newsletter to the thousands of Christians who have committed to be *Lighthouses*, Christians were given encouragement and resources to assist in meeting the needs of those impacted by the tragedy. Many *Lighthouses* held neighborhood prayer gatherings, offered hope, comfort and tangible, loving responses to those in need. *Lighthouses* were urged to respond not only with kindness and goodwill but also with evangelism.
- **With collaboration** – A coalition of *Mission America* partners formed *Operation Eternal Hope* to assist Christians in sharing the eternal hope of Jesus in times of national crisis, through a joint prayer, care and share ministry and media response. This effort seeks to link Christian media with Christian leaders who can respond appropriately to future crises.

EVANGELISM

The Lighthouse Movement

Thousands of Christians are involved in *The Lighthouse Movement* . . . praying, caring and sharing Jesus with their neighbors, friends, family members and coworkers who don’t know Him. Through the leadership of Dr. Alvin VanderGriend, countless lives are being touched every day as Christians shine out the light of Christ.

God is also using *Lighthouses* to energize the Church. In South Dade County, FL, *The Good Samaritan Church* has had 90 converts since starting its *Lighthouse* ministry in 2001. A *Southern Baptist Church* in the Little Havana

district of Miami, FL added 12 new families since initiating a *Lighthouse* emphasis. *Sunshine Community Church* in Grand Rapids, MI experienced positive results in the first four weeks following their *Lighthouse* training. Prayed-for neighbors have attended worship services and relationships have improved in neighborhoods where *Lighthouses* are praying. Within six months of encouraging its congregation to use the *Lighthouse* strategy, *Orlando Baptist Church* reported 350 registered guests at worship, 165 professions of faith (conversions) and 42 family units joining the church by profession of faith or transfer

In addition to these wonderful reports, *The Lighthouse Movement* also advanced on other fronts including:

- ***Establishing a Lighthouse Facilitation Council*** comprised of 35 national-level leaders to serve, equip and support *Lighthouses* and *Lighthouse Churches*.
- ***Forging The Lighthouse Media Alliance*** to provide Christian radio stations with *Lighthouse* news, testimonies, information and training. Over 1,200 Christian radio stations now carry *Lighthouse* programming through *Lighthouse Public Service Announcements*, *The Lighthouse Report* and *Outreach Alert*.
- ***Expanding The Lighthouse E-Newsletter*** now reaching some 20,000 *Lighthouses* throughout America and 46 foreign countries, with weekly testimonies, encouragement and resources.
- ***Promoting Lighthouse awareness*** through a nationwide *Turn On The Light Day* on *American Family Radio*. The *MAC* City and Community team along with Communication Ministries assisted *AFR* in holding the day long *Lighthouse*-focused broadcast. Several hundred *AFR* listeners stepped forward in response to the challenge to pray, care and share.
- ***Spreading the Lighthouse vision*** through meetings and regional festivals. The City and Community team helped set up a system of regional representatives for *The Lighthouse Movement* and provided leaders for church-based training in the *Lighthouse* strategy.
- ***Creating a Lighthouse Resource Center*** so that *Lighthouses* will soon be able to access over 60 *Lighthouse* resources by calling one toll free telephone number (888-323-1210).

- ***Initiating an Association of Lighthouse Churches*** to help churches strengthen and expand their *Lighthouse* ministries.
- ***Providing a Lighthouse Training Network*** to link *Lighthouse* trainers with churches, cities and denominations throughout the country.
- ***Covering the national Lighthouse Movement in prayer*** through a new *Prayer Force*. Various national prayer ministries will lift up *The Lighthouse Movement* in prayer each month.
- ***Launching Larry Lighthouse, The Lighthouse Movement*** for kids, www.larrylighthouse.com.

Operation Starting Line

Under the direction of Rev. Dallas Anderson, *Operation Starting Line*, in partnership with the *Billy Graham Center*, gave *MAC* partners the opportunity to participate on the platform in prison evangelism campaigns in eight states. In those eight states, some ***145,000 inmates*** received a clear presentation of the Gospel. Over ***14,000 significant spiritual decisions*** have been recorded as a result of those campaigns – including both rededications and first time decisions for Christ. In addition, nearly ***14,000 inmates enrolled in correspondence Bible courses*** and another ***14,000 inmates requested more information***.

OSL also established a state-by-state training network for prison evangelists for *OSL* outreaches. This effort has now developed into the first ever *Prison Proclamation E-School* to be held in 2002 at the *Billy Graham Center* in Wheaton, IL.

SPIRITUAL UNITY AND COALITION BUILDING

As the *Mission America Coalition* continues to grow, emphasis has been placed on involving denominations and ministries in national *Ministry Networks* and other collaborative gatherings of leaders to focus on a common purpose or mission. Under the leadership of Dr. Cornell Haan, 2001 proved to be an exciting year of development in this area as *Coalition* members launched new networks and took ownership of existing networks by seeking ways to work collaboratively with other denominations and ministries.

Among the new networks initiated were the *Disciple Makers Network*, the *MAC Young Leaders Network*, the *Denominational Evangelism Leaders Network* and the *Proclamational Evangelism Network*. In fact, the *Proclamational Evangelism Network* will host a *Proclamation Evangelism School* in May. Other networks such as *We Care America* and *IAM4School.com* brought together focused efforts on meeting physical and spiritual needs of targeted populations.

Dr. Haan also was instrumental in the establishment of the *Presidential Prayer Team* – which now includes hundreds of thousands of Christians committed to praying on a daily basis for the President and other leaders. Never before have so many Christians committed to pray on a regular basis for the leaders of our country.

City and Community Ministries

Since 1995, *Mission America* has been working with a growing number of city leaders who have a vision for transforming their cities and communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Rev. Glenn Barth and Rev. Jarvis Ward gave leadership to the following encouraging advancements in 2001:

- ***Identified key leadership in 410 cities*** that is seeking to bring churches together in unity for the purpose of evangelism, revival and spiritual awakening.
- ***Held two high-level summits for leaders*** in cities and communities across the nation. These summits, known as the *City Impact Roundtable (CIR)*, are fast becoming professional gatherings where real learning takes place through the sharing of “best practice” models for expanding the capacity of Christ-centered city and community ministry.
- ***Hosted the first Marketplace Prayer Summit*** in Orlando, FL in March 2001, calling together Christians in the workplace for focused prayer and evangelism outreach.
- ***Convened the Citywide Prayer Leaders Consultation*** in Dallas, TX in August 2001 to encourage and equip local prayer leaders.
- ***Improved communication between cities and leaders*** through a new website, www.cityreaching.com. City leaders are also able to participate in a monthly conference call on important city

transformation topics (75–100 average attendance) and receive a monthly email update (approximately 700 leaders).

REVIVAL AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The Revival Network, facilitated by Rev. Dale Schlafer, is calling the Church to extraordinary prayer for revival and spiritual awakening in America and the Church. Rev. Schlafer and Rev. David Bryant have led the formation of a revival document called "*An Urgent Appeal for Christian Leaders in America for Consensus and Collaboration on the Biblical Hope of Corporate Revival*," which was officially released in 2001. This document seeks to establish a common vision among the Body of Christ for revival in order to lead to authentic advocating for and laboring toward revival.

In 2002, in collaboration with City and Community Ministries, Rev. Schlafer and Rev. Bryant will be holding targeted "Living room tours" in cities throughout the country to present the document to pastors and local Christian leaders.

2002 AND BEYOND

America is a nation at war – both militarily overseas and also spiritually. On nearly every front we see signs of the spiritual battle – from increased attacks on the church to lowering moral and ethical standards as reflected in the media.

In his book, "*Principles of War – a handbook on strategic evangelism*," author Jim Wilson says "*We are so used to fighting the spiritual war alone that when we come in contact with a fellow Christian in the same war at the same time or place, we find it difficult to cooperate and communicate.*" The *Mission America Coalition* is helping rally the forces to cooperate and communicate as we face this spiritual battle. Now more than ever, we recognize Christians should join together and stand firm in our commitment to Jesus Christ and our commitment to share Jesus with those around us.

As we join in this battle together, let's first examine ourselves and draw close to the leader and victor of our faith – Jesus Christ. As Dr. Paul Cedar,

chairman of the *Mission America Coalition* emphasizes, “We cannot lead others to what we are not ourselves.” Then, and only then can we move ahead – to victory “through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (I Corinthians 15:57)

The time is now, the need is great, let’s awaken and move forward to the challenge – together!