



#8329 National
Capital Area
United Way



#21969
Combined Fed-
eral Campaign

Glad Tithings

Our mission is to equip Christians worldwide to apply biblical principles of life and time management and personal organization, that they might become leaders in effecting cultural change.



Ken Smith, Director

CSM Calendar

September

**Formation of LMS
Classes**
Washington metro,
Virginia Tidewater,
Atlanta metro, Penn-
sylvania, other areas

Sept. 19

**CSM Annual Golf
Marathon**
Fairfax National
Golf Course,
Centreville, VA
6:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Ken Smith's Principles in Practice

Reaching Your Potential

Every single one of us can become far more with God's help than without it. God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 that He has a plan for our lives, a plan to prosper us and not to harm us, a plan to give us hope and a future. Psalm 139:16 tells us He has had a plan for each of us from before the beginning of time. But to reach our potential we must discover God's plan and implement it.

Growing Close to God

To understand God's plan, we must draw close to him. As He reveals His plan to us, we can take the practical steps necessary to realize that plan in our lives. We must spend time daily with Him, trusting Him to tell us how much time to spend and how to spend it once we decide to make ourselves available.

Recognizing Strengths and Weaknesses

My father was very good with his hands. He could figure out how to repair electrical circuits, fix the furnace, build a workshop and put an addition on our home. He could sand floors, landscape and fix cars. He could hunt, fish and ride horses.

When I was growing up, I would watch him, and help him when he would let me. I just assumed that I would be able to do those same things. Perhaps if he

had known more about how to teach me, I would have learned how to do them.

I got married, had kids of my own, bought a house and started to emulate my father's example. The problem was, it didn't work. I would spend hours figuring out how to do something (the wrong way), correcting my mistakes and starting over. I acquired tools, equipment and supplies. For ten years I kept trying to do things around the house that I knew would have been a piece of cake for my father.

Compensating for our Weaknesses

Once I realized that I would never be the handyman my father was, I started asking friends to help me. I discovered that I was very good at identifying a need, recruiting someone who did have the required skills and motivating them to help me. I discovered I had some very talented friends who really enjoyed doing the very things that had come to haunt me.

Seeing Strengths

I encountered the living God in my mid-30's after drinking and depression nearly did me in. From the very beginning, I was highly motivated to spend time with Him. I decided that if He could heal me of drinking and pull me from the depths of depression, He could do much more. As I grew comfortable in my relationship with Him, I real-

(continued on page 2)

Reaching Your Potential *(cont. from page 1)*

ized that although I had been successful in the legal field and in politics, my real talent lay in organizing.

I started organizing my life. I organized my finances, my time, my office and my house. Then others began to come to me for help in organizing their finances and their lives. Suddenly I was overwhelmed with requests for counseling and coaching as an organizer.

Developing Strengths

Around the same time, my enthusiasm for practicing law diminished. I decided I didn't want to spend the rest of my life helping people figure out how to get the best of their "enemies." And I didn't want to fight for them. I wanted to help them, really help them. I found myself encouraging divorce and business clients to reconcile their differences rather than litigate. But they weren't hiring me to do that. They wanted to fight!

So I decided to retire from the practice of law and start a nonprofit ministry where I could use my strengths as an organizer to help people. It began with financial counseling and coaching, then gradually evolved into time and life management counseling and coaching.

Identifying Areas of Obedience and Disobedience

I learned I needed to identify those areas of my life that were pleasing to God and develop them as He wanted me to. And conversely, I needed to identify areas of my life not pleasing to God and make changes. I realized there were more areas of disobedience than I could address in one lifetime, so I began to prioritize them. I put my energy into those areas I felt He wanted me to deal with. I focused on repairing relationships. I focused on my lack of physical exercise. I focused on mastering things I didn't know how to do, but that I knew He wanted me to learn.

Finding God's Plan

To discover and implement God's plan for our lives, we need to spend time with God and identify what we are good at and what we are not. We need to determine which things we are good at doing, that we are also highly motivated to do, and develop those areas of our lives. We also need to maintain an awareness of the areas in our lives that God wants us to address and change.

Getting Relationships Right

If you are married and a parent, assess the quality of

your relationship with your spouse and with your children. Ask them to rate the quality of your relationship. Determine what changes need to be made and make them. Seek the Lord's assistance in changing those things you can't seem to change by yourself. If necessary, seek the advice of professionals.

If you are not married, but want to be, ask God to show you how to become the person He wants you to be, so that your future spouse will recognize you when you meet. Make the changes necessary to become that person. Ask your friends for advice and perhaps seek the advice of professionals.

If you are unhappy or unfulfilled with life generally, focus on the specifics. What is it that is making you unhappy, and what should you do about it?

Vocation

If you are not content in your job or career path, God may be prompting you to change your attitude or outlook, seek a different position in your current company or move to a different employer or change vocations. To gain insight to know what to do, you must spend quality time with Him, concentrating on listening for that quiet still voice.

If God is calling you to remain where you are, you may need to develop your character, your attitude, your relationships. If He wants you to make a change, you need to get ready. Do you need additional education or training? Do you need more accountability? Do you need to move somewhere else?

One option is vocational aptitude testing. While the test won't tell you exactly what God wants you to do, it will help you shut some doors and shed some light on possibilities to consider. Crown Financial Ministries offers such a test. (See www.Crown.org)

Summary

As Christians, we enjoy a huge advantage over the rest of the world. We have access to the Creator of the Universe through His Son Jesus. He stands ready to provide us with comfort, with insight, with direction, and yes, with discipline. Build your relationship with Him, commit yourself to doing things His way and get ready to reach your potential in every area of your life.

CSM is a ministry dedicated to assisting Christian individuals, families, ministries, and Christian-owned businesses achieve their potential in the area of stewardship. CSM's National Board of Reference includes: Ron Blue; Dr. Bill Bright (1921-2003); Larry Burkett (1939-2003); Reid Carpenter, Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation; Howard Dayton, Crown Financial Ministries; Dr. Ted Engstrom (1916-2006); Roger Erickson, president, Christian Business Men's Committee International (retired); Dr. Harry Greene, president, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry; Rt. Rev. John Guernsey; Rev. Richard C. Halverson (1916-1995); the Rt. Rev. Alden M. Hathaway, Bishop of Pittsburgh (retired); the Rt. Rev. John W. Howe; Dr. Charles Hummell, Intersarsity Christian Fellowship (retired); Bishop Harry Jackson, Hope Christian Church; the Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones, Suffragan Bishop of Virginia; Dr. Beverly LaHaye, founder/chairman, Concerned Women for America; Hon. Ed Meese III, former U.S. Attorney General; the Rt. Rev. Martyn Minns, bishop of CANA, Janet Parshall and the Rt. Rev. Dr. John H. Rodgers, Jr. The Pastor's Board of Reference includes Pastor James Ahlemann, Pastor Larry Andes, Rev. George Beaven, Pastor Steve Brimmer, Rev. Warren Casiday; Rev. Wendel Cover; Pastor Amos Dodge, Rev. Paul Frey, Rev. David Glade, Pastor Tom Gulbranson, Rev. David Harper, Rev. Tom Herrick, Pastor John Hutchinson, Rev. Clancy Nixon, Pastor Vic Ransom, Pastor Bill Roberts, Pastor Dennis Rupert, Pastor Rob Seagars, Rev. John Speight, Rev. Tom Tarrants and Rev. John Yates. Serving on CSM's Board of Directors responsible for day-to-day ministry operation are Jim Cope, Frank Lewark, Jack Maier, John Reyle, Rob Seagars and Ken Smith.

Lessons on Giving: Jesus Was Funded by Followers

By Jim Dempsey

When it comes to giving, Jesus is our ultimate role model. In Luke and Matthew, we learn that those who benefited from Jesus' ministry funded it.

1) Jesus accepted gifts (Luke 8:1-3). Even though Jesus was the Son of God and could miraculously feed thousands, He still accepted contributions. Scripture tells us that "God owns the cattle on a thousand hills." And yet, Jesus sought human assistance to help fund His ministry. He knew it was important to model giving by accepting gifts himself. The Bible records that Mary Magdalene and Martha, Mary, Lazarus and others all gave from their abundance to support the work of Jesus, an indication of their devotion. As scripture says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

2) Jesus was not proud. Jesus was not bashful about using the resources of others. Again, even though He was the Son of God, he was not too proud to accept gifts from others. He modeled humility in accepting gifts, perhaps in part to show us how we should humbly accept God's gift of salvation.

3) Jesus challenged others to give (Matthew 19: 12-26). Even though it wasn't in a fund-raising context, Jesus didn't hesitate to challenge people about money and possessions. In fact, Jesus mentioned the topic of money more than any other, even sin. He wanted people to understand the impact of money on their lives and especially "the love of money." When it comes to giving, Jesus wanted people to know that money should not be held tightly, but loosely, and that God has called believers to support His work, whether churches or laborers.

The life of Jesus makes clear that it is scriptural for those in God's service to raise funds to support their ministry. As a result, the next time someone shares with you an opportunity to be involved in God's work, please take the time to listen and realize that they are following Jesus' example. You should not be offended or taken aback, but honored that God led this person to you – to possibly be part of His work. It's worth remembering that Jesus not only talked about the importance of giving, He lived on giving. And His example should be a model for us all.

Office Giving Can Help CSM

Mark 8329 for United Way, 21969 for Combined Federal Campaign

If you donate through the National Capital Area United Way or the Combined Federal Campaign, you can designate CSM to receive all or part of your gift as this year's campaign gets underway this fall. This is a great opportunity to support CSM's work with those who need help putting their lives and finances in order and expanding our outreach across the nation.

It's easy—Christian Stewardship Ministries' number is 8329 for United Way or 21969 for the Combined Federal Campaign. You can write a check or choose regular payroll deductions to have your gift automatically donated from your paycheck. We welcome and deeply appreciate your support!

Ministry News

Coming up—CSM's 2008 Golf Marathon on September 19 at the Fairfax National Golf Course, which will again offer great prizes such as \$1 million and a Toyota Highlander for a hole in one and Ping golf clubs and equipment as fundraising prizes. All golfers receive leather duffle bags or Land's End apparel. Are you up to the challenge of playing 50 holes in one day to raise funds for CSM? It's not too late to join us. Call 703-591-5000 to sign up.

We're excited about completing the first draft of the Life Management Textbook for our new LMS curriculum for high school and college students. We'll work next on the Life Management Workbook and then the Teacher's Manual. Many thanks for their hard work to our development team: Elizabeth Norman, Principal, Word of Life Academy; Paul Miklich, Principal, Christ Chapel Academy; Richard Chenette, business administrator, Ad Fontes Academy; Joe Gainer, instructional designer; Susan Rodgers, director of admissions, Christian Faith and Fellowship School.

Over the summer, we trained nine new Life Management Study leaders including Kevin Abney, Chet Arnold, Jonathon Butler, Paul Chin, Mario Dorado, Eric Germain, Tom Herrick, John Reyle and John Speight. They'll be ready to facilitate the new LMS classes forming in September. Currently classes are planned at the following locations: Barcroft Bible Church, Fairfax, Christ the Redeemer Church, Centreville, Perimeter Church of Atlanta, Richmond Baptist Association, Ron Blue & Co. in Atlanta, Word of Life Church, Springfield, Bethel Temple in Hampton, Calvary Church of the Valley in Arizona, Christ Chapel (Mountaintop), Haymarket, Christ Church in Fairfax Station, CSM, New Life Church in Chantilly, Prince Street Presbyterian in Shippensburg, Pa., and South County Church (Mountaintop) in Lorton. If you've already taken the class, please pass the details on to your friends so others can benefit.

No LMS class near you? No problem. You can still get this excellent life management training by registering for the Internet LMS—ready online 24/7 at ilms@csmin.org. Right now we have nine others taking this course.

Prefer email? We've developed an electronic version of *Glad Tithings*. If you'd like to receive it, please let us know by emailing your request to gladtithings@csmin.org.

Also available from CSM—guidance for boards of accountability and personal life coaching—offered on a sliding fee scale - in person, by telephone and by email. Please contact us for more information on these services. You can also get a wealth of information about CSM and upcoming events along with previous issues of *Glad Tithings* and materials available for purchase on CSM's website at www.csmin.org.

Sharon Meisel: Trusting God Daily

As a self-employed financial services consultant, Sharon Meisel says that when times are tight she clings to a verse Ken Smith shared with her many years ago, Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Today, she enjoys a flexible schedule and stays busy educating clients on the benefits of living trusts, long-term care and debt elimination and wealth building. Sharon says the key to becoming debt-free is to change the way people think about their finances because without changing their thinking, people won't change their behavior. "It's important to keep your goals in front of you on a daily basis," she says.

Sharon took one of the early LMS classes more than 10 years ago, which helped her learn to schedule a consistent quiet time with the Lord each morning, keep written lists, pay more attention to priorities and plan for personal time. She now serves on CSM's Advisory Council and assists with the annual banquet each spring.

Although she always wanted to run her own business, Sharon says she was never a risk taker. "God has taught me how to trust Him in ways I would never have learned if I had had the security of a regular paycheck."

A member of Christ the Redeemer Church in Centreville, Sharon serves on the church's finance committee and works in the hospitality ministry. She lives in Annandale, Virginia.

Hole in One Wins \$1 Million! September 19 at the CSM Golf Marathon

Will you be the lucky CSM golfer to score a hole in one and leave the 8th annual Golf Marathon with a \$1,000,000 annuity! Or maybe you'll make your great shot on the hole that offers a chance for a 2008 Toyota Highlander. In any case, you'll have a great time playing 50 holes of golf to benefit CSM on September 19 at the Fairfax National Golf Club in Centreville, Virginia.

If you're ready to take on the challenge, call 703-591-5000 right away to put your name on our list of golfers. To participate, you just line up supporters who pledge a specific donation or a per-hole amount for every hole you play. Golfers will gather for breakfast at 6:30 a.m. and then hit the course to play 50 holes before 1:00 p.m. using two balls for each hole. Along the way, enjoy snacks and drinks, friendly banter and a lot of laughs. We've also got a great lunch planned with lots of prizes and awards.

Every CSM golfer will receive an attractive, high quality leather duffle bag emblazoned with the CSM insignia or golf apparel from Land's End, also featuring the CSM logo. Those who raise at least \$1,000 qualify for Ping clubs and bags. The number one fund raiser receives a Ping putter. Other prizes include free golf vacations, golf apparel, airline tickets, free rounds of golf and more.

Participants will enjoy fun and fellowship while raising funds to support the ministry. Call and reserve your place in the tournament today.

Needs & Blessings

CSM needs a volunteer to help us maintain a fresh website. Do you have the technical skills and two hours per week to offer? Or perhaps you have administrative skills and time to spare. CSM could use your help with administrative duties in our Fairfax, Virginia, office. Email Sheryl@csmin.org for details on these volunteer positions.

In addition, CSM is looking for someone to fill a part-time marketing and sales position. For more information, contact ken@csmin.org.

Many thanks to

- ♦ Janice Fields for her enthusiastic support of CSM in multiple areas

- ♦ Milt and Karen Clary, LMS leaders of the quarter, and
- ♦ CSM supporters who provided in-kind gifts or extraordinary assistance, including
 - o Bruce W. Reyle & Company
 - o Conflict Resolution and Conciliation Services
 - o Fleming Communications
 - o Master Courier Service, Inc.
 - o Ourisman Fairfax Toyota & Scion
 - o The Shepherd's Guide
 - o Thomas House Coffee Service
 - o Weichert Realtors' (The Gaskins Team)

Glad Tithings is a newsletter of Christian Stewardship Ministries, a nonprofit public foundation. To receive *Glad Tithings* regularly, send your name and address (with a zip code) to CSM. Gifts are tax deductible, greatly needed and deeply appreciated. The newsletter's annual cost per person is approximately \$20. *Glad Tithings* staff: Ken Smith, publisher; Susan Hall Fleming, Fleming Communications, editor; Rosemary Henry, desktop publisher; Chuck Wadey, proofreader; Jean Moore, proofreader and data entry; Sheryl Kenoyer, proofreader and production manager; Master Courier Service, transportation; D. J. Chuang, web page designer and webmaster; Independent Speedy Printing, printer; and Washington Intelligence Bureau, distributor. Christian Stewardship Ministries, 10523 Main Street, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. Telephone 703-591-5000, fax 703-273-1795, e-mail gladtithings@csmin.org, web site <http://www.csmin.org>. Any portion of this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced without further permission, provided excerpts are in context, by adding the following credit line: "Reprinted from Christian Stewardship Ministries' newsletter *Glad Tithings*, Fairfax, Virginia, www.csmin.org" and furnishing a copy of the publication with the excerpt to CSM. © 2008 by Christian Stewardship Ministries.