As a general rule, the president’s report to our annual business meeting has been more of a formality, summarizing the statistical results of our global witness as a movement, as well as providing a few highlights of the preceding year from the perspective of our church’s Central Offices. Rather than this, I would like to ask your indulgence as I take a slightly different approach—at least on this first occasion of my reporting to our convention. Statistics will be supplied by the departments to which they apply—an approach that I believe is more appropriate. To begin, it is really those leaders who work so very hard with you to facilitate whatever our offices can do to enable or strengthen you. And, ultimately, spiritual and statistical results don’t flow from our offices, but from where the real center of Foursquare life exists—with you, in our churches and through our family at large. That understanding is central to our values as we serve you.

One of our pastors recently asked, "How has your first year gone?" A complete answer requires two statements. First, I haven’t been president for a year—I have only served you for eight months. The election a year ago was, according to bylaws, followed by a four-month period of transition. Second, these months have been the busiest of my life, and in many, many ways, the most divinely attended by God’s grace—not to mention the encouraging favor virtually all of you have shown toward Anna and me. Thank you for your prayers, and thank you for your acceptance and trust. And, most of all, thank you for your faithfulness to God and your service to the congregations and communities where you live and minister.

With reference to the season of transition, I want to commend Jared Roth for his service to us during the difficult season from March 2004 until I assumed office on October 1, 2004. There aren’t words to commend adequately Jared’s grace, willingness, and help in opening the door to me and assisting me into my new role. I want to add my encouragement to you to affirm the Roths in their new role and to explore ways in which your church or region might experience the benefit of their remarkable gifts and passion for church growth and ministry. As I reported to you last year, they continue as employees of our Central Offices, although the Board and I have warmly approved their request to operate from offices we have furnished in their home. This arrangement in no way separates them from identification with our Los Angeles offices, but serves as a convenience to simplify their multi-faceted scope of ministry. Through the office of the National Church and through my own office, we are pleased to present Jared and Ann to you—their much deserved and requested sabbatical now having concluded. Their role includes (a) their availability to serve you locally and us nationally as church multiplication consultants, (b) their availability to serve as consultants interdenominationally—their gifts and relationships having occasioned their welcome in broad circles of ministry, and (c) their availability to serve special auxiliary consulting roles in local churches. With my personal thanks to Jared for graciously helping me step into office, I also want to thank the Board for the caring way they joined me in providing
steppingstones for the Roths' transition. Finally, and in advance, I thank you—our church everywhere—for affirming their gift and receiving their services. You may contact them personally and directly, or you may contact them through the National Church Office.

Another group I want to acknowledge comprises the leaders who frame our International Board. I've already mentioned the Board members twice, but I want to assert two things in respect and gratitude for them. It has always been my leadership style to work in a deep and interdependent relationship with a group of elders to whom I submit and from whom I derive my authority to serve any position in which Jesus placed me. Because I am a bold leader, motivated by faith and quickened with a prophetic passion, I have always believed my greatest strength was first, of course, found in drawing upon God's grace, wisdom, and creativity for my leadership. But I have been equally aware that no individual, regardless how graced or gifted, is authorized by God to function solely in his or her own authority. God's ways are revealed in His Word, and, with a holy reverence for those ways, I am absolutely committed to the principle that every leader must live and serve with a humble submission to a band of counselors who are enfranchised to challenge, confront, or correct their leader, every bit as readily as they would assist, support, or release him or her.

It is in the fear of God and with a holy caution—especially in the face of our history as a church—that I report my practice and express my thinking and my commitment in this regard. With deep thanksgiving I report to you how thankful I am that, in the first few months of my presidency, this kind of relationship has been established between the Board and me. It has been my quest to have a more completely informed and more dynamically empowered Board than I believe we have ever had—at least in the more than 45 years of my service as a credentialed Foursquare minister. For our Board members to serve at the level of awareness, involvement, and governance that they are asked to serve today is a very spiritually demanding, exacting, and time-expensive role to fulfill. Accordingly, I want to ask you to join me in honoring them. Together, let's thank them for the fact that each of them, besides serving the leadership tasks of pastoral ministry, gives scores of hours every quarter of the year to providing a godly and business-wise oversight of our movement and to providing supportive and protective assistance to me as president and to our executive team as your servants. Please take notice of and express your appreciation to your current appointed and elected Board members—Robert Bankhead, George Cline, Greg Campbell, Robert Flores, Jeff Hamilton, Tim Harrison, Dan Hicks, Ken Johnson, Mike McGovern, Carlos Santiago, Steve Schell, Oscar Shepherd, Mark Simon, and Devi Titus.

There are several additional matters I want to present to you as I move forward with my report:

It is such a joy to work with the executive team that leads the Central Office departments. We exist for one reason—to serve you, our churches, and the ministry-minded pastors and leaders across the nation and elsewhere we are invited to help. I have always worked closely with a pastoral staff—not functioning unilaterally, but as a team. And it is in that spirit and with a tremendous amount of respect for these men, with genuine joy in experiencing their partnership, that I want you to acknowledge them. Please know this: I am not just "cheerleading." I want you to understand that God is
fashioning a way of life in which your Los Angeles leadership team bands and bonds together, believing that as we serve in that spirit, it will multiply a spiritual life-flow of that order, unity, and love throughout our whole movement. I want to express my high esteem, deep thanksgiving, and personal affection for six men:

- **Jim Scott**, Chief Operating Officer, whose quick mind and pastoral sense help us keep "mission" our foremost priority
- **Mike Larkin**, Director of Foursquare Missions, whose global grasp and personable manner "tie together" our world scene
- **Art Gray**, Director of Urban and Multicultural Ministries, whose manly manner and strength of character serve our vision for expanding ministry
- **Glenn Burris**, General Supervisor, whose scope and grasp of ministry unite with a shepherd's heart to provide wisdom and insight for our pastors and churches
- **Sterling Brackett**, Corporate Secretary-Treasurer, whose character and attention to detail enable him to oversee broad arenas of duty
- **Jeffrey Bird**, Chief Financial Officer, whose experience and professionalism are joined to a life that is fixed on spiritual priorities

In regard to these men, it is not incidentally, but very much on purpose that Jim Scott is providing leadership in conjunction with the National Church Office to assure the steadfast advance of the good beginnings we have experienced in church planting and church multiplication. This initiative is as alive and well as ever; the national multiplication team that began with Ann Roth's diligent labors continues in a passionate pursuit of this Kingdom initiative.

Further, I want to report on a group few of you ever meet or are able to assess or know of their skill and devotion as they serve our whole church family. I knew very few of the general staff at our Central Offices until recently. And it became among the happiest surprises of my experience in leadership to discover how professionally skilled, mission-driven, and faithful to task they are. So please believe me: If anything of your interactive communication with them has seemed to be less than effective or supportive in your eyes, I guarantee you—it has been for some other reason than the will or the skill of our staff. Still, to be frank, we are working at refining procedures and policies regarding our communication with you and others, wanting to become increasingly user friendly. All human systems have their glitches, and the learning curve we are on may not rise as rapidly as you or I wish. So, as we build toward a strong, healthy sense of mutual partnership between our Los Angeles team and those where you serve, be assured that there is not one of us in the Central Offices who think "It's about us." To the contrary, our offices are about you: we see you as us, and all we are here for is to pray for and to help all you are doing. As God helps us, I look to seeing Him give us an end forever to any residue of an us/them relationship between our Central Offices and you, your staff, and your congregation. We are committed to you and your ministry and the harvest we all serve and reap together.

Having acknowledged the servants with whom I serve you I want to present another matter of responsible report to you: I am pleased to announce that, at my request, all executive and staff salaries of all our Central Offices team have been made subject to the full awareness and governance of our entire International Board. For the first time, we are putting in place a complete formulation of job descriptions, patterns of salary-
personnel review, and standards of salary administration. All salaries are being processed by the Board’s compensation committee, and will now be reviewed and approved by the whole Board—established in ranges that are consistent with matching responsibilities in the local public workplace or in similar church leadership roles. This part of my report is not to suggest that previous practices were out of line. But a consistency in structure has not heretofore been established, nor has accountability to the entire Board been implemented until now. No one working at our Central Offices, including me, is now involved in the final decision regarding the salaries of our personnel. This approach has always been the practice where I have led and served, and this is common to all best practices in both church and business. I have no question that everyone, including all who have led prior to my administration, is grateful that we are coming of age in these regards.

Let me turn the corner to provide five brief summaries of matters that are forthcoming. They address issues I am asking you to be aware of so that you join us in prayer, vision, and an eventual pursuit of each. It will be with the counsel and partnership of many of our leaders and our Board that these things will eventually flow into our ongoing family life as a people.

First, issues related to the former LIFE Bible College East site

I wrote you last month about the Foursquare Cabinet’s recommendation and International Board’s approval of my proposal that the LIFE Bible College East property in Christiansburg, Virginia, not be put on the market. Since then, the former LIFE East board members, who remained as stewards of the property, have met and proposed that the property be transferred to the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Marvelous good will and gratitude on their part were manifest, their greatest concern being that our movement retain the property for ministry purposes in the future. No plans exist to restart a college there, though plans for advancing institutes and ministries in the East, related to promises made at the time of LIFE East’s closing, are still intact. Currently, strategies are being studied to enable the property to be economically self-sustaining, and we are seeking and waiting on God to unfold future ministry usage of this site. (Inquiries regarding this subject may be addressed to Rev. Jim Scott, the vice president of operations, or Rev. Sterling Brackett, corporate secretary and treasurer, both in our Central Offices.)

Second, the concept of a Center for Global Leadership Training

Earlier I related to you information regarding the February meeting in Nashville with the directors of 70 of our local church training institutes. This number will continually increase, and, unquestionably, over years to come, several of these institutes will become viable as accredited colleges. Besides these 70, there are more than 350 Foursquare Bible colleges and institutes around the world. In that light, it is clear that the establishing of a group of key leaders to serve, coordinate, and integrate the training of Church leadership for our global movement is a concept that must come into functionality. This group will help form and guide the structuring of a central agency, which will give attention to the ministry content, spiritual focus, curricular essentials, and integrative development expected of and provided for Foursquare pastors and leaders—both for foundational preparation and for continuing education in the Word, in practical
servanthood, and in spiritual ministry. **This coming year I expect to advance this initiative**, working with leaders of LIFE Pacific College, The King's College and Seminary, and several pastors under whose charge some of the most quickly expanding institutes are being shaped and advanced. This objective, to see the shaping of a collective vision for the training and formation of future Foursquare Church leadership, will not hinder the fullest release of the creative possibilities and contextual and cultural requirements of any institute. But it will serve to advance our movement at foundational levels and for all equipping for ministry at practical dimensions. [Inquiries regarding this process may be addressed to Dr. Dan Hedges, the director of our ministry institutes.]

**Third, my passion for a "new era" in Foursquare publishing**

Given the passion for media communication present in our movement from our founder's days, and given the technological and communicative resources that are available today, I want to prompt us to find ways together to enable all of our churches to maximize media and communications in their ministries. Many of our churches and leaders function in a more active mode, just as I have sought to do through decades of pastoral leadership. **In the months since coming to this office**, I have been working with our staff to examine ways and means for the following: (1) expanding our service to you in published resources by broadening the scope and number of truly usable magazines and by enabling a broader awareness of the wealth of giftings that already exist within our fellowship; (2) forming a strategically conceived "book-publishing" structure that will create a new wave of mutual involvement among us, providing thrusts and themes pertinent to deepening the spiritual vitality of our people, leveraging the advance of our local churches, and unifying our focus as a fellowship of churches; and (3) cultivating a means of drawing on the rich video, music, and publicity resources already being produced by many creative churches among us. **Please consider contributing your personal or congregational creativity, skills, or resources** to enabling our cultivation of training and enhancing the skills of emerging young leaders and experienced pastors who will benefit by what we can do together. You will be hearing more in these broad regards as we move into the months ahead. (Inquiries and suggestions regarding this vision may be addressed to Brad Abare, the assistant vice president of communications at our Central Offices.)

**Fourth, a proposal to open our doors more widely to other leaders and churches**

My broad involvement with the larger Body of Christ has, over decades, highly sensitized me to the host of pastors, leaders, and congregations that long for relationship with a vital fellowship of churches. Few of these are ready or even able to comply immediately with our historic terms and expectations for becoming associated with us in an identifiable way. The depth of my feeling is motivated by my experience of many years. During the last quarter century, I could readily have cultivated my own association with as many as 800-1000 churches and licensed leaders by simply responding to such requests that came to my door. I have no regret for not having done so; I knew it wasn't my calling. I have been happily confined by the Holy Spirit to serve as I have—where I have been and am today—within the Foursquare Church. However, my heart is touched by the fact that not a month goes by without my being approached by good servants of the Savior in regard to establishing association and fellowship. Consequently, I long to see our movement find ways to "tier" different dimensions of entry into our movement.
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

am pleased to announce that the Foursquare Cabinet and the International Board have released us to frame a group of our leaders to study the formation of a “Foursquare Association.” This is neither a final name nor a finished structure, but does indicate a concept. As some of our most trusted leaders have begun to meet around this prospect, they are examining ways that we can open doors of relationship to those looking for a home in a vital, visionary, Holy Spirit-filled movement, doing so in a way that (a) does not create confusion or a double standard regarding our commitments and convictions as a people, and (b) does not mandate that the relationship be conditioned upon immediate or eventual submission of properties. I am asking that none of us confuse this pursuit as being finalized. The study is in progress—the concept is certainly worthy. (Inquiries and suggestions may be addressed to Cheryl Vincent, the executive administrator to the International Board.)

Fifth, a resurgence of ministry with youth and children

This coming fall, I will be in seven regional conferences designed to embrace the preponderant majority of our districts. Every Foursquare leader and pastor is welcome to attend. I mention this under the above heading because my wide exposure to and involvement with pastors by the tens of thousands annually has persuaded me that the Holy Spirit's call this hour demands a full-orbed implementation of the Great Commission. As fundamental as the evangelism of the lost being born again by the Spirit is in God's economy, the Savior united it with two equal values in His commission to spread the Word to the world: (1) the initiation of believers into a life in and walk by the Spirit and (2) the incarnation of the ministry life of Jesus through believers by the power of the Spirit. Patterns and practices of dynamic discipleship are disappearing—often for lack of even having a clear definition of "discipleship." Inherent in this neglect, the ministry of the local church to youth and children has digressed from teaching and shaping to an increasingly common focus of simply maintaining and entertaining.

At such an hour, I believe our movement may be called to lead the way in a renaissance of discipling—beginning with our kids, teens, and collegians. We were born as a youth movement—exactly as Jesus strategized His own approach to establishing His Church! In light of these observations, I am moved that God is putting a mantle of prophetic passion and vision for youth and children upon many of our young leaders, several of whom I spent extensive time with recently at our offices. Notable among these is James Craft, our new national youth director—who leads from a dynamic in-service point of ministry as Ron Pinkston's youth pastor at Danville, California's, Eastbay Christian Fellowship. With Glenn Burris' and my support, James has called for a National Youth Leadership Summit, to be convened at Angelus Temple, January 10-12, 2006. I am asking every pastor and leader in the Foursquare Church to take a prayerful and budgetary stance in spiritually impassioned support of this event. This is intensely moving to me, as the first such event took place 45 years ago when I became the national youth director. Today, my heart is no less gripped by the conviction that, like Moses with Joshua, discipling the rising generation for Spirit-filled life and leadership is pivotal if we intend to "possess the land."

In a similar vein, I want to raise another signal flag, this one indicating the beginning of a new commitment to assist Foursquare churches toward becoming centers where children are more than simply "taken care of," "patiently kept busy," or "gently tolerated"
while the adult services take place. Our National Church Office team—thanks to Armando Alvarado (youth ministries) and Rod Light (Christian education)—is gearing up to facilitate field-based ministries that will help advance renewed priorities for both children and youth. It is a pleasure for me to announce that Gregg Johnson, who has a profoundly effective “J12” ministry to tweens-en route-to-teendom, has accepted an appointment to assist in our national children’s ministry thrust and to help you bring revitalized focus to your ministry to 8 to 12 year olds. This is possibly the age group most at spiritual crisis in our nation today. Gregg will be available from his field base in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

With these notes and observations, I conclude, having received your patience with these many facts and words. This is my first report as your servant; I am speaking to you as just another pastor, who happens to have been placed by you and by our Lord Jesus as your president. It's been a short eight months—this most demanding season ever in Anna's and my life has added a task we never imagined, but also given us a privilege we would never believe we deserved. Thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your hand joined to mine as we seek God's purposes for our church, our family, our movement—the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.