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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

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

**April 12
LMS Leader's
Training Workshop**
CSM Office
Fairfax, VA
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**April 24
CSM Annual
Fellowship Dinner**
Featuring radio host
Janet Parshall
Sheraton Premiere
Hotel
Tysons Corner, VA



Ken Smith's Principles in Practice

Personal Retreats

My first personal retreat actually began when I took some quiet time for myself at a Singles Ministry retreat I had organized for my church. That time of Bible reading and meditation evolved into reviewing commitments and activities with the Lord and set the stage for the personal retreats that have become an integral part of my life.

In the early years, I saw my retreats as a time to get away to be with the Lord, to understand more of what He expected of me. Initially, I brought along my Bible, study guides and other material to help me understand God and His work. Over time, I began to include personal projects and work related materials.

Thirty years later, personal retreats are still a vital part of my life. In fact, I'm writing this article on Day 3 of my current retreat. I'm having such a great time, I thought I would share with you some thoughts on planning and enjoying a personal retreat.

Begin your planning with prayer. Ask the Lord to show you 1) what He wants you to accomplish, 2) when He wants you to schedule it, and 3) where He wants you to spend your retreat time.

The Three W's

What? What do you want to accomplish during your retreat? Hearing God?

Getting work done? Just breaking routine?

Plan your packing list: Bible, devotional guides, clothes, food (unless you're planning to fast), cooking utensils and supplies, office equipment and supplies, and materials you want to have on hand. Create a *To Do List* for what you want to accomplish during your retreat.

When? A day, a weekend, or even longer? Block the time out and look forward to it. For the purpose of our "model" retreat, we'll assume a weekend, perhaps a Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

Where? You could go to a Christian Retreat Center, a friend's vacant house or cottage, or even an inexpensive hotel room. Make it far enough away to discourage anyone from visiting you or your being tempted to return home or to your workplace. My retreat sites have varied from 45 minutes away at a friend's cottage, to a two-hour drive to the mountains or a four-hour drive to the beach.

Before the Retreat

1. Plan NOT to receive incoming email or phone calls. You can generate all the outgoing email you wish, but save it up and don't send it until your retreat is over. You'll be much more likely to achieve your objectives if you prevent the "urgent" from interfering with the "important." Let your close family have a phone number for emergencies, but turn your cell phone off.

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Personal Retreats *(cont. from page 1)*

2. Develop an outline for how you will spend your time. Plan in advance when you will go to bed, when you will rise, when you will spend time with the Lord, when you will eat (unless you're fasting), and perhaps when you will nap. If you wish to build some reading or recreation time in, plan that too.

3. If you have work-related projects to complete, make a list and prioritize it. You can revise this list during your retreat, but you will make better use of your time if you have devoted thought to it before you leave.

During the Retreat

1. Maintain a flexible attitude. Once you've diligently planned your retreat, you will enjoy your time much more if you can build in the flexibility to let the Lord lead. Follow your plan unless and until it is clear you should make some revisions, then be ready to go with the flow.

2. As you think of things during the retreat that you want to remember for future retreat planning, make note of them. Don't interrupt what you are doing, just have pen and paper (or a word processing document) to take notes for follow up later.

3. Near the end of your time, create a list of things you want to do on your next retreat. Think about the What, When, Where questions for your next retreat, and make notes to follow up on when you return home.

After the Retreat

1. Follow up on everything you did during your retreat.

2. Schedule your next retreat. Again, plan it far enough ahead of time so that you can look forward to it, not dread it.

3. Begin a list of what you want to accomplish next time. Whenever a new idea occurs to you, write it down and keep it in a place where you can find it when you begin planning for the next time.

An annual retreat may be all you need or want. I began with an annual retreat, and now take one three times a year. I leave on a Wednesday afternoon, and I return on Saturday afternoon. I borrow friends' homes or places in the country, or rent inexpensive locations. They are now so much a part of my life, I cannot imagine not having my retreats.

Everyone can benefit from personal retreats. Single parents, homemakers without spousal encouragement and support, and workaholics may need them the most but find them the most difficult to arrange. Just remember. God has a plan for your life, and if periodic personal retreats are part of that plan, He has a way for you to do it.

If you need help planning your first retreat, just call our toll free number, 877-276-6464, or email Ken@csmin.org.

Ministry News

Our annual Fellowship Dinner is just around the corner—April 24 at the Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner, Virginia. Christian radio talk show host Janet Parshall is our speaker. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:25 p.m. There is no charge, but seating is limited, and reservations are required. Please contact the CSM office today at 703-591-5000 to request your tickets or reserve online at www.csmin.org.

We have eight LMS classes currently meeting. One class at Christ Chapel Mountaintop in Gainesville, Virginia, is led by Pastor Rob Seagears and Elizabeth Fritts while Pastor Andy Casper and Anmary Alvarez are leading a class at South County Mountaintop in Lorton, Virginia. Reggie Register and Rod Ellis, along with Michael Reichard and Theresa Mudd, are leading two more classes at Bethel

Temple in Hampton, Virginia. Rick Groux and Scot Small are facilitating the LMS class at Community Christian Church in New Baltimore, Virginia. There is also a class in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, led by Patrick Marx and two more classes in Atlanta being led by Ray Padron and Erik Daniels.

Spring classes will be forming in early April, and our next training session for future LMS leaders is scheduled for April 12 at the CSM office. If you'd like to start the LMS today, our Internet LMS is available 24/7 at ilms@csmin.org.

Gustavo Alayza reports that our South American arm, Perfect Way, is continuing to improve its website and its coordination with other ministries in Peru. The Spanish ILMs is available at www.perfectwaymin.com.

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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, Interservice 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, 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 Seagears, 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, Rob Seagears and Ken Smith.

Lessons in Giving: David, the Charismatic Leader

By Jim Dempsey

As we search through scripture, there are countless lessons on giving to be learned from God's chosen people. David was not only an Old Testament king, but an effective, charismatic leader. His life reflected one of leading by example and included in that was his giving. As king, he was called by the Lord to build the temple. Even though he had great wealth, he was unable to build without the help of his people. In 1 Chronicles, chapter 29, verses 1-20, we find seven key principles of effective giving.

First, we find that in order to motivate his followers, David had to give publicly (1 Chron. 29:1-5). David was not afraid to be a leader and show others that giving was not something that was only done by servants, but that the king needed to give as well. David showed by example that God blessed the rich and the poor alike and that there was faith involved in this practice.

Second, as the leader, he gave first (1 Chron 29:2-3). David learned at an early age that he, as the leader, should not ask his people to do anything he was not willing to do himself, including giving. That's why he modeled the importance of giving and also showed them what was appropriate giving.

Third, David demonstrated sacrificial giving (1 Chron 29:2-3). David wanted to show his people that there were different types of giving. There was giving that was done out of our reserves to help a worthy cause which didn't involve much faith or sacrifice. However, there was another type of giving known as "sacrificial giving." The latter truly delights the Lord as it comes as an act of obedience to God and often without knowing where the resources will come from. It means trusting God for an amount above and beyond our abilities.

Ministry News *(cont. from page 2)*

CSM has expanded its personal life coaching ministry, which is available on a sliding fee scale, in person, by telephone and by email. In addition, the ministry is currently working with about eight Boards of Accountability. Please let us know if you are interested in either.

Don't forget you can keep up with CSM activities and catch up on back issues of *Glad Tithings* as well as order resources through CSM's website. Visit us at www.csm.org.

CSM Fellowship Dinner April 24, 2008

Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner, VA

Reception 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:25 p.m.

Order tickets today by calling CSM
at 703-591-5000 or register online at www.csm.org.



Fourth, David gave to motivate others to give generously (1 Chron 29:3-5). As a leader, David knew that giving was "caught" more than "taught" and that if he expected people to give generously, he needed to give generously. His gifts motivated his people to give at levels that were nearly unsurpassed at that time – so much so that David had to tell the people to stop.

Fifth, David directly and verbally challenged others to contribute (1 Chron 29:5). As a soldier and leader of his army, he knew that challenging them was the best way to communicate with his troops, but that the call had to be clear and direct. From this, David knew that his people needed to hear directly from him that they were to give and how much to give.

Sixth, the offerings were free-will, not commanded (1 Chron 29:9,17). Just as our faith in God must be of our free-will, David knew that the offerings of his people needed to be from the heart and not with any reservation or coercion. Giving that comes as a result of a command is usually not genuine and certainly not sacrificial.

Seventh, a result of David's efforts was joy, for himself and for the other contributors (1 Chron 29:9-20). We learn from scripture that God always blesses those who are generous with His people. With every action there is an equal reaction. David knew that his giving caused him great joy that comes only from God. In addition, his people received the same blessings. True sacrificial giving returns to us blessings that are incomprehensible and can only be described as miraculous.

If you want to be a true "giver", simply look to the example of David who taught us that sacrificial giving, with a genuine heart, will lead to unsurpassed joy and happiness.

Memorial Gifts

You can remember your loved ones and those who have touched your life in a special way with a memorial gift to Christian Stewardship Ministries. Memorial gifts enable you to honor those who have meant so much to you while enabling ministry to continue in their names. The gifts become a living testimony for Christ and a blessing to those who benefit from CSM's work.

We are especially grateful for recent gifts in memory of:

William E. Findler

from Matthias and Helga Felleisen and Michael and Dorothy Green.

Betty Graves: Joining with God in His Work

"I've learned that God unfolds His plan for our lives, not just over a lifetime, but day by day as we are obedient to Him," says Betty Graves about her experience with CSM's Life Management Study class. "We discern His plan through a daily quiet time of prayer, Bible study and worship."

She said after charting her day and schedule in the LMS class, "I came away thinking about time in a different way: Is this productive? Am I using my time wisely?" In addition, she says, "I got excited—God still has more for me to do!"

A Christian from a very young age, Betty says she's found it helpful during difficult times to focus not on "Why, God?" but on "How is God going to work for good in this situation?" Betty has learned that "God pursues us. He wants a personal, interdependent relationship with us, and He invites us to be involved in His work, to serve and to be blessed."

Betty joined the CSM Advisory Council five years ago and has been assisting the ministry with the spring Fellowship Dinner and the Golf Marathon for several years. After taking the LMS, she also took the leadership training to prepare to facilitate a class in the future.

A clinical social worker, Betty is a member of Truro Church in Fairfax, Virginia, where she serves on the altar guild, as a lay Eucharistic minister and as a lector. Betty has four grown children and four amazing grandchildren. She and her husband John live in Vienna, Virginia.

Needs & Blessings

Can you help us by

- ♦ Volunteering to help in the CSM office
- ♦ Writing short electronic and blog articles, based on current CSM materials, or
- ♦ Joining the CSM staff as Program Expansion Coordinator

If one of these jobs sounds perfect for you, please contact us at 703-591-5000.

Many thanks to

- ♦ Fitz Stewart for his most recent IT assistance
- ♦ Darrell Harris for overseeing the LMS expansion to the Virginia Tidewater area
- ♦ Jim Dempsey for assisting with donor development, and
- ♦ CSM supporters who provided in-kind gifts or extraordinary assistance, including
 - Dominion Construction Group
 - Conflict Resolution and Conciliation Services
 - Fleming Communications
 - Golden Construction Incorporated
 - Master Courier Service, Inc.
 - Ourisman Fairfax Toyota & Scion
 - The Shepherd's Guide
 - Thomas House Coffee Service
 - Weichert Realtors' (The Gaskins Team)
 - Cornerstone Office Systems, Inc.

CSM needs tech help!

We need a volunteer or several volunteers who know how to do the following: (1) website updates and (2) general tech support at the CSM office including software and hardware installation with occasional troubleshooting.





Joyful Dividends

From an LMS Leader reporting the day after a class
Ken

Another great night of discussion! I am seeing that most of the class members are really trying to schedule daily quiet time. God provided an alternative time for one lady too. She has young children and is already getting around early in the morning so she had her quiet time after the children went to bed. Her husband was just switched to day shift so now that has become spouse time. She just happened to go

home for lunch and used that time also for quiet time. This worked very well so now that is what she's planning Mon - Fri. God does provide when we truly desire to seek him!

From another LMS Leader reporting the day after a class
I can sense God chipping away at all of our barriers and roadblocks. I know my heart is changing from "busy-ness" to a more personal connection and I look forward to that continuing. I can't wait to see where God will take us during the next few weeks!

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