

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Comedian Bill Cosby once observed, “No matter how calmly you try to referee, parenting will eventually produce bizarre behavior—and I’m not talking about the kids.”

Raising a family in today’s culture is no doubt an incredible God-given challenge, resulting many times in inexpressible joy—and at other times with disappointment. Many parents have found this is especially true when it comes to guiding their kids to be faithful stewards of their finances.

Fortunately, Christian parents can look to the Lord and biblical wisdom for direction. The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal, for example, provides life lessons that parents can draw from, and apply to their families and finances. These lessons include: honoring God begins with an intentional choice; living out that choice may require the courage to stand apart from the crowd; and God’s primary concern is our hearts being in tune with His heart.

In this issue of *Stewardship Spotlight*, we want to explore together how to discover and apply God’s will in our financial lives—beginning at home.

Serving the Lord with you,



Henry Doorn, Jr. – Executive Director

Helping Your Children Honor God with Their Money

Every parent has been given a special God-given calling to raise their children to love and serve the Lord. That means teaching, encouraging, and faithfully guiding their children in their handling of the money God has entrusted to them. Here are a few ways you can practically do this:

- **Help children understand God’s principles.** God can be trusted to take care of your child’s needs, now and after they leave your home. This provision includes not only meeting their needs financially, but also showing them from God’s Word *how* to follow Him. *The Stewardship Study Bible* is an excellent resource to help your family understand the many scriptural references about money and possessions.
- **Offer appropriate guidance.** Although you raise your children to ultimately be responsible to make their own decisions, offering wise counsel is an important way to show love to your children as they navigate the joys and challenges of life. “For whom the Lord loves He reproveth, even as a father, the son in whom he delights” (Proverbs 16:26).
- **Allow children to fail.** Some of life’s most valuable lessons are learned by trying and failing. Although it is difficult to watch children struggle, parents must sometimes love their children enough to allow them to fail so that they can learn from the failure. Many parents attempt to buffer their children financially, which often makes the problem worse.
- **Encourage dependence on God.** More money doesn’t necessarily help children or improve their spending habits. Parents may have sincere motives for helping their children, but sometimes they encourage dependence on parents rather than God. If God is trying to teach the children discipline and parents step in, the children may have to go through the challenge all over again. Parents sometimes have to do what God often does with His own people—allow problems to come into their lives and withhold finances to increase their dependence on Him.

**The NIV Stewardship Study Bible is available from
www.christianbook.com or www.amazon.com**

You may recall in our Spring 2010 *Stewardship Spotlight* we held a drawing for three *Stewardship Study Bibles*. We are pleased to announce the winners of those Bibles. Mary Brander from Byron Center, MI; Rev. Ken Korver from Paramount, CA and Sharice Purman from Caledonia, MI. Congratulations!

Recommended Resource

RAISING FINANCIALLY FREED-UP KIDS

Willow Creek Good Sense Ministry

Kids are bombarded with enticing and deceptive messages about money every day. *Raising Financially Freed-Up Kids* gives parents hope that countering the influence of our broken culture is possible—but it doesn't happen by accident. Author David Briggs offers parents proven biblical principles, as well as seven keys for preparing kids to be financially responsible and honor God with their money—now and in the future.



Key #1 – Teach and Model Healthy Financial Practices.

80% of parents believe that teaching good money habits is essential for their kids—but only 35% are actually doing anything about it!

Key #2 – Prepare Kids to Survive in a Harsh Financial World.

Sometimes we think we love our kids best by protecting them from harsh realities and making life as easy as possible—but what we are really doing is sending them into the real world handicapped.

Key #3 – Train Your Kids to Avoid the Dangers of Materialism.

Our stuff takes so much time we have little time to devote to relationships, yet Jesus made it clear that the first and greatest commandment is about relationships—to God and to others.

Key #4 – Give Your Kids Authority for Financial Decisions.

It's critical for kids to experience the financial ramifications—both positive and negative—of how they handle money.

Key #5 – Teach Kids to Budget. Starting kids early on a simple budget is a cornerstone of good money management throughout life.

Key #6 – Teach Kids that Work is a Normal Part of Life. If kids don't work outside the home, then we have a special obligation to be sure they learn the connection between work and pay at home.

Key #7 – God Cares How Kids Handle Their Money and Possessions. The ultimate goal is for our children to understand that everything we have has simply been entrusted to us by God and actually belongs to Him.

FIRST STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR A SUCCESS!

On October 28, over 80 people, churches, and ministry sites dialed in from all over the US and Canada to participate in the first of a three-part webinar series on Stewardship Basics. During "Five Keys to a More Generous Church," Barnabas Foundation consultants Rodg Rice and Rick Droog discussed how to ignite an inspiring stewardship vision in local churches.

If you missed this opportunity, visit our website at www.barnabasfoundation.com, go to the "Churches" tab and click on "Video & Audio Archives" in the left navigation bar.

Mark your calendars for February 3 (part 2) and May 5 (part 3) of the Stewardship Basics webinar series, or email ldevr@barnabasfoundation.com for more information.

THE BONUS BLESSING IN YOUR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

One of the ways God can provide for your family in a time of need is Life Insurance. But did you know that Life Insurance can also create a convenient bonus blessing for your extended "family"—namely the ministries you care about. Here are two options for your consideration:

1. Existing Policy (for which premiums are paid up).

You can name a charity as the beneficiary of a Life Insurance policy for which no premiums are due; however, you will not receive a charitable deduction in this case. You can also gift the policy by naming the charity as the owner of the policy; in this case, you do receive a current income tax deduction. Since no premiums are due in either scenario, the charity does not have any financial obligation to pay premiums to the insurance company.

2. Existing Policy (for which premiums are still payable).

You can name a ministry close to your heart as the beneficiary of a Life Insurance policy by changing the beneficiary designation on the policy. You are still the owner of the policy and you still have to pay the premiums. Upon your death, the charity you select receives the proceeds from the insurance. You retain the flexibility to change the beneficiary during your lifetime and you do not receive a current charitable deduction. You could also choose to transfer the ownership of the policy. This creates a current income tax deduction. However, the charity is now responsible for paying the premiums. You may make contributions to the charity to pay the premiums and you receive an additional charitable deduction for these contributions.



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