

SERVANT SOLUTIONS NEWSLETTER MARCH 2023



Servant Solutions
YOUR RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING PARTNER



IMPACTING ETERNITY IN YOUR RETIREMENT YEARS

DAVID BOOTS,
DIRECTOR OF MEMBER RELATIONS, WESTERN REGION

People often ask, *since I already “tithed on my gross income” in my working years, should I “tithe again” on those same dollars that I had put into my retirement account and other sources of income?* My understanding of scriptures proclaims we don’t put God first because it’s a rule, but because we remember that everything we have has been given to us by Him. It is His! And that fact does not change based on our age, employment, or retirement status. To deviate from that “stewardship” discipline later in life would be a statement that, “God already got what was His—the rest is mine.”

I believe stewardship is a life-long discipline, and not only related to our finances, but to everything that God has given us while we journey on this earth: our relationships, bodies, minds, leisure activities... all of it! I especially appreciate Wikipedia’s definition of spiritual stewardship: “Managing everything God brings into the believer’s life in a manner that honors God and impacts eternity.” If I agree with that, then there is no discussion as to whether we would be “double-tithing” if we continue to

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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

REFLECTING ON THE VARIETY OF SERVANTS WE SERVE

As we travel the country to begin relationships and invest in current ones, we love visiting with our ministry organizations and our members. We count it a privilege to work with those directly involved in

Jim O'Bold

Kingdom work. From staffs of churches, K-12 Christian schools, Bible colleges/universities, along with all the para-church ministries that support them, to individuals that serve as chaplains and missionaries, we serve a wide range of ministry workers making an impact for Christ. Here are some examples from our recent travels that reflect that variety:

Church of God Pastor Retreats

We start every January with the Regional Pastor's Retreat. This includes all state and regional pastors, and they are great partners as we address the financial needs of pastors nationwide. We count them great friends and love working together! We have also been to Battle Creek for the Michigan Ministries Pastor Retreat in January at the Gull Lake Retreat Center. State Pastor Mark Richardson (*who happens to serve on our Trustee Board*) leads this well. In addition to speakers, worship, and prayer, there is a great emphasis on pastoral health, with several counselors available to the attendees. Another retreat we attended was the YP60 Youth Pastor Retreat at Camp Aurora near Lake Wales, FL, in February. My friend, Adam Rentas, does a great job leading this retreat with an emphasis on group breakouts that include a collaborative approach to addressing the major issues in youth ministry today.

ABHE Conference

We serve the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) headquarters staff and attend their annual meeting each year in February. We have gained many schools into our plan from this meeting, and we hope to gain more each year. The schools love the fact we do not charge a fee to set up our retirement plan for them, and our individual fees are so much lower due to our non-profit ministry status.

Restoration and Reformation Movement Church Conferences

As you know, we began serving other faith-based ministries outside the Church of God tribe about ten years ago. It has been a distinct privilege to serve Restoration and Reformation Movement organizations that need our help. These partnerships allow them to offer a 403b(9) Church Plan that would be impossible to establish on their own. Some conferences we plan to attend include the E2 Lead Well in March, Renew.org National Gathering in April, and the XP Summit (*Sponsored by our partners at CDF Capital*) for executive pastors in May. These relationships are rich and growing exponentially as we discover our commonalities in ministry.

There are many more that cannot be mentioned here due to space, but as you can see from this sampling, our work is rewarding, full of relationship-building, and allows us to further Kingdom ministries and their servant's financial health. Each group represented is unique, but we all share common bonds and beliefs that propel the Gospel of Christ forward. What a privilege to **Serve Those Who Serve!**



1. Regional Pastor meeting 2. & 3. ABHE Conference 4.& 5. IN Ministries Regional Meeting 6. YP60 Youth Pastor Retreat

SERVANT SOLUTIONS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL PLANNING

On June 1, Servant Solutions will welcome **Dr. Jerrald Fox, CFP®** to our team, serving as our Director of Financial Planning. He will be leading our financial planning initiatives as well as engaging with new/current members to meet their financial education needs.

Jerry recently retired as a business professor and teacher of financial planning at Anderson University's Falls School of Business. Over more than forty years of service and teaching at AU, he has held the roles of Director of the Annual Fund, Director of Global Business Studies (*leading student groups to study with government and business leaders in over twenty countries*), interim chair of the Business Department, and Chair of the University Faculty. Jerry often says that he accepted all of these other assignments just so that he could be on campus to teach the Personal Financial Planning course each semester. He is looking forward to helping our members find fiscal

peace and clarity through our Financial Roadmap process.

Jerry holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, an MBA in finance, and a Ph.D. in organizational behavior and development. He earned the designation of Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) in 1984 and maintains continuing education to stay abreast of changes in the laws and markets affecting our financial lives.

Jerry is married to Deborah Miller Fox, who is an English professor at Anderson University. They are both very involved and connected at Madison Park Church in Anderson. They have six adult children, three children-in-law (*with more to be added soon*), and three grandsons.



Dr. Jerrald Fox, CFP®

You can access your retirement plan statement anytime through online statements (eStatements) from Principal®.

FIRST

Log into your personal account at principal.com



SECOND

From the main landing page on your account, you'll see the option "I want to". Click the words "view statements".



THIRD

A page will open listing data for the previous 12 months with the option to select previous years, to account inception.



PAPER STATEMENTS

Unless you opt out of paper statements, you will continue to receive them quarterly from Servant Solutions.

Here, you can also sign up to receive account balance text messages on a regular basis.



THE HOUSING ALLOWANCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

For qualifying ministers, the housing allowance is an invaluable tax benefit—in fact, according to attorney and Church Law & Tax senior editor Richard Hammar, it's "*the most important tax benefit available to ministers.*" A large percentage of pastors take full advantage of it—some sources say 81%. Are you?

Do you have questions about the housing allowance and how best to put it to work for you? Visit our website for useful tools and helpful information. Review your current year housing expenses and then complete the worksheet we have made available from ECFA. Once your worksheet is completed, review "The Minister's Housing Allowance" page on the site. You will then be ready to submit your request to your church Finance Board or Board of Elders.

If you keep your ministry credentials in good standing into and throughout retirement, you will be able to apply all (or a portion) of your annual retirement distribution toward housing expenses in that stage of life. This valuable tax advantage is only available through 403b church plans like ours. As always, you can call or email us with your questions.