

I.C.A.L.M

International Covering Alliance & Licensing for Ministries

An Apostolic Network of

Desert Rose Community Church

And

Gateway International Bible Institute

Apostolic Centers

Understanding Umbrella Covering of Protection



Embracing the Biblical Principle of Authority

*The Lord spread a cloud above them as a covering
and gave them a great fire to light the darkness.*

Psalms 105:39

What is An Umbrella Covering?

The Lord spread a cloud above them as a covering and gave them a great fire to light the darkness. Psalm 105:39

An umbrella is designed to provide protection from various elements of nature: rain, hail, snow, wind, or sunshine. As long as a person is under an umbrella, he finds shelter from harsh weather conditions. If he steps out from under the umbrella, he exposes himself to the elements or environment.

God is the ultimate umbrella of protection over all His people. He rules over the universe and governs in the affairs of men and nations. He defines the parameters of His umbrella of protection by the commands in His word, the Holy Bible. When you honor God's authority, obeying His word, you will enjoy the complete protection of living within and under the shelter of His jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional Umbrellas

In like manner, God-given authorities can also be considered "umbrellas of protection." By honoring and submitting to proper apostolic authorities, you will receive the privileges of their protection, direction, and accountability. If you resist their instructions and move out from their jurisdictional care, you forfeit your place under their protection and face life's harsh challenges and temptations on your own.

Under the overarching umbrella of His protection, God has established significant jurisdictional structures:

Family: Husbands and wives (*parents*). (See *Ephesians* 5:21–29, 6:1–4, & *Colossians* 3:18–21.)

Church: Five-fold ministry leaders (*Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors, Teachers*) for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry. We also see jurisdictional ecclesiastical leaders being established to help oversee the work of the ministries in the establishment of Bishops (*aka. overseers*), Elders, Deacons, and other servant ministry leaders (See *Hebrews* 13:7, 17; *I Peter* 5:5; *1 Timothy* 3:1–7, 8–13; & *Ephesians* 4:11–12, 5:21).

Governmental Leaders: (See *Romans* 13:1, *Titus* 3:1, & *I Peter* 2:13–17.)

Employers: (See *I Peter* 2:18, *Titus* 2:9, *Ephesians* 6:5, *Colossians* 3:22, & *I Timothy* 6:1–2.)

God works through these areas of “*authoritative jurisdiction*” to train up and protect children, to restrain evil and to help protect citizens, to stand against Satan and advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide necessary resources for life.

We are all responsible to submit to these authorities in order to receive their guidance, protection, and the blessings of living in true submission to God’s authority.

Consequences for Resisting God-given Authority

For example, when God created Adam and Eve, He commanded them not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. As long as they honored His instructions, they enjoyed ideal living conditions and freedom from pain and death. When Adam and Eve resisted God’s Law, they resisted His protection and succumbed to Satan’s temptation. God held them responsible for their rebellion and brought on the consequences of sin, suffering, and death, which plagued their lives and affected all their descendants (*See Genesis 2:16–3:19*).

The concept of an umbrella of protection is illustrated in what the prophet Samuel told Israel’s King Saul when he chose to walk out from under the umbrella covering of prophetic counsel and deliberately chose to disobey God’s instructions. He said, “*Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.*” (*I Samuel 15:22-23*).

Those who deliberately rebel participate in witchcraft (*whether knowingly or unknowingly*) and directly interact with destructive, satanic forces and influences.

Rebellion is just plain disobedience. And disobedience removes one from God’s umbrella of full protection and they become far more susceptible to the attack of Satan.

Therefore if you resist God-given authorities, you will experience God’s judgment.

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (*Romans 13:1-5*).

Responsibility of Those in Authority

Individuals in authority need to embrace their God-given responsibilities by protecting, leading, and providing for those in their jurisdiction. If an umbrella is torn or broken, it can't provide the necessary protection it was designed to give. In the same way, when leaders fail or fall, the people "under" their authoritative jurisdiction (*their umbrella covering*) often suffer the consequences along with the leader.

Therefore, when a leader fails or falls, he is no longer protecting those under his care and they are exposed to the attack of Satan. Those who are truly submitted to an authority of a leader may feel the impact of the leader's failure so acutely that they can notice a problem even before the leader becomes aware of it themselves. The attacks of the enemy can be manifested in many forms, including health problems, marital strife, overwhelming temptations, materialism, unusual cycles of doubt, confusion and battles with depression, nightmares and other unexplained conflicts.

This cause-and-effect sequence should motivate leaders to make wise decisions and live uprightly, because even their "*hidden sins*" can bring harm to those under their care. It also motivates those under their authority to know their leaders and to help them make wise decisions by offering them prayer support, encouragement, sound counsel, and making appeals for repentance when necessary.

"And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves" (I Thessalonians 5:12-13).

"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17).

WHY COME UNDER OUR UMBRELLA COVERING?

I.C.A.L.M Services & Benefits

Relationships are vital, but can be difficult to build. So many times people tend to gravitate towards certain circles and if they are not in relationship with anyone in that particular circle it is very easy to feel like *"the odd man out."* But everyone needs relationship. God designed and created man that way so that he could enjoy a loving caring relationship with him as Savior and Lord.

We all need companionship and relationship with others and our peers. God designed and created man this way. He even told Adam *"It isn't good for man to be alone; I will make a companion for him, a helper suited to his needs"* (See Gen 2:18 TLB). So God fashioned a suitable companion for Adam and named her Eve, and brought her from and to his side that she might help and support him in life, and she would also help to dispel his loneliness and meet his need for companionship. Why? So that man could enjoy the blessing of *communion* and *connection*, a love relationship with another.

In other words God didn't create us to be *"loners"* living life all by ourselves without connection and absent of relationship. It is not God's plan for any believer, church, ministry, or minister to function all by themselves; alone like a *"satellite"* in the abyss without a docking station to *join* and *connect* to.

Relationships are also needed where leadership and mentoring are concerned. There are many hurting Pastors and ministers in the body of Christ and they don't know where to turn or who to talk to. This is a great need that **MUST** be filled! Again, God designed humanity to *need* others. This certainly is true in all areas of ministry.

Psalms 133:1-3 says, *"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."*

Affiliation and Identification

Churches & Ministries Affiliate with ICALM for many reasons. Affiliation helps to open doors of opportunity that would otherwise remain closed. Affiliation brings healthy interaction, fellowship, networking, strong alliance, and a sense of *"belonging."*

The ICALM umbrella provides spiritual covering for Churches, Outreach Ministries, and Ministry leaders. Strength through identification with a larger body of churches, ministries, and other ministers is often an underestimated benefit of membership.

ICALM uses the word “Ministries” in reference to a type of evangelistic outreach organized for promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and humanitarian efforts. These “para-church ministries” may include (*but not limited to*) addiction recovery, emergency preparedness, chaplaincy, prison ministry, hospital visitation, care centers and group homes, missions (*foreign and domestic*), inner city outreach to the poor and indigent, teaching ministries, Christian workers, ministry of helps, Youth and children’s ministry, young adults, college career and singles, worship and gospel singers, expressive dance groups, and other community based oriented ministry.

In the “Real World of Ministry” Legal Covering is a very important benefit of church or ministry affiliation with ICALM. Our membership group exemption status, under Section 501(c)3 of the IRS code, provides protection for a church or ministries contributors and offers government and other non-profit organizations proof of your non-profit, tax exempt status.

Start-up Mission Churches, if desired, may affiliate under the guidance and oversight of ICALM and its Presiding Bishop, Apostle Dr Brian Alton, and become an actual “*recognized*” ICALM affiliate church entity in their own city or state bearing an established and nationally recognized ministry covering.

For those churches who properly align and come under the spiritual covering of ICALM may use the authorized logo on their church signs, stationary, cards, and other marketing materials. They will have complete access to 20+ years of tried and proven ministry without having to “*reinvent the wheel.*” Forms for access include (*but not limited to*) Bible studies, discipleship, ministry training materials of all kinds, the establishing of Elders, Deacons, Ministry of Helps, corporate structure, business forms, ministry function forms, job duty responsibility forms, policies & procedures, sacramental teaching materials (*i.e. Salvation, Baptism, Communion, Marriage, Ordination etc.*), quality assurance, legal liability forms, board resolution forms and housing allowance forms, just to name a few; a complete “*turn-key*” access via a ‘zip drive’ that will help propel the ministry to new levels of effectiveness for greater impact in their community!

Established Independent Churches may also choose to align and affiliate with ICALM under the guidance and oversight of Presiding Bishop, Apostle Dr Brian Alton.

These churches become a “*recognized*” ICALM church entity but retain their own church name and maintain their own autonomy with all the same rights, privileges, and benefits of other ICALM affiliate churches.

Upon request, a pamphlet is available giving more detailed information concerning membership fees and benefits available to churches and ministries.

Affiliation with ICALM provides you the opportunity to meet, network, and fellowship with those of like mind, heart, vision and faith. Alliance with ICALM provides avenues to use the special knowledge and experience of others to better enhance your own church or ministry.

While there are areas of similarity in most churches and ministries, there are also areas of expertise unique to leaders and other individuals in those churches and ministries. We cannot all be experts in every aspect of the Christian ministry experience, but your lack may be mitigated as you align yourself, your church, or ministry with other leader’s strengths in the ICALM network pool.

Church Planting & Ministry Start Up

For those desiring assistance pioneering a new start-up church or ministry, ICALM has the resources, counsel, and standardized protocol to help you incorporate your church or ministry. We can help you set up local bylaws, constitutions, and proper apostolic government. We also offer specialized assistance in acquiring the necessary tax exemptions still available to churches, ministries, and ministers through the IRS.

Are You A Chaplain or Have A Desire to Be?

ICALM recently added a Chaplaincy Program to help meet the growing needs of those called by God to this unique ministry to the local community. ICALM provides specialized Chaplaincy training and certification through our 4 year accredited Christian Bible college called **Gateway International Bible Institute** located in Peoria, Arizona. Applicants may apply online or in person to enroll in our 2 year accredited Chaplaincy course program. Upon the completion of 64 bible college credits (*the equivalency of 2yrs. worth of study*) a student may graduate and receive an *accredited* Chaplaincy certification equivalent to an A.A. (*Associate of Arts*) degree. Upon completion of the Chaplaincy course of study one can become eligible for Holy ordination.

Upon evaluation and recommendation of a qualified referring *Pastoral reference*, chaplaincy candidates are ordained by local and international five-fold ministry leaders in a very special and memorable ordination ceremony with the anointing of holy oil and by the laying on of hands. Candidates then receive a General Ministers License and an official Chaplaincy credential card is issued for ministry identification.

Gateway International Bible Institute also offers 4 year accredited degree programs. Associates, Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degree programs available. Visit www.GIBIonline.org for more detailed information. Or call Pastor Deborah Smith, GIBI College Administrator at (623) 486-5000.

ICALM Also Offers Valuable Ministry Licensing and Ordination:

- CHRISTIAN WORKER – Those called into various fields as Ministry of Helps.
- COMMISSIONED MINISTERS – Those with a definite call to ministry/ just beginning in ministry.
- GENERAL LICENSE – Brief ministerial experience having been ordained for 2 years or less.
- ORDAINED PASTOR – Those with an established credible ministry that have been ordained for at least 3 years or more.
- JUST TO NAME A FEW...

ICALM Conferences Are Always Over the Top!

Our alliance and network fellowship of churches, ministries, and ministers look forward to ICALM Conferences each and every year! These conferences are to help promote unity and greater fellowship and also to help meet the spiritual needs of the ministry. Various fellowship functions are conducted each year.

In addition to our Annual Conference, other ministry training functions are provided, including “Fast-track Fellowship Seminars.” Fast-track sessions are usually held on Friday evenings, and all day sessions on Saturday. They include dynamic Praise & Worship, inspirational and anointed keynote speakers (*powerful top-notch five-fold ministry leaders. Real life ministry practitioners-world changers all of them!*), interesting break-out sessions in the afternoon dealing with relevant hot-topics facing the minister, the church, and ministries in American society today. ICALM Conferences and Fast-track Seminars provide its members, as well as non-members, with a wonderful opportunity to come together, to get acquainted, to receive fresh impartation from the Spirit of God, and to receive real encouragement from one another.

Foreign Missions

Jesus called us all to fulfill the "*Great Commission*." Missions work, both foreign and domestic, is an important part of both personal and organizational Christian ministry. ICALM is in relationship with several foreign ministries and has welcomed and opened up its doors and arms to foreign members to join our apostolic alliance. Corporate mission's projects are carefully selected by our Presiding Bishop, Apostle Dr Brian Alton and the ICALM board of directors and funded by our supporting affiliate churches, Bible colleges, ministries, and ministers. Any church, ministry, or minister can send its mission support through the ICALM office for forwarding to the mission field. ICALM currently sends dollar for dollar to the designated missionary or missions project minus any wire or transfer fees. Additional information concerning missions, missionaries, missions support, etc., is available upon request.