

1st Trimester 2007

Jerry L. Burns

Brethren:

Greetings in the most precious name of Jesus Christ!

What a privilege to serve a most outstanding organization such as the VFMA!

I truly believe that the VFMA is having an impact on the Foreign Missions Division. Returning Missionaries have the potential to be a tremendous blessing to the Division. I believe the VFMA is having success in maintaining the "bridge" between the Veterans and the FMD. I salute Bro. Howell for his vision in promoting the VFMA. We pledge our continued support of the Cause of Foreign Missions.

It is my great joy to serve on the Executive Committee with Vice-Chairman, Larry Blake; Secretary, Dorsey Burk; FMB Member, Manual Rogers and Member ex-officio, Bruce Howell, General Director of Foreign Missions. This Committee has jelled into an efficient body excited about bringing progress, strength and unity among the Veterans.

In our recent Executive Committee meeting we agreed to institute several new initiatives and revive some old ones.

We are proposing a change in the name of our tri-annual Newsletter to *THE VANGUARD*. Vanguard is a military term and the loose dictionary meaning is "first ones in" or "initial thrust." What better describes the work and mission of our Veterans of Foreign Missions?! Many of our current veterans were indeed the *first ones in*, or the *initial thrust*, in dozens of countries around the world. We will also endeavor to publish the newsletter 3 times a year, as called for in our by-laws.

Soon, a new VFMA web site will appear, hosted by the IT Department of the UPCI. Our new domain name will be: [www.vfma.net](http://www.vfma.net).

The VFMA is making application to this FM Board in session to adopt the *Christmas Cheer for Retired Missionaries* as their own fully funded project. *Christmas Cheer for Retired Missionaries* is tailor-made for the VFMA!

We are going to explore new and various means of increasing our PIM support. This will allow us to take on new projects that fit within our Charter.

We have approved the production of a DVD project featuring footage and interviews of our Veterans. Our desire is to preserve the heritage and stories of these valiant veterans before they are gone. Sadly, this project is coming too late for some. This DVD project will be a tremendous archival resource for our fellowship.

The dates of our next VFMA Retreat will be April 23-26, 2008 at the Trout Lodge (YMCA of the Ozarks) in Potosi, Missouri. We have voted to expand the Retreat by one day and one night making it a 3 night / 2 day affair.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of the 300 plus Veterans of Foreign Missions, for allowing us the privilege of continued involvement in the FMD. We pledge our loyalty and support!