



# INTERCOM

September/October 2007

Minnesota Church Ministries Association

Volume 11 Number 5

## Mastering the Micro

These are challenging days for the Church of Jesus Christ! The reports on the street are not encouraging. The experts who measure the opinions and trends of the day tell us that there is less and less interest in or commitment to organized religion. In a post-modern world, the moral sense of people is all over the map, with the general population affirming the right of individuals to craft their own moral codes. Political correctness has even affected preaching and teaching so that the clarity of the Word of God is not what it once was.

All of these dynamics (and many more that we are regularly informed about) are reports from the **macro** scene around the nation. These are the aggregate statistics of the general population. They may be trends in the big picture...but they do not necessarily represent the situation in any one location, community, church, home, or personal life. Whereas what gets written up in published surveys and journal reports is part of the **macro**, what we really need to be concerned about is the **micro**—that which is in our own immediate experience and daily life.

In this space in recent months, I shared with you the reflections of one of our colleagues who sees challenging clouds on the horizon in children's ministry around the country. He noted disturbing trends that are too often true generally in the church these days. These may be true in the **macro**...but they do not have to be true in the **micro**. The direction that many churches are taking away from content-oriented curriculum to basic childcare, for instance, does not have to be what happens in your church...because **you have control over the micro**, no matter what may be happening in the **macro**. You can infuse biblical content and moral guidance in your ministry no matter what others may be doing.

In the **macro**, the every-man-for-himself approach of post-modern America may make moral distinctions fuzzy around the edges. In the **micro**, however, in our own personal lives and the ministry that we immediately direct, there can be a strong sense of "Thus saith the Lord!" We can counter the relativistic fog of the current day with the clarity of God's truth.

You see, God has not called us to an impossible task! He does not expect you to single-handedly change the entire state of the western world. That would be a **macro** undertaking. He does call you, however, to be faithful in the **micro** task of your own life and local ministry. Regardless of what others may do, you can determine to do God's will, to love people, to sacrifice time, talent, and treasure for God's work, to speak the truth in love, and to be a person of integrity and trustworthiness. This **micro** truth is reflected in the Old Testament sentiment, "*Choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!*" May God give us grace to **master the micro**, be faithful to do His work in the spheres in which He has granted us influence and control to do it in His way.

*Timothy A. Johnson, Executive Director*

## The Association At Work

There are dynamic things happening in MCMA this fall, just note:

♦ **Pastor's Roundtable** discussion groups are gathering in Brainerd, Duluth, Roseville, and Richfield. We are discussing John Maxwell's *Winning With People*. We welcome any pastor to join us!

♦ **Minnesota Vespers** with its snappy 60-minute traditional worship opportunities on Sunday afternoons September through November is described on the outside panel of this Intercom.

♦ **Minnesota Church Expo** featuring Ruth Tucker & Bill Allison takes place on September 29<sup>th</sup> at Edinbrook Church. Don't miss it!

♦ **Early 2008 On-Target Seminars and Regional Institutes** are being planned at this writing.

♦ **MCMA Africa's 11<sup>th</sup>** training mission to Nigeria and Ghana is set for November with Tim Johnson, Mary Anderson, and Dean Bjorlin ministering.

## PRAY - PRAY - PRAY

Be in prayer for the following:

- ♦ **All of the above events.**
- ♦ **Direction** for our Board of Directors.
- ♦ **Financial challenges; financial blessings.**

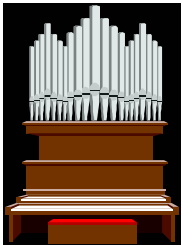
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## Minnesota Vespers



September thru November 2007  
Sundays - 4:30 PM

Hymns, Gospel Songs, Scripture &  
Meditations in Traditional Style

**Come sing 10 of your favorite  
hymns and gospel songs!**

**Sept. 16 - Colony Park Church - Edina - Men of Praise**

**Oct. 14 - Hope Community Church - Minneapolis**

Dr. Robert Berglund directing a reunion choir  
of Central Free Church and Bethel College Alumni

**Nov. 4 - Bloomington Covenant Church**  
Bloomington Covenant Choir

## MCMA Mid-Summer 2007

*Dear MCMA—Accept the following  
to help MCMA realize its mission:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount in tax-deductible check made to MCMA to help  
raise the additional \$22,000 needed to reach the  
September 30th goal of \$30,000:**

\_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_ \$125 \_\_\_ \$75  
\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Return to MCMA  
PO Box 1186 – Minnetonka, MN 55345*

*Calling All Church Workers, Pastors, Leaders, and Teachers*

## Minnesota CHURCH EXPO

**Equipping the Church  
To Accomplish the Task!**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007**  
**Edinbrook Church – Brooklyn Park**

- ♦ Ruth A. Tucker, author of *Left Behind in a Megachurch World*, Keynoter and Principal Seminar Leader
- ♦ Bill Allison of Cadre Ministries – Keynoter and Principal Seminar leader
- ♦ **Special Features:** Dynamic training that will prepare your church for the coming year of service!
- ♦ First-rate exhibit hall filled with resources.

For program information – contact **MCMA**: 952-934-6777 - email: [information@mcmaonline.org](mailto:information@mcmaonline.org)

**NOW – YOU CAN REGISTER ONLINE – GO TO [WWW.MCMAONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.MCMAONLINE.ORG) - CLICK ON “EVENTS”**

