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AEA Ministry *Spotlight*

AEA on the web: www.aeaintl.org

Summer 2005

Chaplain Services

Spiritual, emotional and relationship challenges often seem overwhelming and sometimes separate us from the joy of the Father, but as with all of life's trials and burdens, God often provides clear direction and guidance for overcoming life's circumstances through the advice of wise counsel.

Our Ministry Chaplains are prepared to help and assist you in these challenges through prayer, Scripture, and biblical precepts. Members can access Chaplain Services through a toll-free number, 7 days a week by calling 1-877-872-2735.

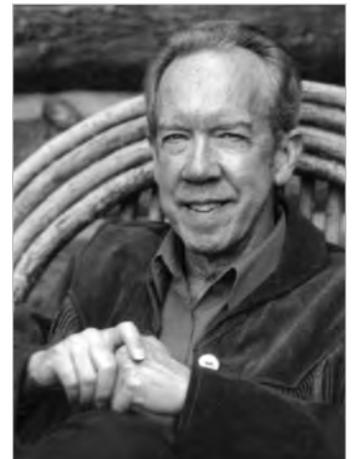


AEA Annual Leadership Conference

October 5-7, 2005 | Melbourne, Florida AEA Campus

Acclaimed Author Jim Rutz to speak

Jim Rutz, author of the explosive new book *Megashift*, will be a featured speaker for the October 5-7 AEA Annual Leadership Meeting. This will be an extraordinary opportunity to strategize the revitalization of existing churches and accelerate the multiplication of non-traditional worship. Plan now to be present to hear Jim Rutz reveal what is happening at a global level through non-traditional worship. You will be enlightened, encouraged and have the confidence to facilitate the cutting edge of where Christianity is going. [Read an interview with Jim Rutz, page 3.](#)



Featured Guest: Dr. Edward M. Smith

Doctor Ed Smith, founder and developer of Theophostic Prayer Ministries will present a seminar at the October AEA conference. Over the last ten years, Theophostic Ministries has grown to become a worldwide ministry. Presently, nearly a thousand people a month are being trained in this ministry technique. [Continued pg.2](#)

AEA Conference Schedule

Wednesday October 5

Chairman's Reception 7 PM

The Reinholds' invite the AEA Leadership to their home for a relaxing time of fellowship.

Meet Jim Rutz at the reception and have a complimentary book, Megashift, signed by the author.

Dr. Marjorie Douglas and Dr. Reinhold will be present to greet you as well as the AEA key staff

4047 Snowy Egret Drive, Carriage Gate, Melbourne, Florida.

Thursday October 6

AEA Chapel - 3507 Carriage Gate Drive

9:00 AM Larry Ihle, a powerful Minneapolis-Saint Paul businessman, dedicated to God, will be talking about the power of prayer. Larry has been involved in a global ministry of prayer experiencing conversion, healing, and the Lord's direct leading. Larry is known to his peers as, "the Real Thing." Don't miss this time. You will be thrilled, encouraged and challenged to go and do likewise.

10:30 AM Refreshments

11:00 AM Tom Snyder, Director of AEA's Communities of Care, will be informing the leadership on what is happening in AEA's efforts to facilitate the non-traditional worship movement. Tom developed laser weapons in his business years and is now homing in what the Lord is opening up for AEA to accomplish. This will be an exciting hour.

12:00 PM Lunch Break

1:30 PM Dr. Ed Smith, Father of the Theophostic method to Biblical Counseling, will be presenting the basic training in this dynamic way of reaching those who need help. He will relate how the method was revealed, what it is accomplishing using case histories, how you can use it and then he will actually demonstrate its effectiveness with those in the audience who wish to participate.

3:00 PM Break

3:30-5:00 PM Dr. Ed Smith will continue.

7:00 PM Jim Rutz, best selling author and a pioneer of the worship form that's sweeping the world, will be our featured speaker. Don't miss this. Jim's easy going method of dialoging with an audience will allow you to participate and maximize your experience. After the meeting Jim will be signing a copy of Megashift for all attending.

Friday October 7

9:00 AM Dr. Ed Smith will complete the training in the Theophostic approach to reaching those who need help. Dr. Smith will have all of the materials available for you to continue your education and application of what you learned. The Theophostic Training Workbook and accompanying materials need to be an essential part of your counseling ammunition.

10:30 AM AEA leaders will report on their ministries.

12:00 PM Lunch

Jim Rutz will again engage the leadership in opening eyes to what the Lord is doing now throughout the world. He will be challenging everyone to take what God is doing and adapting it to each ministry as they are divinely lead.

2:00 PM Meeting of the AEA Administrative Board of Elders

Featured Guest: Dr. Edward M. Smith continued from pg.1

Ed received his Masters of Religious Education in Marriage and Family Counseling and has completed the primary course work of his Doctor of Education in Marriage and Family Counseling from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. He completed additional hours in theology toward his Masters of Divinity and received his Doctor of Ministry from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a licensed ordained minister and served seventeen years (1974-1992) in local Southern Baptist churches in many different pastoral positions. He opened a private practice in counseling in Campbellsville, Kentucky in 1992 where he developed Theophostic Ministry in 1995. He is the author of articles in Christian periodicals, the developer of the Basic Ingredients for a Happy Marriage (marriage seminar series) and the author of Beyond Tolerable Recovery (primary resource for basic training in Theophostic Ministry) and Healing Life's Hurts through Theophostic Prayer published by Regal Books. He has been married to Sharon Smith since 1975 and has three children; Joshua, Hannah and Rachael.

Ten Years From Now You Won't Recognize the Church

Tom Snyder recently interviewed James Rutz, author of *Megashift: Igniting Spiritual Power*. The book is a pivotal announcement of a massive transformation in the role of the layman, the nature of the church, and the basis of the Kingdom of God.

Tom Snyder: Jim, a number of us are very excited about *Megashift*. Could you put the message of the book into a nutshell for us?

Jim Rutz: I can try, but it's as simple as a diamond with a hundred facets!

Let me start with this: *Megashift* breaks the news that the church is very rapidly becoming a worldwide network of highly committed teams, interactive gatherings of ten to twenty people instead of a mute audience of a hundred or more.

In other words, we're seeing the beginnings of a shift from a pastor-led institution to networks of open fellowships that meet mostly in homes, but also in offices, factories, schools, Starbucks, or wherever.

Tom: We've all heard of house churches. Their reputation has been a bit spotty in the past.

Jim: Right. Up until about 1990, the average house church might have had a majority of members who were retreating from the traditional church and banding together to lick their wounds and congratulate themselves on how much wiser they were than the folks still sitting in the pews. But that has changed quickly. The average house church member now is hungry for more of God and is attracted by the open dynamic that allows the Holy Spirit to direct the meetings, instead of running programs or liturgies. The atmosphere is very positive.

Tom: So the meetings are all what you'd call "spontaneous"?

Jim: They look that way. But after just one or two meetings, you begin to see that the Spirit of God is acting like an orchestra conductor, prompting each person to speak up at the right moment with a comment on Scripture, a prayer, a song, an experience from his life, or other helpful contributions.

Tom: I think our readers can see that picture. But what is all this leading to? How will it change the church and society?

Jim: Over the past century or more, there's been a terrible slide away from responsibility in society. And in the church, we've seen very little freedom to develop your spiritual gifts, grow in power, or in fact, do much of anything except sit and listen. And it's been that way since about A.D. 300, when we turned everything over to the priesthood and dumped the

other 99% of the church into an artificial caste of "laymen." The house church instantly overturns seventeen centuries of that damage. We almost force people to become responsible, to speak up, to take part in caring for others and sharing their burdens. Believers grow up fast in a close, interactive setting. It's very Biblical!

Tom: Aren't people going to see this as having potential for chaos?

Jim: Pastors often view it that way. But in actuality, home gatherings normally have elders for leadership and for a certain amount of oversight. Chaos and heresies are simply not a problem on our radar screen.

Tom: So how long is it going to be before home fellowships become strong enough to make a dent in the overall mess we've got on our hands today?

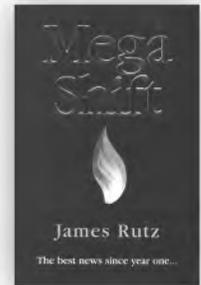
Jim: If we can make a few key changes in our attitude toward money and personal evangelism, the two areas where we need upgrading the most, I think you'll see the U.S. house church surpass the traditional church in size within ten to fifteen years. And well before that, we'll surpass it in impact. You won't even recognize the church from what it is today.

Minor miracles are already a regular occurrence for us here, and overseas we're already seeing major miracles, such as the raising of the dead in 52 countries recently. The excitement and growth in numbers is incredible! People are more than ready for a megashift.

Tom: Some of us are keenly aware of the need for a change in the church. But we're also starting to be aware of the larger dimension: the Kingdom of God. How do house church networks fit into the Kingdom?

Jim: The reason we've had so little success in uniting churches into a "church of the city" for united action in transforming our culture is that there is a gap between the smallest unit (the family) and the city church. Individual congregations cannot be mobilized to fill that gap for more than an evening or two. They all have their own staff, programs, and priorities, which cannot be redeployed or changed.

House church networks, being flexible and highly dedicated to listening to the voice of God, are destined to be the catalyst for unity in the Kingdom because they have no overriding denominational loyalties. As they approach and surpass the traditional church in size, they will become the new heart of the church under the headship of Christ.



Healing Communities

By Keith Smith



Healing Communities are small groups of God's people who seek to bring healing to themselves, others, and the communities in which they serve. Our earliest groups started about 15 years ago in the UK. Then, as we began our work in Northern Spain, we increased there, later expanding to other

parts of Europe. There are now Healing Communities like ours in 12 countries. Our work here in the United States began in January, 2003, when our president, Keith Smith, shared the vision in upstate New York. Later that year, Jeanne Elder passed the summer in Spain, learning more. Last year, Keith spent 6 months establishing the work here. Now, just over a year later, we are seeing Healing Communities springing up all over, notably on the East coast and in Colorado. In the near future, we are hoping to see the founding of a residential healing community for those who need more indepth help.

Essentially, a Healing Community is a House Church, although it could meet anywhere. They have a special emphasis of bringing healing in Spirit, Soul and Body. Healing of the Spirit is supremely experienced as we trust the Lord for our salvation, although some who have suffered great trauma, or have been involved in areas of the occult, may also need deliverance from spiritual attacks of the enemy. Once a person is spiritually whole in Christ, we help them seek healing in the soul of emotional hurts and the like. Finally, we will address physical illnesses. As people move towards their healing in Christ, we encourage them to reach out to bring healing to others. Sometimes this will touch whole communities. We feed the poor and needy, minister to prisoners, open counseling centers, pray for and advise local government leaders, make Christmas gifts for children and the elderly in poor countries and a whole lot more.

Within the groups, we use a simple form of ministry that we call "Focused Compassion Therapy." This is a simple way of helping people work through their issues.

When someone starts a Healing Community, we would hope that 2 or 3 of the folk would have some knowledge of this ministry method, either by attending a course, or by experiencing it worked out with themselves or others. Then, as people with needs enter the group, not only will the group surround them with love, but there will be individuals who will be able to help them work through their issues.

Emphatically, in the mainstream of Christian thinking, we seek to reach "outside the box" to those who have been hurt, misunderstood or marginalized by our society. Many who come to us have been damaged not only by their walk in the world, but tragically, also by Christians from whom they sought healing. Often, they were dropped as soon as they were ministered to, or when they became too demanding. For this reason, we seek to show a high degree of commitment to those who come to us for help. However, we try to do this without smothering the one in need, giving them time to move at their own speed, while at the same time encouraging them to move on into the wholeness that God has for them.

Our meetings are informal, with everyone participating. They may include worship (either live or using recorded music), a time of sharing when each one can share their joys, sorrows, needs and blessings, as well as any particular insight from the Lord. This may be followed by an informal discussion Bible study and a time of prayer and ministry.

These groups may be any size, starting with just two or three like minded individuals. Normally, when they reach 20 or more, they will sensitively form into two or more smaller groups to better aid personal care. While each Healing Community is totally independent, it will network with other House Churches and like-minded ministries in their area, normally sharing a common leadership. As an organization, "Healing Communities" exists to serve and equip these groups and networks, wherever they are.

If you would like to know more please contact our secretary, Ms. Jeanne Elder, at www.healingcommunities.org

AEA Welcomes the Door of Faith to the Nations

Hyacinthe Manioundou is the president and founder of the Door of Faith to the Nations Ministries (Acts 14/27). He was born in Congo-Brazzaville in Africa, where he grew up with a Catholic background. It was in the French Assemblies of God that he heard a pastor preach the good news for the first time. During the sermon, the Holy Spirit convicted him of sin and he gave his life to Jesus Christ. He attended services in the Assemblies of God in Paris for many years, and soon became responsible for the Evangelism department.

In 1991, while Pastor Manioundou was in Brussels, Belgium on an Evangelistic trip, he received a vision in a dream. He saw himself preaching to a multi-cultural crowd. The same vision came back every year. He understood that God had called him to His service.

Also, in September 1994, he started some meetings in the house of a brother.

Many would come, and when their number reached 20, they decided to rent a meeting room in a hotel. In November, 1994, they started to gather every Sunday at the meeting room, and during the week, in the house. At that time, Pastor Manioundou started to organize the group and gave responsibilities to some of them. Upon their agreement, he went to the Civil service to register the Church as "The Door of Faith to the Nations Ministry" according to the vision he received three years prior.

Five years later, in 2000, the church was able to raise enough funds to rent a building in the downtown part of the city. They were able to gather more times a week and believed God for the increase of people. However, evangelical Christians sometimes face hindrances in France. Most of the population is Catholic and if you are not, you can easily be associated with a cult. In addition, the Mayor of the city gave the order to close the building and forbid the owner to rent it to the ministry in the future.

The reason given for closing the building was that security standards were not being respected. The owner disappeared and never returned the deposit. The church had no one to assist it at that time and could not afford a lawyer to defend its case in court. It was such a testing moment that most of the members were discouraged and left. Of 50 members, only 7 remained.



Church staff above from left to right: Gerard N'Gu piganza-Al te (Assistant Pastor); Frank Delon (Deacon) Hyacinthe Manioundou (President/Senior Pastor); Fritz Francois (Treasurer) Claise M'Bizi (Minister). Down from left to right: Le la Ch teau (Secretary); Viviane Manioundou (Vice President/Evangelist); Georgette Lambon and Flicien Lambon (Evangelist).

With the 7, Pastor Manioundou started the meetings on Sundays once again, first in a house, and not long after, in a meeting room in a city near Paris. Many people started attending and new members were added. Later, the church started to organize cell groups during the week, depending on where the brothers and sisters lived, and held the main service on Sunday.

In March 2002, the church was in need of new workers and ministers, and it started a Bible School called "Tyranus."

Since then, many in the church have been trained and are now able to serve in the different areas of the ministry. There is an assistant Pastor, two Evangelists and several Ushers. Some are chairing the Sunday morning service, while others are responsible for the cell groups where they are able to exercise their spiritual gifts.

The church is also missionary minded. Since 1999, Pastor Manioundou has traveled to the United States (Hawaii, Washington, North Carolina, Florida), the Bahamas, in Europe (UK, Ireland, Portugal), in Africa (Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon, and Ivory Coast) to preach the Gospel. Many doors are open to the Gospel, and one of the Evangelists was sent to Dublin, Ireland (in the French speaking community) where a cell group has started. Today, the church has nearly 150 members and is getting ready for a great harvest of souls in France.

Hyacinthe and his wife Viviane have become French citizens and they continue to serve the Lord in France.

Are You Liberal or Conservative?



No, this isn't about politics-or is it? Most, if not all evangelicals will be very quick to say we stick to the Scriptures as our only source of sure revelation from God. Biblically, we are conservatives. But are we, really? Perhaps we are more liberal than we realize? Let's examine this.

How many of our accepted practices cannot be authenticated from the New Testament?
Consider this table of comparisons:

<i>Interest Issue</i>	Modern Traditional Churches	New Testament house Church
<i>Place</i>	meet in sanctuaries	move from house to house
<i>Main</i>	pastors, teachers,	apostles, prophets, elders
<i>Functionaries</i>	evangelists	<u>every</u> member involved
<i>Finances</i>	tithes and offerings	sharing all they have
<i>Lifestyle</i>	individual	community
<i>Evangelism</i>	outreach, action, programs, specialists	natural discipling of neighbors; multiplying itself
<i>Battle cry</i>	Getting more people into the church	Getting the church into people's homes
<i>Size</i>	large, impersonal groups	small, intimate groups
<i>Teaching style</i>	static, sermon centered	kinetic, question and answer style
<i>Most important tasks of 'the pastor'</i>	lead the church program; preach good sermons; house visits, etc.	equip <u>each</u> believer for <u>doing</u> <u>the ministry</u> themselves
<i>Center</i>	worship service in a religious building	life in an ordinary house
<i>Keyword</i>	Become a member! (Centers on us)	Go and make disciples! (Centers on them)
<i>Ministry</i>	performance oriented burnout, years of training	equipping oriented empowering others
<i>Mission</i>	sending specialized missionaries	church sends itself as a multipliable unit

Only one of these lists can be validated by the New Testament teaching and practices? Not those under the heading "Traditional Church." Is this a problem? Well, let's ask ourselves some hard questions. *Continued next page*

How successful are we in reaching our world, the USA? Barna says, since 1970 twenty-five million people have voluntarily left our churches, but they tell him they still trust God, pray and read the Scriptures. Are we reaching our youth? As time goes on, fewer of the youth of America are regularly going to church services, but are seeking “spirituality.” Are men involved as much or more than our women? They were in the earliest churches. Do we appear to the world as a city set upon a hill that has great light in it? The unbelievers do not consider evangelical Christians as a desirable element that portrays the love of God satisfactorily. Rather, we are disregarded, “lost our savor, fit to be trampled under the feet of men.” We do not have the power that was an intrinsic part of the Kingdom of God message before the great falling away began in the 2nd and 3rd centuries—that’s just before Constantine “helped” us start to build church buildings and stop building the Body of Christ to all be effective ministers.

Let’s look more carefully at what we do now that we insist is “according to the pattern given in the N.T.” It appears to us that we have re-invented the pattern for the wine-skin that the immediate followers of Jesus left to us as the model. 1 Corinthians 14 generally, but verses 5 and 26 tell us: “I wish that you all would...prophesy...so that the church may receive edifying” and “when you assemble, each one has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, a tongue, an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.” This is not what we do. Instead, we have a two-tier clergy-laity system which nearly guarantees the “eternal childhood of the believer.” The Pastor teaches and 80% of the people veg. Even when we assemble in small groups, each person looks for “the leader” to start, manage, and end the meeting.

So, the priesthood of the believer is given only lip service. Most of our people would be fear-stricken if they thought they had to share a teaching, a prophecy, or a revelation in the average meeting they attend. This system, drawn from the Old Testament, is not what Jesus and his apostles taught or practiced. Indeed, it literally prevents “the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:11-13).

If you look very carefully, you will find that most of our practices and much of our doctrine originated with men and not with Holy Scripture. How arrogant of us to modify the pattern given by Jesus. We are reaping the effects of this in America. What is worse, when someone calls our attention to these root problems, we label him/her as being against the church and disregard the prophetic voices.

How successful are we in reaching our world, the USA? Barna says, since 1970 twenty-five million people have voluntarily left our churches, but they tell him they still trust God, pray and read the Scriptures.

In foreign countries this is not nearly the problem it is here. They have so few clergy, few graduates of seminaries and Bible colleges, few how-to books, and so many people hungry for God. They read the Scriptures, trust God to do what He says, and have no one to tell them the watered down gospel we have been raised to believe. It’s not just the hardships and deprivation that makes them more inclined to see the works of God and rapid growth. It’s the pattern of the early church that keeps them empowered by the Holy Spirit. He is the head of the small churches in China, Indonesia, India, Africa, and to a lesser degree, South America. Not man. Not the professional pastor, bishop or elder. These are the nations where the strong, growing churches are located. We desperately need to reexamine the New Testament and determine if a departure from some of the inventions of man would give control of the church back to the One Jesus said he would send to enable us to say as He did, “I do only what I see the Father doing.”

If you determine that we have departed from His simple church methods, then please join us in returning to that pattern, purifying ourselves from 1700 years of apostasy. It will take brave men and women of God to do this those led by the Spirit of God, who do not fear man more than God.

Pastors and members: Because it is so loaded with encouragement, we urge you to order and carefully read this book, *MegaShift*, at a discount, by sending a check to cover the cost of the book and mailing (\$13.50), to Communities of Care, c/o 1320 Rock Springs Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940.

Chairman's Corner



With Dr. E. John Reinhold

Can An American Believer Fathom It?

What can prepare you for hearing about the global explosion in the number of Christian believers? Tens of thousands are stepping across the line from unbelief to belief and the cutting edge is huge numbers in small group fellowships. The explosion is happening in societies that do not have a pre-existing matrix that says: we must have a professional lead us; we must have someone with at least 3 years of seminary; we must have fulltime paid staff; we must have a building devoted exclusively to corporate worship; we must have some one to meet our needs.

Let's look at reality. Does America have a sizable population without any preconceived notions about how Christians meet? Does America have a sizable population who are lonely, fearful and without hope? Does America have a sizable population that has discovered having things does not satisfy the heart? Does America have any Christians who have been on the receiving end of biblical teaching for years and have never thought that they were ready to impart their Christianity? Do any Christians have homes that can accommodate 8-15 people for a weekly get-together? Are there any American Christians with people within two blocks who need the Lord? Are any of those people longing for a genuine friendship of love and concern? Are there any Christians who like to eat while fellowshiping?

If one Christian in 50 decided to act, we'd have 1.4 million neighborhood fellowships. If each had just 8 in the fellowship (4 couples), there would be over 11 million meeting and hopefully over time, serving the Lord.

Call or write for the book, "Getting Started," by Dr. Tony Dale and then get started. If you can't because of time space or schedules, encourage someone. How easy can evangelism be by speaking to a neighbor saying, why don't you and _____ fix a salad and come over next _____ evening and meet a few neighbors you don't know. We kick around issues that help and encourage us all.

Like the ad says: JUST DO IT!

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3507 Carriage Gate Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32904
Phone: 888•526•3751
Fax: 321•308•7779
Web: www.aeaintl.org
E-Mail: info@aeaintl.org