



*Offering Help and Hope
to a Hurting World*



1970s
Guatemala Quake



1970s
Harland Cary on
load of corn.
Guatemala



1980s
Kenya Famine



1980s
Zimbabwe Famine



2000s
Myanmar Cyclone



1990s
Midwest US Flood



2000s
Hurricane Katrina



2000s
Tsunami



1990s
Midwest US Flood

35th Anniversary Issue
1973 - 2008

Summer 2008

COMMITTED TO *Our Purpose*

By Rick Jett, Executive Director

Many different milestones in life cause one to stop and reflect. Anniversaries are one of those milestones. This year at the North American Christian Convention IDES will celebrate 35 years of service.

It was at the 1973 NACC in Indianapolis when **LaVerne Morse, W.E. McGilvrey, Lanis Kineman, Milford E. Anness, David E. Branholm, Harland Cary, Wilford. F. Lown, Don Vanderluit** and **Knofel Staton** met with **Milton B. Bates** to begin the International Disaster Emergency Service. The following year **Richard Sprague** merged his efforts with these men, and promoted and managed the work for the next 27+ years. For the first ten years Milton and Richard worked out of their homes, corresponding with missionaries and churches around the world. From a humble beginning with total receipts of \$827.50 in 1973, the support from individuals and churches has increased to over \$2.5 million in 2007. God has truly blessed this ministry!



I believe the reason for God's blessing has been our commitment and loyalty to the core values upon which IDES was founded. These values may not have been put into writing at the beginning, but they were fulfilled by the founder and the men mentioned above, and all of those who have followed them. Compassion, generosity, integrity, evangelism, dependence on God, partnership and glorifying God...these are the core values of IDES.

In a letter written by Milton Bates in 1980 he said, "Thank you very much for your letter concerning help for the Cuban refugees. I assure you, no one has to beg me to help refugees since they are live victims of the worst kind of disaster—man's hatred. And helping people to know and be reconciled to God is my purpose for living."

No one needs to beg IDES to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of others. It is our purpose to help people to know and be reconciled to God. We seek to fulfill that purpose with compassion, generosity, integrity, partnership and total dependence on God.

Our vision for the future is to lead the independent Christian Churches and Churches of Christ in responding to catastrophic events throughout the world by mobilizing financial and physical resources to and through the local congregations and missionaries for the purpose of benevolent evangelism to glorify our awesome God.

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The History of IDES

As we celebrate 35 years of ministry, reflect with us and enjoy this history of IDES written by Milton Bates which was originally published in the first IDES newsletter.



Elder Milton Bates
Chairman



R. Laverne Morse
Vice-Chairman



Lanis Kineman
Treasurer



William McGilvrey
Secretary

HISTORY OF I.D.E.S., Inc.

The following brief history was written by Milton Bates, founder.

At the time of the cyclone and tidal wave in Calcutta, India, and Bangladesh in 1972 a reporter on TV pointed to an elderly, nearly naked Indian who was skin and bones, lying on the ground covered with a thin sheet. The reporter asked, "Won't somebody help these people?" The thought immediately jumped to my mind: "Where is the Church of Christ?" Caring for such people is the job of the church (Matt. 22:39, Luke 10:30-37, Matt. 25:31-40, Acts 11:27-30, Gal. 6:9-10). As I read accounts of this and other disasters, I noticed that the Red Cross and denominational churches were putting Churches of Christ and Christian Churches to shame in caring for disaster victims. I began to think about getting a committee together but as the disaster drifted off into history I rationalized that someone else in our brotherhood with more influence than I would surely do something, so I forgot about it.

Then in December, 1972 an earthquake hit Nicaragua. Now I finally realized I could not rest until I personally got involved. I talked with three men of our brotherhood who had more influence than I and each felt the idea had merit but each was over-involved in other projects and could not help. So I wrote and mimeographed a letter, sending it to 37 Bible College presidents and 160 preachers of large churches. Ten answered affirmatively, willing to be involved, others replied but had no time to help although they gave their assent that this was needed.

Milford Anness, a Christian lawyer, helped write our articles of incorporation, filed them for us, and on June 11, 1973 IDES was incorporated in Indiana. Our first annual business meeting was held at the North American Christian Convention in Indianapolis in July, 1973. Then followed months of writing a Constitution and By-laws which were ratified and an emblem agreed upon at a second business meeting on December 31, 1973. I applied to the IRS for recognition as a not-for-profit organization, and we received this recognition in about three months, having been required to amend our articles of incorporation.

At our Aug. 17, 1974 annual meeting we voted to hire Richard Sprague of Kempton, In. as our first manager. He had been active in disaster relief work on a local basis and had already purchased property to use as a base of operation. We also elected five new directors at this time.

During the time since beginning we have mailed thousands of letters and have had hundreds who replied. We have sought missionaries, ministers, or other Christian men to serve as representatives in their area to help in the event of a disaster. Many continue to volunteer to help when needed.

The outstanding point is that I have found, similar to the Restoration Movement itself, many others of our brotherhood had the samethoughts I had - that work in the area of disasters had been neglected by the Churches of Christ/Christian Churches, too long. On account of the response of so many of our brothers in Christ, we are confident that it is the will of God that we do this work.

Respectfully,

Milton B. Bates, Chairman of IDES

by Larry Sims,
Project Manager



THEN & NOW

“For we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28 [ASV].

Guatemala

In 1978, a devastating earthquake struck Guatemala, virtually destroying the town of San Raymundo. Herb Pinney, IDES' contact for one of the earliest relief efforts recalls:

“Thirty-five years ago, IDES began as one of the most important ministries of the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ. One of their first major projects was to help rebuild the historic town of San Raymundo, Guatemala after a major earthquake. This rebuilding project included evening preaching and singing. The Iglesia de Cristo [Church of Christ] was established.”

Among the first ones baptized into Christ was Herman Nij, who eventually became an elder. He then baptized his nephew, Eugenio Queno Nij, and the church sent Queno to Bible College so he could be their minister. At school, Queno started working with Herb's daughter, Professor Lori Pinney, in new church work. They married and returned to San Raymundo together.

Queno has since become the Minister to Guatemala—a five year chaplaincy to the President and Senate. He also served as construction director of the million-dollar campus of Morning Glory, which includes a full hospital (the Chief of Staff is another local Christian boy who was sent to medical school and returned home.) This hospital reaches out to over 15,000 people a year through short term medical missions. Joy Gring now serves on staff and reports that they have patients from all over Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and even Mexico. Joy was only 13 years old when her father led in rebuilding the town after the earthquake. She says “Hospital Cristiano” was built on property donated during the time that IDES was working there. Today it is administered by a board of 12 Christians.

Morning Glory Christian Primary school, with 565 students, is also part of the campus, and one of the highest rated schools in Guatemala. A new Secondary/University Prep school and a Christian Trade school for adults are scheduled to open this year. And on the church scene, a whole new generation of

missionaries is being sent out to rescue village churches that have been abandoned by denominational missionaries who found the work back in the hills too difficult. The goal is to re-establish these congregations as New Testament churches. Imagine – all of this from an earthquake!



Hurricane Mitch relief in Guatemala - 1988

Myanmar (Burma)

For generations, members of the J. Russell Morse family have served in Asia and partnered with IDES in its quest to bring help and hope to a hurting world. Along with its harvest of fruit trees planted by the Morse family in Burma, the country (presently known as Myanmar) has also reaped a harvest of Christians from the spiritual seeds they sowed. An estimated 5% of the population is now Christian. Due to these early contacts, IDES is now able to reach the victims of Cyclone Nargis with desperately needed relief items.

Cyclone Nargis is as devastating as Hurricane Katrina and much more deadly. **Your help and partnership will be needed for months to come if we are to continue to reach through this open door.** Benevolent Evangelism works! It is when we are most vulnerable that we realize our need for a Savior. History has proven that fact time and again.



Early IDES relief effort in Burma - 1986.



Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar - 2008.



Blocks used to rebuild, made with manual machine.



Richard Sprague on an 8-day trip to San Raymundo.



Quake damage in Guatemala - 1978.

In Memory of...

- Paul Chapman**
Helen Bream
- Nellie Mae Davison**
Richard & Jean Davison
- Flora & Donald Cover**
Kenneth & Barbara Cover
- Bobby Criss**
Wayne B. Bigelow
- Carol & Junior Evans**
Gary G. & Lynn M. Williams
- Richard A. Evanson**
Betty Lou Evanson
- Tom Felix**
Pamela S. Felix
- Alice Freimund**
David & Marjorie Harding
- Jim Garrett**
Harold & Marilyn Hamm
- Elsie & Stewart Glass**
Kenneth & Barbara Cover
- Ida Grantham**
Lynette Stephenson
- Mrs. Fern Hammond**
Timothy & Debi Wemple
- Mr. & Mrs. Guy Hartzog**
Roger & Karen Hartzog
- Clifford Hauxwell**
Geane M. Hauxwell
- Estaline Larsson**
C. Donald Larsson
- Margaret Mace**
Mrs. Beth Taylor
- Denver McCray**
Eva L. McCray
- Mr. & Mrs. W. E. McGilvrey**
Ronald & Ruth Davis
- Melissa Miller**
West Hills Christian Church
- Dwain Mouser**
Michael D. (Pete) Mouser
- Anne Pendley**
Mary Jane Wingate
- Delbert Pickett**
Timothy & Debi Wemple

- Ramona Scott**
June Lawson
- Rizardo Sebio**
Charles & Florence Littell
- Doug Smith**
Lois Smith
- Shari Sprouls**
D. Thomas & Phyllis Hendrickson
- Gertrude Stogsdill**
Dorothy M. Ashcraft
- Mr. Stan Teachout**
Richard & Judith Larkins
- William E. Way**
Gerry & Carmen Fellows
- Jay & Lela Wengerd**
Rene & Sheila Wengerd
- Dan Williams**
Julia Williams
- Merle Witt**
Ray & Jane Baker
Paul & Sherri Berger
Chuck & Patty Chadwell
John & Delores Cole
DPRA Inc.
Trent & Pam Foley
Jake Garrett
June Halcomb
Craig, Terry, Joe & Kyle Jacobs
Frank Kelley
Fred N. Kelley
Ralph & Martha Kelley
Roy Kelley
Jean Kelley
Scott Kelley
Earl R. Kieser
Sharon Lackey
Bill & Karen McKerracher
Kenny & Shirley McNabb
Pearl Meehan
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Miller
Kenny & Donna Rader
Robert K. & Pamela K. Singleton
Glenn & Barb Warfield
Andy & Judy Zinsmeister

In Honor of...

- Pauline Blazer**
Richard & Wanda Blazer
- Rea Baldrige**
Eva L. McCray
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Barnhart**
David & Sharon Shelton
- Janet L. Bates**
Janet E. Bates
Rachel Jett
- Don Byrd**
The Sanders Agency
- Faith Hensel**
Robert Hensel
- IDES Staff**
Patricia Snyder
- Nancy Jett**
Rachel Jett
- Ray John**
Winter Haven Christian Church
- Mr. & Mrs. John Layman**
Velma Layman
- Susan & Betty Leadabrand**
Joseph Leadabrand
- Bob & Phyllis Mills**
James & Donna Harkness
- Dan & Sharon Schantz**
Matthew & Natalie Cleeton
- David Shelton**
Joyce Marie Stock
- David & Sharon Shelton**
James & Marietta Thomas
- Buck, Lois, & Pat Snyder**
David & Sharon Shelton
- Richard Sprague**
Ralph & Maxine Leffler
- Keith Wood**
Gerry & Carmen Fellows

I want to help make a difference! Please complete and return to the IDES office.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ for _____ Hunger _____ Disaster _____ Greatest Need _____ Other _____

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____

Please print your name clearly:

Given By _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

____ Please send Manna Project Information: **Decision '08**

____ Please remove me from your mailing list.

____ Please send the latest audited financial report

____ Please send VBS Information: **INN, IDES News Network**

____ Please send me _____ IDES SonFish Bank(s).

____ Please add me to your E-news.

____ Please send IDES General Video on DVD

DILEMMA BECOMES Opportunity

by Richard Sprague



In the early days of IDES, Milton Bates served as Chairman of the Board of Directors, working from his home in Marion, Indiana, where the kitchen table became his work place. I worked as IDES' Manager from my home in Kempton, where my kitchen table was often used to box materials ordered by churches. I also had an office in an extra room. A third location included the home of Lanis Kineman, IDES' Treasurer, in Anderson. So here was our dilemma: we had three addresses and three phone numbers which confused our donors who did not always send their checks or requests to the right person.

It became obvious we needed to centralize our activities. In 1984 a large, two story building in Kempton came up for sale. The asking price was \$15,000, which IDES did not have. I offered to buy it on contract, but the offer was refused.

Determined not to give up, I invited IDES' Directors to look over the property. At our next meeting one board member offered to buy it. He rented space to IDES as well as to the previous owner. After a year of ownership he had an appraiser estimate its value and then gave the building to IDES as a gift. IDES' dilemma turned into a golden opportunity, which has served the mission well for over 20 years.

This enabled us to bring all of the IDES activities together under one address. A bookkeeper was hired and additional staff as IDES had grown to the point one person could not do it anymore. Our wives, Janet Bates and Eleanor Sprague (who had served as relentless volunteers), were happy to have their kitchens back.

Offices were constructed in one side of the building and other areas developed as time and money allowed. Used office furniture was bought for the staff, and we did most of the work on the building ourselves, with volunteer help from time to time. I had purchased the back part of the building for personal use, but later sold it to IDES. Now the entire renovated building serves as a functional office center for the IDES ministry.

Each step of the way I can see God's provision for our needs as we worked and prayed for His help in our efforts. Funds were given from estates that enabled us to renovate the building without using any gifts that had come for mission work. God is so good.



International Disaster Emergency Service
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**“TOGETHER
 IN CHRIST”**

JULY 30TH - AUGUST 3RD, 2008

**NASHVILLE
 MUSIC CITY USA**

REGISTER NOW
 THE WORLD IS COMING. WHAT ABOUT YOU?



Meet IDES at Booth #409

Staff News

IDES is carrying on the annual tradition of supporting a summer intern from one of our Brotherhood's Bible Colleges for a ten-week term. **Caleb Clark** is serving as our 2008 intern. Caleb just finished his junior year at Ozark Christian College and began his internship on June 2nd. He will be working primarily as an IDES representative for Vacation Bible Schools and Camps this summer. The weeks of July 13-18 and July 27-August 1 are still open. If you wish to have Caleb come to your VBS or camp, please call the IDES office today!



At our April Board Meeting, the IDES' staff and board said their good-byes to **Keith Wood**. Keith has recently taken the position of Vice President of Development at Roanoke Bible College. Keith was first called to serve as our Youth Representative in 2003. In 2005, he became our Director of Development. Keith has done a wonderful job and will be greatly missed. Please pray for Keith and his family as they relocate to North Carolina and make this change of ministry.



The IDES' staff welcomes **Gary Finley**! Gary was hired as the new Director of Development and began his position at the first of June. Gary has served as a Senior Minister for 12 years to two churches in Indiana and Missouri. For ten years, he served as a cross-cultural missionary and church planter in Brazil. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Louis Christian College and his Master's degree from Lincoln Christian College & Seminary. He is married and has two teenage sons at home.

