

IRELAND'S

'International Fellowship of Evangelical Students': Is it?

The '**International Fellowship of Evangelical Students**' (**IFES**) is a worldwide organisation with groups operating in many countries including **IRELAND**. The link to the web site of the Irish grouping is <http://ifesworld.org/en/regions/ireland>

Further information including details of 'the team' in Ireland can be found on <http://www.ifesireland.org/meet-the-team/>

In recent times I learned that one of the leading members of 'the team' is **David Montgomery** – Mr Montgomery is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and served as such before moving to **IFES Ireland**.

I have to confess when I learned of **Mr Montgomery's** involvement with **IFES** my heart sank because I know from past events that **Mr Montgomery** would not fit the description of a true, historic '**Evangelical**'.

Why do I say that? Well as is well known the '**Evangelical World**' was rocked in 1994 by the publication of the document '**Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission for the Third Millennium**' which of course was a total sell-out of historic '**Evangelical understanding**' of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many critiques of that document were written and if you are not familiar with it and them you could go to these links and read a few and also listen to talks –

<http://www.cwrc-rz.org/ect.html>

<http://www.cwrc-rz.org/analysisofect.html>

<http://www.christiantruth.com/articles/ECT.html>

<http://www.gty.org/resources/Sermon-Series/283/Irreconcilable-Differences-Catholics-Evangelicals-and-the-New-Quest-for-Unity>

Amongst the supposed Evangelicals who endorsed this insidious document was **J I Packer** of whom more shortly. In the wake of the publication of this document other areas of the world began to formulate their own version of this '**ECT AGREEMENT**'. One such location was **Ireland** who launched their own '**Evangelicals & Catholics Together in Ireland**' booklet in Belfast on 30 July 1998 – a launch that I attended.

This launch that I attended in Belfast and two other subsequent 'launch' meetings that I again attended (another in Belfast and one in Dublin) had two 'headline' speakers – one was '**Father**' **Pat Collins** and the other was **J I Packer**. I wrote a short article reflecting upon these meetings and **J I Packer's** participation and it can be accessed on http://www.takeheed.net/Assorted_Articles/Ecumenism/heed3.htm

Then in June 2000 I gave a talk at a conference ('**To Open Their Eyes**') in Bensalem Baptist Church, PA. That particular talk was entitled '**The Myth of Evangelicals & Catholics Together in Ireland**' and you can watch it by going to these links –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNRRmQgfVmk&list=UUY6K5SN-Z7IIOKmXclB51jQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1U5tEUR1uQ&list=UUY6K5SN-Z7IIOKmXclB51jQ>

(I specifically address the Irish situation from about 8.45 onwards on this second link).

Going back to the Irish 1998 booklet, on the penultimate page it gave details of the '**Group Participants**' who were responsible for drawing it up. The list included many well-known '**Protestant Ecumenists**' such as the Church of Ireland's **Ken Clarke**, the Presbyterian's **Ken Newell**, **Ivan Hull** and **Trevor Morrow**, the charismatic's **Cecil Kerr**, **Paul Reid** and **John Kyle**, together with '**Roman Catholic Ecumenists**' such as the 'Evangelical Catholic's' **Eugene Boyle** and **Paddy Monaghan**, the Roman Catholic's '**Father**' **Donal Godfrey**, '**Father**' **Paschal Scallon** and '**Sister**' **Anna Mary Hannon**,.

There was one another name listed amongst the '**Group Participants**' and that was the **Rev David Montgomery** – the same man who is listed as a leading official with the '**International Fellowship of Evangelical Students**' in IRELAND.

A little more of **David Montgomery's** 'pedigree' can be gleaned from this link that dates back to 2013 (before he moved to IFES) - <http://www.regent-college.edu/faculty/part-time-and-visiting/visiting-scholars/david-montgomery>

There we read

David Montgomery is well known to many at Regent. He graduated from Regent with an MDiv in 1995. He was the RCSA President during his time here and was awarded the Martin Prize for Hebrew and the Board of Governor's Prize for Proficiency in the MDiv program. His wife Gwen worked at Regent during their stay. **David Montgomery** is currently the Senior Minister at Greystones Presbyterian Church, County Wicklow, Ireland. He is completing his DMin (Covenant) and hopes to graduate in May 2013.

The 'Regent' referred to is very significant – it is **Regent College** located in **Vancouver, Canada**. Why is it significant? If you go to this link <http://www.regent-college.edu/faculty/retired> you can see details of former faculty lecturers, now mostly retired, and amongst them is **J I Packer** who would no doubt have been fully involved lecturing during the time that **David Montgomery** studied there and eventually graduated in 1995.

Just in passing, I noted the name of another former Regent College lecturer, **Eugene Peterson**, who of course has done the cause of Christ and His Gospel no favours with the publication of his 'paraphrase' of the Bible called '**The Message**' (A helpful pamphlet analysing '**The Message**' can be purchased via this link http://www.swrc.com/bookstore/pdc/pdc_lit.html).

It is clear that the compromising ecumenical 'mind-set' of **J I Packer** has unfortunately 'rubbed off' onto **David Montgomery** and infiltrated and spiritually 'poisoned' the so-called '**evangelicalism**' of **IFES Ireland**.

This was brought very forcibly to my attention through reading a portion from a newsletter called '**News from the West**' (**Summer 2014**) and which is issued by the '**Burke Family**'. The section in particular that is relevant is headed '**Speak Out!**' and was written by **Enoch Burke**. I want to quote some extracts from this article –

'I assumed leadership of the Christian Union Society in the National University of Ireland, Galway in July 2013. God blessed new initiatives which included special talks (How to be sure of Heaven: Where is God when things go wrong? Why believe the Bible etc), regular literature distribution, a carol service and a book table where tracts, literature and Bibles were available. I also took a stand against the homosexual lobby's motion to support gay marriage on the NUI Galway campus last March, which proved very costly for my siblings and I, and indeed us as a family... However I was very surprised to receive a letter recently from solicitors asking that I "cease and desist" from my work with the Christian Union (CU) in Galway. The letter came about because the solicitor's client, a man called **David Montgomery** (formerly a Presbyterian minister in Greystones, Co Wicklow), **Director of IFES** (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) was unhappy with my leadership of the Christian Union (CU) and wanted to have me removed. Following our opposition to gay marriage on campus two months beforehand **David** had issued a press release on IFES web site notifying the public that IFES had disaffiliated the Christian Union (CU) Galway.'

On the following link you can see the reaction from an obviously ungodly 'pro-gay' lobby to both the **CU's** opposition to 'gay marriage' and their welcome for the **IFES** disaffiliation – the link is <http://www.rabble.ie/2014/03/13/batshit-hit-the-fan/> and please **be warned** some of the language in the article there and comments posted in response is 'rough'.

I'm not privy to what happened in the run-up to the disaffiliation but the fact that **David Montgomery** (a professing Christian) saw fit to issue a solicitor's letter to a fellow professing Christian, **Enoch Burke**, telling him to "**cease and desist**" from his work with the Christian Union (CU) in Galway appears to me to be contrary to and a violation of the spirit of what we read in the early verses of **1 Corinthians chapter 6**.

Enoch Burke went on to write in **‘Speak Out!’** –

‘On entering university I was shocked at what was passing as Christianity. While it could be said that many gathered to the weekly Bible study (which in my opinion contained very little substance) what surprised me most of all was that most of these students left the meetings and made their way to the public house for a night’s entertainment. This is typical of IFES-directed CUs throughout the whole of Ireland; many times I sat there as central truths were sneered at and mocked. **Prior to my assuming leadership, the meetings were conducted in the Roman Catholic chapel, courtesy of the Catholic priest. In fact, Maynooth and Trinity CUs list the Catholic Church at the top of their referred churches, with both CUs being supported by IFES...** I covet your prayers for the year ahead as the CU faces into a new academic term with fresh challenges and new opportunities, asking most of all, as Paul did, that “the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified” 2 Thessalonians 3:1’.

In the light of **David Montgomery’s** ‘track record’ with **‘Evangelicals & Catholics Together in Ireland’**, his association with **J I Packer**, both whilst studying in Canada and also supporting **Mr Packer’s** role in the launch of **‘ECT Ireland’** AND his apparent unscriptural (mis)treatment of **Enoch Burke** who has sought to take his stand for Christ and the truth of God’s word, the so-called **‘evangelicalism’** of the **‘International Fellowship of Evangelical Students’** must be seriously questioned. In that light I want to close with another short portion of what **Enoch Burke** wrote –

‘The organisation which he (**David Montgomery**) directs, IFES Ireland has received almost 2 million Euros from churches and individuals in Northern Ireland over the last 5 years, the majority of which goes to salaries. Whilst I understand and appreciate greatly the great hospitality of Christians in Northern Ireland, I wonder sometimes whether enough thought is given to what they support’.

Cecil Andrews – ‘Take Heed’ Ministries – 15 October 2014