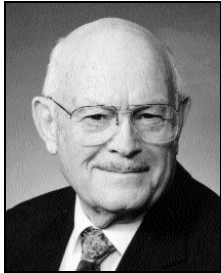


## From the President's Desk

January/February, 1999



Dr. M. G. McLuhan  
President

### The "Majority Mentality" A Major Moral Malady

by Dr. M.G. McLuhan, President

Before we make any attempt to address the problems within the church, we cannot overlook the general malaise existing in our nation today. The word "malaise" is taken from two French words: "mal," meaning "ill," and "aise," meaning "feeling." It is defined as "a vague feeling of unease, an unwholesome or undesirable state of affairs." This condition in our nation is generated to a large degree by what I would term "the majority mentality." This is a mind set that accepts any premise on the basis of the fact that "everyone is doing it." At first glance this philosophy may look clever, but wisdom demands that we take a serious second look and more deeply analyze the behavior of "everyone" in the light of Luke 6:26 where Jesus warns, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets."

Very often pastors and other leaders make the mistake of following those who are "going with the flow" rather than with those few who are struggling upstream—not taking into consideration the fact that all water, including sewage, will find the lowest possible level. Unfortunately, this lowest level is frequently the most popular, requiring minimal vision and offering no challenges morally, intellectually or spiritually. This lifestyle results in a course of self-indulgence that becomes the "accepted" way rather than the best way—no questions asked. It is a comfortable state of affairs. People speak well of us when our philosophy does not trouble their conscience. The old saying, "Birds of a feather flock together" is true not only of pigeons and sparrows but of vultures as well. Why does such a thing as a "majority mentality" exist, and why is it so widely accepted?

First: It is the easiest way. As mentioned before, it requires very little in the way of moral or ethical self-discipline. Those who follow it operate on the lowest level of reflection, often driven by lust and personal pleasure.

Second: It will meet with no opposition from others. These individuals will not tolerate confrontation or questions concerning their

pattern of behavior. They are the massed assembly of humanity whose thought train runs all the way from mental spinelessness and acquiescence to criminal rebellion and crime. They choose the path of least resistance and rest very comfortably in it. We can be sure, however, that we will not find their names or portraits enshrined in the great halls of liberty.

Third: It is the road to popularity and political success. We must understand that to be "politically correct" has nothing to do with being "morally" correct. When the public shows no sense of outrage toward immorality in our leaders, is it because many of us are living or thinking by the same standards? We are at great risk of becoming a country governed by the mentality that "if everyone is doing it, it can't be so wrong." Sadly, we are daily conditioned to the belief that everyone is doing it by what we see and hear around us so that we have become callous and insensitive to basic principles of right and wrong. We must not forget that the populace of a great nation was led into a state of near mass hypnosis by the Nazi philosophy that it was acceptable to exterminate a people whose fundamental beliefs were contrary to the "party line." "For the good of the country," millions of human lives were sacrificed. But Jesus made the issue perfectly clear when he said "Enter by the narrow gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few that find it" (Matthew 7:13,14 NKJV).

Fourth: It is the path of flexibility. A considerable degree of latitude will be granted without serious effect upon the individual's popularity or public image. It is the easy road of vacillation, double talk and skillful verbal evasion. The biblical concept of letting one's "yea" be "yea" and "nay" be "nay" is thought to be outdated, inappropriate or just plain stupid. Again, it seems that those who hold to this evasion of truth often do so because they believe it is the practice of the majority and therefore is acceptable—a form of watering down the strict codes of decency and propriety by which previous generations were raised. But Jesus stated clearly, "let your 'yes' be 'yes,' and your 'no' be 'no'." For whatever is more than these is from the evil one" (Matthew 5:37, NKJV).

Many who hold to the majority mentality may not wish to accept Jesus' word for it, but if we don't heed his warning to stick to a plain "yes" or "no" in our responses, our word will be meaningless. There will be nothing to bind us in friendship, marriage or business. When double talk becomes the norm, we are not able to trust news reports nor, indeed, any other method of sharing facts. When our ethics become situational, our reputation as persons of integrity very quickly goes down the social and commercial drain. Jesus was saying that anything short of transparent honesty and integrity originates from evil. If a man's word becomes questionable, it becomes worthless, and so will his name. Even his signature will lack value. His true worth will sooner or later become apparent to others, and nothing he says or does will ever be taken seriously again. Evasion of simple truth is the shortest road to catastrophe for any relationship, whether marital, social or political.

Fifth: It eases an already fickle and flighty conscience. We who are charged with the responsibility of leading mankind in the realm of moral responsibility must avoid and renounce this trend with every ounce of influence we possess. Let us not be misled by what is called the "popular vote." Unless the vote is based upon the sound principles of justice and truth for all in freedom and right, it may be found to be nothing less than a majority mentality based upon injustice, immorality and deceit. Down through human history there have been those who have adopted the majority mentality and found themselves in predicaments they never anticipated.

Only the truth sets men free; therefore, truth is the only liberating agent for those who have fallen prey to this error. We must remember that the wide gate is not the road to true and lasting success. If there is fame, prosperity or status to be gained, it will be because we endeavored to enter and to lead others down the road to moral and spiritual success by entering through the unpopular but narrow gate.

*Dr. M.G. McLuhan is President of IMF. He has served as a pastor/evangelist for several years, as a missionary in South Africa for 11 years and as an Associate Pastor of Mt. Paran Church in Atlanta, GA (11,000 members) for 16 years. Dr. McLuhan has over 50 years of ministry experience as a pastor, evangelist, lecturer, missionary and President of the International Bible College in Minot, ND, and as President of Berea Theological College in Pretoria, South Africa.*

*continued to page 6...*



# International Ministerial Fellowship

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## The Penultimate (the next to the last word)



*Richard Amundson  
Founder & President  
TENTMAKERS*

### Hiring Youth Ministry Staff

#### *Relationships of Youth Ministry*

*by guest writers Sue Sjoblorn and Sean Nelson, TENTMAKERS*

“We want to hire a kid magnet!” So said one pastor who recently called into our office. He’s not alone. Many churches want to hire someone 25 years old with 35 years of youth ministry experience, who can slam dunk a basketball, is up on all the latest youth culture, and can, of course, play the guitar. While it may at first seem like the ideal answer to a church’s prayer, in the long run it seldom leads to the most fruit. Assuming such a person were readily available, consider the risk of building your youth ministry amount the charisma of one individual. What happens when he or she leaves?

Is your church thinking about hiring a youth director? Before you start into the search and hiring process, it’s wise to take some time to look at your goals for the ministry.

The main question to ask is, “What do we want our young people to be like as a result of our youth ministry?” Answering this will help your team clarify your ultimate desired result, gain some realistic expectations of the ministry, and knock away any thoughts of doing youth ministry “just because we’ve always done it.”

If you’ve got someone in your church who can help you develop a clear, concise mission statement for your youth ministry, take advantage of the opportunity. It will also benefit your team if you develop some

philosophies (how you do ministry), scriptural guidelines for your ministry, and long-range and short-range goals that your team and church are excited about.

If your church lacks ownership, a unified vision, and goals for the youth ministry, it may not be the right time to hire youth ministry staff. Avoid the impulse to rush out and quickly fill the position. Be intentional about taking advantage of transition periods in staffing, when the interest of lay people is often at its peak. Concentrate on developing a written vision, and plan on gathering the committed volunteer support required to empower the ministry.

More often than not, a youth minister who starts employment at a church that does not “own” the ministry ends up frustrated, lonely, and tired. Once you’ve developed a plan, then it’s time to look at the necessity of staff.

As you look at your program’s goals, ask how a youth director can help achieve them. Remember that a church staff member can build close relationships with a limited number of people. As you develop a position description for the youth minister, form it around a role of “giving ministry away” to as many volunteers as possible.

If your church is interested in developing a comprehensive plan and more enthusiasm for youth ministry, Tentmakers can help. Our staff

has assisted hundreds of churches in growing a stronger youth ministry. Call (800) 989-TENT to speak with a consultant in your area.

*TENTMAKERS is uniquely positioned today to be instrumental in “equipping the saints for the work of the ministry.” Who are the true tentmakers in our congregations? They are men and women from all walks of life who feel a calling to serve God more effectively with the gifts they’ve been given. Since 1979, TENTMAKERS has trained thousands of staff and lay people in leadership and ministry skills.*

*TENTMAKERS is an associated ministry with IMF. IMF fully endorses and recommends their youth ministry training program and their pastoral leadership and management training services.*

# Networking

Notices will be published in four consecutive issues upon each written request to our office. Please limit notices to name, address, phone and a maximum of 50 words describing your ministry. We recommend that all our ministers make their tapes, reference letters and other pertinent ministry information available to all inquirers.

Please address correspondence to the address indicated in the individual member's ad or by writing to them in care of:

**NETWORKING**  
**International Ministerial Fellowship**  
**P.O. Box 32366**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55432-0366**

All mail will be forwarded directly to appropriate members for their timely response to you. Current IMF members may call our office for addresses and phone numbers in order to make direct contact.

**Rev. Tim Shields**

## Individuals Available for Ministry

your services? we provide churches with outstanding resources and training materials for their video/media arts ministries (video clips for musicals and services, drama videos, resource networking and savings on video supplies). Call the Church Video Association at (703) 590-0214. (3)

**Rev. Otto Zuckschwerdt**  
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Available to minister restoration to people with life-controlling problems and to encourage Christians returning to the body of Christ. Promoting sound biblical deliverance through evangelism services, brief seminars, and through individual Christian counseling. To set up a service call Rev. Otto Zuckschwerdt. Ph.D., DAC; 134 Poplar Street, Nampa, ID, 83651-2068 or call (208) 467-2384. (3)

**Rev. Jane S. Lake, M. Ed. Ph.D.**  
**Lake Panasoffkee, FL**

I am a mental health counselor (license eligible in several states) seeking a position as a pastoral counselor in an independent, charismatic church. I have been credentialed with IMF since 1995. I have extensive teaching experience and 3.5 years of counseling experience. My master's degree is regionally accredited; a doctorate is Bible college association accredited. I believe that counseling is a branch of the teaching ministry and much neglected in the body today. If you share this belief please write to P.O. Box 384, Lake Panasoffkee, FL, 33538 or call (352) 793-3515. (3)

**Rev. James R. Pickens**  
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Available to teach/minister at home church/Bible study (or serve as preaching associate or pulpit supply—any size church). A spirit-filled ordained minister with over 20 years of ministry experience is available for ministries on Florida's Central West Coast. Bible college graduate, preacher/teacher, effective with transdenominational, multicultural, intergenerational groups. Call (813) 862-9249 or e-mail to jrpick@gte.net. (3)

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Spirit-filled and anointed evangelists with a prophetic message to the church, operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Possessing a burden for the lost, the sick, those in bondage, and those who need a helping hand or an encouraging word. I have experienced the delivering hand of God first-hand. I was delivered from IV drugs in 1981. Licensed with IMF since 1989. I have numerous experiences and training, and am a committed leader within a local church. Ministry credential packets available upon request. Send all inquiries to 7340 Hunters Ridge Drive, Douglasville, GA, 30134 or call (770) 489-9691; voice mail (770) 948-8963. (3)

**Rev. Bill & Barbara McClellan**  
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"Our God Reigns!" Ministry. Bill is an ordained minister of the Gospel who has retired from a very successful insurance business to serve God in the fullest way possible as a teacher and evangelist. "Revivalist" would be a good description of his ministry. His wife, Barbara, accompanies him with anointed singing and teaching. They are leading Holy Spirit-filled meetings where God manifests Himself through signs, wonders and miracles. The joy and encouragement of the Lord are particularly noticed. Please write to 9303 Alanbrooke St., Tamps, FL 33637, or call (813) 985-0729 for more information. (4)

**Rev. Larry Hilliard**  
**Lake Forest, CA**

I have over 25 years of experience as a pastor-teacher and lecturer with theological tape outreach. Currently I am authoring a book on the sovereignty of God. "The root of every need is ignorance of the nature of God. We are created to continually learn of God's nature and be conformed thereby." For scheduling information or a sample tape, contact by phone (800) 653-9924 or visit my website, [www.nonpc.org/hill](http://www.nonpc.org/hill). (4)

**Rev. Bob Silling**  
**Harrisonburg, VA**

I have been with IMF since 1986 and I'm available for church services, revivals, evangelistic outreaches outside the church, crusades, prison services and any other place where I can preach the Word. I am willing to travel anywhere in the U.S., Canada and overseas. I have been on several foreign mission trips, conducted open air preaching, and have sixteen years experience in leading outreaches. For more information, please write to: 290-B Rocco Ave., Harrisonburg, VA, 22801 or call (540) 433-4849 or e-mail to bob1053@juno.com. (3)

**Rev. Martha MacDonald**  
**Bloomington, MN**

MSV-TV is a half-hour quality Christian Youth TV Show that boldly preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Christian music videos, testimonies, preaching, youth involvement and guest interviews with role models who exude Christ-like qualities. We need connections for financial help, fund raising ideas and new T.V (cable or otherwise) stations on which to "air" our program. Please call: voice mail

**Rev. David Njoroge**  
**Lowell, MA**

Have you been called to do mass evangelism? I am taking a team to Kenya, Africa, from August 8-15, 1998. The goal is to reach people who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. For more information, contact Rev. David Njoroge, P.O. Box 251, Lowell, MN 01853, or call (978) 458-4979. (1)

**Rev. Larson Mutembu**  
**Australia**

Are you planning to visit Africa? If you are, then plan to visit Zambia and minister in our God First Team affiliate churches and also in other charismatic churches in different towns. For more information, please write to: P.O. Box 169, Warburton, Victoria 3799, Australia, or fax to (613) 5966-5499. (4)

**Rev. Michael Pilla**  
**Minneapolis, MN**

We are an inner-city ministry in the second year of a church plant in South Minneapolis and praying for a person to take over the music ministry. This person must be called to the city, be spirit-filled and able to lead contemporary worship on Sunday mornings. This is a paid, part-time position. Please write to 121 West Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404. (4)

## PASTORAL LETTER ISSUE 3131

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The Pastoral Letter is a newsletter for International Ministerial Fellowship members and friends published 10-12 times a year in January, February, March, April/May, June, July/August, September, October, November, and December.

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For address changes and name removals, see instructions on the mailing panel. The contents of this publication and other Fellowship bulletins, publications or announcements are subject to change without notice. If you are interested in submitting an article to be published in the Pastoral Letter, please mail or fax a copy of your article (no more than 500 words) to IMF. Every article submitted is subject to a full review by the IMF Editorial Committee.

## Positions Available

(612) 299-2185 or (612) 948-9676. Bob (Producer-Director/Husband) & Martha (Host). (1)

# The IRS Restructuring and Reform Act 1998

by Dr. Wyatt McDowell



Dr. Wyatt McDowell

The IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998—a complex tax law passed by Congress and signed into law on July 22, 1998 by President Clinton, directly affects individual taxpayers in a variety of important ways.

The new law clarifies and expands many of the important tax breaks included in last year's historic "tax-cut" legislation—The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997—including capital gain tax rate reductions, Roth IRAs, and a number of other important provisions.

The new law also provides a significant list of new taxpayer rights, intended not only to help those already caught in the IRS audit and collections process, but also to help taxpayers avoid IRS problems. Finally, the new law also reorganizes the IRS under a new structure that is intended to discourage abusive tactics by its agents.

## IRS Restructuring and Operations

The new law directs the Commissioner of the IRS to restructure the IRS by eliminating or substantially modifying the current three-tier geographic structure which consisted of 33 district offices, four regional offices, and 10 service centers, dealing with the full gamut of taxpayer problems and issues.

The new organizational structure of the IRS will feature "operating units" serving groups of taxpayers with similar needs. These groups will be individual taxpayers, small businesses, medium and large businesses, and tax exempt organizations.

## IRS Supervision

The new law creates a nine-member board, six of whom will be selected by the President (with the advice and consent of the Senate) and must be from the private sector (outside of government). The other three members are the Secretary of the Treasury, the IRS Commissioner, and a person who is a full-time federal employee or representative of employees. The six members selected from the "private sector" will be appointed for five-year terms, with the length of service limited to no more than 2 five-year terms.

The private sector board members will receive \$30,000 annual compensation, except the Chair who will receive \$50,000 annually. The employee member will receive \$30,000 annually, except no compensation shall be paid if such individual is an officer or an employee of the federal government.

## IRS Commissioner

The commissioner of the IRS must have demonstrated ability in management and will be appointed for a five-year term. A Commissioner may be reappointed for more than one five-year term.

## Tax Protesters

Taxpayers who met certain criteria were designated as "illegal tax protesters" in the IRS Master File. With such a designation, a taxpayer could be subject to greater scrutiny and unwarranted abuses by agents of the IRS.

The new law prohibits the use of such designation and the IRS is required to remove any existing tax protester designations from its Individual Master File. However, non-filer designations are still allowed in appropriate situations. The non-filer designation must also be removed once a taxpayer has filed two income tax returns for two years and has paid all the taxes shown on the tax returns.

*Wyatt McDowell is a graduate of Indiana University (Doctorate of Jurisprudence), Capital University, and the Harvard Business School. He is also an associate of Richard Hammer, the founder and publisher of Church Law and Tax Report. He will define major legal issues facing our churches today and address the spiritual issue of church discipline.*

## Chaplains' Report

Nine Resolutions for '99

by Rev. Bill Erman


Here we are on the backside of the mountain. The struggle up the front side has been hard and the task ahead is formidable. We, as chaplains, must navigate the rocky slope leading to the new century.

Here are some simple resolutions for the New Year:

1. I will set aside time each day for prayer and meditation.
2. I will make time each day for family and/or close friends.
3. I will continue my education by reading and by participating in seminars, church, Bible classes and professional groups.
4. I will not forget to minister to the care givers as well as the patients and residents. My pastoral care will extend to all in need under the direction and authority of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and God Almighty.
5. I will develop my skills as a Christian counselor and, if possible, be certified

by a nationally recognized organization.

6. I will see that every patient or resident has a weekly church service available to him or her.
7. I will maintain a weekly journal of my work, including my mileage and charitable contributions.
8. I will never be shy about speaking the name of Jesus and teaching about his love for us; however, as a chaplain I will be tolerant of other faiths and attempt to explain my beliefs to them.
9. I will not forget humor as a blessing from God, and I will strive to bring happiness to others.

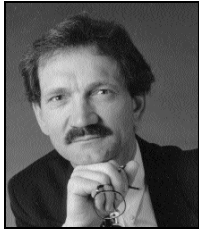
May God bless you and keep you in 1999.  
May his arms enfold you and bring you great joy throughout the year. 

## Will Your Will To Do God's Will

One of the greatest opportunities we have in a life-time to help support the work of God financially is to remember IMF in our wills. Carol and I have designated 10% of our estate to go to IMF upon our deaths. I have designated 10% of my life insurance to go to IMF should I die before Carol. It is very important that we set aside a certain percentage or dollar amount. Others may want to leave the Fellowship a car, stocks, or a paid-up life insurance policy. It all begins with an up-to-date will. Your lawyer can help you set it up as you are led by the Lord. You don't have to be wealthy to leave something of great value to help ensure that God's will and His work continues through IMF.

*Pastor Frank and Carol Masserano  
General Secretary*





Dr. Ron Keller  
Coordinator of Prayer  
Ministries

# Prayer, Surrender and Serenity

by Dr. Ron Keller

Step Three of the Twelve Steps reads, "I turn my will and my life over to Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord."

Could there be any better way to begin the New Year?

- by turning my will over to Jesus Christ?
- by surrendering my life?
- by giving my all to Jesus Christ my Savior and Lord?

Paul describes step three in another way. He says, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives with me. And the life, which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal 2:20).

Step three is about a life that prayerfully is "crucified...lives by faith...lives in Christ."

"There are two fundamental realities in life," my friend's poster says. "Number one: there is a God. Number two: You are not Him."

We do not need to be in charge, in control, or make everything happen. As members and friends of IMF, we are called to serve our Lord. It is His work, not ours. It is His agenda, not ours. It is His success or failure, not ours. We are His surrendered and available vessels. We are His joyful servants who prayerfully rest in Him and His will.

As we surrender to Him, he uses us to accomplish His plans, not ours. As we surrender to Him, we experience serenity and gain the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Some say our surrender to Jesus Christ can be measured by our prayer life. If we are prayerful, so the argument goes, we are surrendered. As we pray, we are given the grace and faith to surrender. As we surrender, we are given the grace and faith to do what he wants us to do. All of this prayer and surrender leads to serenity and fulfillment.

Today is the day. This is the time to renew your commitment to Jesus Christ...to give him anew your life and will. May 1999 be the richest and most prayerful year in your history of ministry. That's my prayer for us all in IMF.

*These steps are taken from the book Twelve Steps To A New Day, written by Ron Keller and published in 1989 by Ron Keller & Associates.*

*Ron Keller, Ph.D., is the Coordinator of Prayer Ministries and is an ordained member of IMF. He is the author of ten published books and is a counselor, workshop leader and speaker.*



Dr. Susan Shaw

# Women as Ministers

by Dr. Susan J. Shaw

The new has once again come upon us and has propelled us into the very last days of one millennium and the very first days of the next.

For the believer, although chronological time is important, it is the time spent in newness of spirit that should be marked and celebrated. God has turned some of us into new creations that are designed to serve as Ambassadors of Christ (II Corinthians 5:17). We must do this in a world that is moving further and further away from the Judaic principles Jesus advocated as primary: loving and serving God with the entirety of creation, and loving others as we love ourselves without qualification (Matthew 22:34-40).

So much talk of love in a world so clearly and avowedly dedicated to hate. Not only do we not practice what we preach, we convince ourselves that we serve as we should and love the best we can when we know how short we consistently fall. The Samaritan woman at the well recognized that subterfuge was impossible in the face of the divine (John 4:29). New years and new millenniums are moments worth marking by taking inventory and trying to clean up and clear out what does not belong in the temples and households of the people of God (II Corinthians 6:16).

No one likes to clean, and women have traditionally cleaned up not only their own messes but the messes of those for whom they care as well. But the task is required of all human creatures and is, significantly, one

(12:24).

And so, at the close of some 2000 years since Jesus came crying into the world as a divine babe (Isaiah 9:6), we pause to remember that the newness of that life was what inaugurated the possibility for eternal life in Christ through faith and love (Jude 20:21). May we strive to retain the newness of commitment that we attempt to make at each New Year's date that we might live a year-long, lifelong commitment to do the will of the Lord.

*Dr. Susan J. Shaw has over thirty years' experience as a professional educator, academician, administrator and businesswoman. A messianic Jew, baptized as a Presbyterian, Susan came to a personal knowledge of the Savior twenty years ago and has dedicated herself to theological study ever since. As a professionally trained music educator, she holds an M.Div from Alliance Theological Seminary (CMA) and Religious Studies from Drew University (United Methodist).*

*A professional both in and out of the classroom, in both the public and private sectors, Susan has had wide experience as a student, a teacher, a parent of students and an academic administrator. It has been her prayer and goal, for most of her years as a Completed Jew, that she have the opportunity to develop professional academic programs in theology and religious studies for women (and interested men).*

# The "Majority Mentality"

*continued from page 1*



# Department of Foreign Missions

## ASK OF ME—Psalm 2:8

### A Message from Rev. Don Grosvenor Vice President of IMF Missions

Recently I have found myself doing a considerable amount of teaching and preaching from the Book of Psalms. What a time of information, inspiration and illumination that has come into my life from this great book, which never seems to grow old or become outdated.

The Book of Psalms, with David the predominate author, is a book of songs of trust, devotion and prayer. It was Israel's hymn book and prayer book. It is one of the best loved books in the Old Testament. It is actually a collection of poems to be set to music for worship. They were for private use but were also used by the public. Of the 283 New Testament quotations from the Old Testament, 116 are from the Psalms.

There are ten Psalms which are clearly Messianic, the first being the second Psalm. In Psalm II we have a great key to the missionary cause in verse 8: "Ask of Me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession." This is what you would call a commandment with promise.

Asking is not a new concept for the human family, for we all find ourselves asking for something in some phase of life. We also understand that the reason we don't have is because we don't ask.

Not only does Psalm 2:8 teach us to ask and gives us the promise of receiving, but Jesus taught us in Matthew 7:7, "Ask and ye shall receive." He then goes on to say in verse 8, "For everyone that asketh receiveth." My, what glorious assurance comes in such promises.

In this great Messianic Psalm, I see the sovereignty of God in a powerful way in relation to His Son. Note the following things He says about His son.

VERSE 6 "I set my King upon my Holy Hill in Zion."

VERSE 7 "Thou art my beloved Son and this day have I begotten Thee."

Then the Lord says, "Ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession."

The literal rendering of this without the translator's inserts indicates that the heathen are His inheritance, the uttermost part of the earth His possession. We have to ask ourselves the question to whom is the heathen and the uttermost part of the earth being given. Contextually we conclude that it is His King, His Son whom He has begotten. When we understand that He is the King and the Priest, we understand why and on what grounds is the asking. Then we have to understand that Peter assures us that we are a royal priesthood and on those grounds we can ask.

In our asking, which we understand to be our

scriptural privilege, we are promised two categories of people.

FIRST—The heathen for our inheritance. The word "heathen" refers to the gentiles, the nations, the unconverted. In the 144 Old Testament

references the Hebrew word is always the same, never varying. The giving of the heathen is the inheritance of the priesthood anointed by God.

SECOND—The promise is the uttermost part of the earth to be the possession. When Jesus gave the promise of the enduement of power in Acts 1:8, He promised that they would be witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth. It doesn't seem to me like we have truly seen the heathen as our inheritance nor the uttermost part of the earth as our possession.

For so long we counted on America being a Christian nation but that seems rather unlikely not to speak of the uttermost parts of the earth. As we see the invasions of the cults, the Eastern and the Middle East religions, we feel the need to begin to ask.

In my travels to some forty countries of the world, I conclude that it is time to start asking. When I was on my way to India in 1978 I happened to stop over in Turkey and Syria. Our trip into Syria was on a weekend and we couldn't find a Protestant Christian Church to attend on Sunday. I had just come from Turkey, where the Seven Churches were which now is 99% Moslem. India is predominantly Hindu, then Islamic, and less than 2% Christian. These astounding conditions really put me on my knees asking for the heathen and the uttermost part of the earth.

He gives us the heathen for our inheritance. The word inheritance speaks of portion, estate or occupancy. All of these words fascinate me but especially the idea of occupancy. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the countries I've just named were 90 to 95% Christian instead of something else. That occupancy would mean that people, business, legal lawmakers, etc. would all be Christian.

The Hebrew word translated "possession" is a word that means something seized. Wouldn't we like to seize the uttermost parts of the earth from ungodly, heathen, pagan and cultic religious influences?

Asking is the key. We have not because we ask not. Let us also remember that we are to ask largely and believe for the great harvest.

If in history we learn that revival, moves of God and great harvest time came from the simple fact of asking, maybe we should go back to asking.

"Ask of me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost part of the earth for thy possession."

Thou are coming to a King  
Large petitions with thee bring  
For His grace and power are such  
None can ever ask too much.



Rev. Don Grosvenor

Rev. Don Grosvenor serves as Vice President of Missions for IMF and is a life long friend of the Fellowship. He has served as Pastor of Phoenix Christian Assembly for the past 36 years. The church is very mission-minded and sponsors some twenty missionaries around the world. Don has traveled in mission work in many countries and continues to keep missions at the forefront of his vision.

**—Call for help in Mexico—**

This appeal is from Ricky & Crystal Parker who are IMF Missionaries in Gaudalajara, Mexico (Crystal is also licensed to practice medicine in Mexico).

*Our vision is to establish a church in the city that will touch the city, surrounding areas and the world. I realize I need help, a church or churches that would sponsor us and get directly involved financially, spiritually and send groups to minister to the people here. Can you help us?*

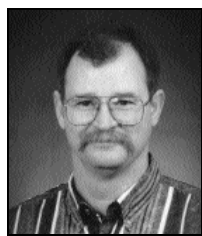
If you or your church would like to help support Ricky & Crystal Parker please call Marlyce Miller at the IMF Missions office 612-571-5967.

# Welcome to the Family

900-Plus Members

The IMF Board of Directors, officers, staff members and other IMF members welcome the following new members to the IMF family. All together, these new members bring with them numerous years of ministerial experience along with a wide variety of educational backgrounds and ministry fields.

- Daryl Buckingham, Honesdale, PA, joins IMF as a licensed member. Daryl will begin pastoring in Honesdale, PA.
- Robert Buckingham Jr., Atlanta, GA, enters IMF as a licensed member. Robert is serving with Mount Para Church of God. He is the Director of the International Discipleship Ministries, where he teaches English and the Bible to International Students.
- Gerald Faulkner, Jasper, GA, joins IMF as an ordained member. Gerald serves as an itinerant minister.
- Lois Marie Fowler, Mayer, MN, enters IMF as a licensed member. Lois is very involved with youth ministry within her home church.
- Karen Gronauer, Cincinnati, OH, joins IMF as a licensed member. Karen preaches and teaches as an itinerant minister.
- Mary Russo-Marx, Las Vegas, NV, enters IMF as a licensed member. Winston is serving as a minister of music and has also served as a youth director.
- Kristine Turner, Elk River, MN, enters IMF as a licensed member. Kristine is presently working with Garden of Grace ministries as a prayer counselor.



Rev. Michael Byus

## Meeting Family Members

by Michael Byus

The great commission that Jesus gave His church is to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19, NIV).

As we, the members of IMF, attempt to fulfill Matthew's words, we sometimes feel isolated. We know Jesus walks with us, but what about our brothers and sisters in ministry? What are they doing, and how can we support each other?

One evening, during my prayer walk, God planted the seed to come up with some remedy for this situation. Today, opportunity knocked as the January issue of this newsletter goes to press. So, I thought, I would start the ball rolling by telling you about myself and hope that you will give me the opportunity to learn about you in the future.

Like most ministries, I have a full-time job to provide for my family and my ministry. My wife and I have three grown daughters and four (soon five) grandchildren. I am a software engineer and have been designing software systems for over 25 years. As an independent consultant, I worked for myself and am presently contracted to a major company in Cleveland, Ohio. I am also a technical writer with several published books under my belt in the electronics and programming world. I hope to expand that into the ministry world sometime in the near future.

My ministry covers many areas. First, is that of Minister of Music and Worship at the church where my lovely wife is the pastor. She was ordained after completing Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

As a 48-year-old musician (guitar and vocalist), I lead the congregation in praising our Lord through music. I have been a church musician for nearly ten years, but this is my first church as a minister. And, as a vocalist, I am part of the Community Christian Choir which performs at the Palace Theater in Cantor, Ohio.

I serve on the Chaplaincy Board at the Tobin Attention Facility, which is a state detention facility for youth who have been arrested and are awaiting either trial or disposition. This position entails talking with the youth and bring them the Word of God, which a number of them have never heard. We've had many conversions to Christ, which is very uplifting. Praise God!

Another part of my public service is that of a volunteer chaplain at the local hospital. There, I visit with people who wish to see a minister but do not have one of their own. The full-time chaplain gets extremely busy and asks local pastors to help out. This is an exciting ministry, and I hope to expand it to the local nursing homes.

Presently (and in my spare time) I am attending Trinity Theological seminary and working on a master of divinity degree with an emphasis on biblical counseling. As you have probably guessed, counseling is part of my ministry both in and out of the church. I am a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors and the Order of St. Luke.

Well, enough about my ministry! Let's hear from some others. You can write me at:

1765 Whinnery Road  
Salem, OH 44460

## Deputized Fund Raising

Various Christian ministries follow the practice of deputized fund—raising the practice of deputizing ministry staff to raise funds to cover salary and expenses for their assigned spheres of ministry.

In response to the good efforts of a coalition (including NAE) working with the Internal Revenue Service, the IRS has acknowledged, in an internal manual for its agents, that deputized fund raising is a widespread and legitimate practice, and that contributions properly raised by this method are tax deductible. The issue is whether a tax deductible contribution was made to or for the use of a charitable organization, or on the other hand if a nondeductible pass-through gift was made to a particular individual who ultimately benefitted from the contribution. The key is whether the ministry has full control of the donated funds, and discretion as to their use, so as to ensure that they will be used to carry out its functions and purposes. This is called the "control test." The second test is whether the contributor's intent in making the donation was to benefit the organization itself or the individuals. This is called the "intended benefit test."

It is gratifying, after years of discussions with the IRS over this difficult issue, to see acknowledgment by the IRS of the validity of legitimate deputized fund raising practices. We are hopeful that the IRS will now take the final step and issue public guidance in some form.

Reprinted from *INSIGHT* a publication of the  
National Association of Evangelicals  
Washington, DC/December, 1998  
Volume XX, Number 12

# Tax Report

## Now You Can Have Income Taxes Withheld From Your Social Security Benefits

by Elizabeth Ann Tinics, E.A.

Voluntary withholding on Social Security benefits starts in February. Recipients will use IRS Form W-4V to have income tax withheld. There will be four withholding rates to choose from: 7%, 15%, 28% and 31%. This might be helpful if you find it hard to save for quarterly estimated payments (or if you often forget to send them in). However if you choose to have taxes withheld, you will have to get used to receiving a smaller monthly check.

### Nearly 100,000 Taxpayers Due Refunds

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for 99,042 tax payers whose checks were returned by the US Postal Service. These checks total more than \$60 million, an average of almost \$690 per check. They were undeliverable because of incorrect names and addresses or because taxpayers moved and did not give the IRS a new address. Taxpayers who are due a refund and have not received it may call the IRS toll free at (800) 829-1040.

I give you this information as a reminder to send the IRS your change of address when you move. And, more importantly, make certain that your name and social security number are correct on the tax return prepared for you. The IRS is now requiring that every name and SS# on the tax returns be entered exactly as it shows on the Social Security card. If it doesn't, you are disallowed your exemption.

### New Rules for Leased Automobiles

The IRS has just issued a formal ruling stating that leased cars used for business qualify for the 32½ cents per mile standard mileage rate in 1998.

Until recently the IRS required leasees to keep track of actual expenses, saying that the mileage rate was only for taxpayers who own their vehicles. Now the leasee can choose the larger of 32½ cents per mile plus parking fees and tolls, or their actual costs for business use, even for cars leased before 1998. However, after 1998 there is no switching between methods. Whichever method is chosen for 1998 must be used for the balance of the term of the lease.

### Save Taxes by Giving Savings Bonds to Charity

When you cash in EE bonds with deferred interest, you must pay income tax on the accrued interest. If you hold on to them, your estate may opt to pay the income tax. Otherwise, your heirs will owe tax when they redeem the bonds.

However, charities don't owe income tax on accrued interest on EE bonds, because exempt organizations are not taxed on interest.

This is worth remembering when planning your estate. You can direct the executors to satisfy bequests to charities by giving the bonds to charities and the cash and other property to heirs. This way neither the estate nor the heirs pay income tax on the interest.

Or you can give the bond to charity now instead of making cash contributions.

*Liz Tinics is an Enrolled Agent authorized to represent clients before the IRS. She is available on a fee basis (with discounts to IMF members) for accounting services. Liz will answer short, direct questions for IMF members without charge. However, extended discussion on tax matters will have to be negotiated on a "discount" fee basis.*

## Credit Union Service Expected To Be Offered to IMF Members in Early Spring

IMF General Security Frank Masserano recently announced at the West Coast Regional Conference that negotiations are in progress to provide credit union services to all IMF members regardless of the members' geographical locations.

US Federal Credit Union located in Bloomington Minnesota has agreed in principle to provide Credit Union membership and services to IMF members. Internet banking will allow IMF members access to financial services at reduced costs regardless of the member's location nationally or internationally.

While all services are not presently available via the Internet, they are available through the mail, and more services are being added to the Internet monthly. Full service is expected some time early next year. Final approval by the boards of both IMF and USFCU is expected by February 1999.

Financial services expected to be available to IMF members include the following:

### Free & Low-Cost Financial Services

- 24 Hour ExpressFone Touch-Tone Service

- 24 Hour Loan by Fax Service
- 24 Hour Loan by Phone Service
- 24 Hour Internet Access: [www.usfed.org](http://www.usfed.org)
- Free financial Planning Services
- Instant Cast/Instant Check (ATM/Debit)
- New Car Leasing Service
- Prime Times Club (age 50 or better)
- Payroll Deduction/Direct Deposit
- Money Orders and Cashier's Checks
- Free Traveler's Checks
- New Car Buying Service
- Credit Life and Disability Insurance
- Night Depository
- Envelope Drop
- Wire Transfers
- Free Consumer Publications
- Free Notary Public
- Signature Guarantees

### Competitive Loan

- New and used Vehicle Loans
- 10.9% APR Visa Gold
- 12.9% APR Visa Classic

- Lines of credit
- Savings-Secured Loans
- First Mortgage Home Loans
- Home Equity Loans
- Student Loans
- Boat, Aircraft & RV Loans

### Federally Insured Savings Products

- Savings Accounts
- Christmas Savings Accounts
- Savings Certificates
- Retirement Accounts
- Checking Accounts