



#8329 National Capital Area  
United Way &  
Combined Federal Campaign

# Glad Tithings

*"Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."* (1 Cor. 4:2)



Ken Smith, Director

**Join us for the  
12th Annual  
Spring  
Banquet  
and  
LMS Reunion  
on  
March 31  
at the  
Sheraton  
Premiere at  
Tysons Corner,  
Virginia, and  
hear Harry  
Greene,  
president of  
Good News  
Jail & Prison  
Ministry.  
Call  
703-591-5000  
for a  
free ticket.**



*Ken Smith's Principles in Practice*

## Christian Grandparenting

Grandparents have much to offer children—unconditional love, wise counsel, patience and a sounding board for joys and concerns. But the most important responsibility of grandparents is spiritual. It's fun to buy grandchildren gifts and pamper them, but the real gifts we can bestow are a love for the Lord and a deepening relationship with Him.

### Offering Prayer and Guidance

A primary role for grandparents is to support our grandchildren—and their parents—through prayer. The greater the challenges our grandchildren face, the more time we need to spend in prayer for them.

We also may be called upon to provide the parental wisdom that our own children may lack.

This, of course, requires the cooperation of our adult children. We must be wise enough not to try to teach our adult children what they think they already know about parenting, but to gently guide them as God leads us. We must be responsive when they are open to advice and suggestion, but sensitive to their need to learn from experience.

### Supporting Growth

It's sometimes very difficult to allow our own children to make mistakes that we know will harm our grandchildren. How much latitude we have to express our opinion on matters concerning our grandchildren depends on our relationship with our children and their willingness to consider our counsel. There is a fine line

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## Hear Harry Greene at CSM Banquet/LMS Reunion March 31 at Tysons Corner, Va.

Call 703-591-5000 to reserve your place at the CSM Spring Banquet on March 31 at the Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Banquet and LMS Reunion features Harry Greene, president of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, as the keynote speaker. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a reception; dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Through the banquet CSM seeks to showcase the ministry and the difference it is making in the finances and spiritual lives of those it touches. One of the goals is to expand the base of

supporters who provide the financial foundation for the ministry.

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry began in 1961 as a ministry to individuals incarcerated in the Fairfax County Detention Center. Now more than 200 staff chaplains serve in nearly 180 institutions in 23 states in the U.S. and nine foreign countries. After spending time himself in a penal institution, Harry Greene founded Good News to reach others serving time behind bars. He'll share exciting news about what God is doing among those within the prison community.

## Christian Grandparents *(continued from page 1)*

between suggesting and pushing, and we will have to determine where that line lies and then observe it.

No one wishes adversity for those they love, but adversity is a part of life, and God can use it. We don't grow spiritually nearly as much when things are going well as when they are not. The pain of adversity helps us grow and mature. At the same time, there is unnecessary pain, which we can avoid by conducting ourselves as God wants us to.

We should not pray that God would exempt our children and grandchildren from pain, but that He would limit that pain to only that necessary for their growth and that He would help them learn and benefit fully from it. In other words, we pray that they would experience only "good pain," that which is born out of obedience and a desire to live as God wishes.

### Grandparenting Up Close

For many years, the only way Pat and I could affect the spiritual lives of our children and grandchildren was through prayer. We were more observers than participants in their lives. Now, with one adult child and one grandchild living with us, and two other grandchildren frequent visitors, we have more opportunity to be involved. We have 13 grandchildren, which provide lots of grist for learning how to grandparent.

Our multi-generational family has a weekly Bible study and devotional time, which we use to explain the basics of Biblical truth. At our daily evening meal, we often find time to discuss spiritual matters. And we all go to church each Sunday.

One of our commitments as a family is our dinner time. We are committed to being present and punctual for dinner. This was a difficult concept at first since it runs counter to our culture. Exceptions occur only when one adult agrees and communicates this to both the other adults.

### Preserving Authority

Another important principle is spiritual authority, and that authority is vested in parents rather than grandparents. We must not pre-empt or undermine our child's authority over his or her children. Even with the best intentions, we can harm our relationships with both child and grandchild if we act without seeking a delegation of authority from the parent. At the same time, when children and grandchildren live with us, we must exercise authority as heads of a three-generation household.

To keep lines of communication open, we hold a weekly family meeting where everyone is encouraged to be transparent and to say what they are thinking. If our daughter feels we are stepping on her parental toes or we feel she or the children are not acting in accord with our authority or the children feel they are being treated unfairly, we encourage each other to speak out.

Then we look for an acceptable solution, and usually the decision reached meets with everyone's approval.

### Discovering God's Plan

We know God has a plan, and even when death, separation or divorce have disrupted the normal lines of authority, we focus on discovering what God's plan is in this situation. God is in charge, and we seek to understand what He is saying.

Do you have fond memories of your grandparents? How will your grandchildren remember you? Are you doing all you can to build foundational relationships with them?

God has a plan for you and your grandchildren. How much of it have you discovered?

Our highest priority on earth is our children and their children. We've done all the damage we can do to the next generation. We need to see our grandchildren as God's vehicle for permitting us to redeem ourselves. We want them to remember us as people who taught them everything we knew about who God is. We want them to remember us as grandparents through whom God loved them.

## Ministry News

If you haven't signed up for our 12<sup>th</sup> annual spring banquet and LMS Reunion, please call 703-591-5000 to do so today! Scheduled for March 31, the banquet will be held at the Sheraton Premiere in Tysons Corner, Virginia, and features Harry Greene, president of Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, as the guest speaker. This is a great opportunity to introduce friends and potential supporters to the work of CSM and the Life Management Study course. The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner following at 6:30 p.m.

CSM is still looking for a part-time Ministry Coordinator to work 30 hours per week in the CSM office in Fairfax, Virginia. We need the right person as soon as possible! If you know someone who might be a good fit, please encourage them to contact the CSM office immediately. Many thanks to Jean Moore for standing in the gap while CSM has been without someone in this position.

The sixth edition of the Life Management Study materials has been completed and printed—thanks to a lot of hard work by Ralph Solberg and Ruth Kriz over the past two and a half years. Students began using the revised materials in January.

The CSM half-day Life Management Seminar in January drew 54 participants. The attendees found the segments on procrastination and overcommitment particularly helpful. Other strengths mentioned by participants included the practical use of

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CSM is a ministry dedicated to assisting Christian individuals, families, ministries, and Christian-owned businesses in achieving their potential in the area of stewardship. CSM's Board of Reference includes: Ron Blue; Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ (1921-2003); Larry Burkett, Crown Financial Ministries (1939-2003); Reid Carpenter, Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation; Howard Dayton, Crown Financial Ministries; Dr. Ted Engstrom, president emeritus, World Vision; Roger Erickson, president, Christian Business Men's Committee International (retired); Harry Greene, President, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry; the Rt. Rev. Alden M. Hathaway, Bishop of Pittsburgh (retired); Dr. Charles Hummell, faculty advisor, Intersarsity Christian Fellowship (retired); the Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones, Suffragan Bishop of Virginia; Dr. Beverly LaHaye, founder/chairman, Concerned Women for America; Hon. Ed Meese III; and the Rt. Rev. Dr. John Rodgers. The Pastor's Board of Reference includes Rev. James Ahlemann, Rev. Larry Andes, Rev. George Beaven, Rev. Steve Brimmer, Rev. Amos Dodge, Rev. Paul Frey, Rev. John Guernsey, Rev. Tom Gulbranson, Rev. James Hamacher, Rev. David Harper, Rev. Tom Herrick, Rev. John Hutchinson, Bishop Harry Jackson, Rev. Neil Lebah, Rev. Canon Martyn Minns, Rev. Clancy Nixon, Rev. Bill Roberts, Rev. Dennis Rupert, 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.

scripture, the importance of keeping commitments and the emphasis on living according to God's priorities. Several noted that the practical exercises included in the seminar were especially helpful, and a number plan to sign up for the full LMS, based on the insights provided by the seminar.

New Life Management Study classes will be forming in April in the Washington area. Currently, 60 students are participating in classes that began in January. The LMS is also available at any time on the Internet—register at [ilms@csmin.org](mailto:ilms@csmin.org).

### New LMS Classes Form in April

Spring will be breaking through—and so can you—breaking through debts and disorganization to form new habits in line with Biblical principles. April Life Management Study classes will be organized shortly. Call 703-591-5000 to find out about classes in the Washington, D.C. area.

You can also take LMS over the Internet, starting right away, by logging onto <http://www.csmin.org>. Over the Net or in person, you'll complete daily homework assignments along with practical exercises. Your \$95 registration fee covers the student manual, workbook, a copy of Ken Smith's book *It's About Time!* and trained facilitators. As the flowers bloom, so will you. Don't hesitate to sign up today.

### Joyful Dividends

*Comments on what was most helpful from January 8, 2005, Life Management Seminar:*

- Simple, specific steps to change
- Wisdom shared on overcommitment
- Spiritual aspects of procrastination
- Having God's plan for time management broken down
- Emphasis on living according to God's priorities and the need to budget time as well as money
- Practical application exercises to apply teaching to life
- Motivation to overcome procrastination
- Simple exercises that forced you to think through problems
- Practical solutions for overcoming procrastination
- Applying biblical judgment to everyday folly
- Importance of keeping vows

### PRAISE GOD FOR...

- ◆ Our donors who helped CSM close 2004 in the black!
- ◆ Successful editing of the LMS 6<sup>th</sup> Edition materials by Ruth Kriz and Ralph Solberg.
- ◆ CSM's Advisory Council members.
- ◆ Those who attended the Life Management Seminar at Truro Church on January 8 and those who are currently enrolled in LMS classes.

### PRAY FOR...

- ◆ The right person—soon!—with executive secretarial skills to serve as Ministry Coordinator.
- ◆ Those who will sign up for April Life Management Study classes and *It's About Time!* classes.
- ◆ The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual CSM Fundraising Banquet and LMS Reunion on March 31.
- ◆ Development of a training video for leaders.
- ◆ Continued expansion of the ministry in Peru and throughout South America.
- ◆ Additional churches to incorporate the LMS and *It's About Time!* small group studies into their adult education programs as well as host the Life Management Seminar and the Life Management Study.
- ◆ Continued financial stability for the ministry.

### CSM—At Your Service 24/7

CSM resources are available to you 24/7 online. Just sign on to the Internet and type [www.csmin.org](http://www.csmin.org) to reach our website. You can sign up for the LMS or the Internet Life Management Study classes, read the online version of *Glad Tithings* or view details on other ministry activities and opportunities. Check out the advertisers who support this ministry as well.

You can also order copies of *It's About Time!* and the accompanying small group study guide and leader's guide. The materials can be purchased separately or together on the website or by calling our toll-free number 800-IDL-TIME or our local number 703-591-5000.

## Ruth Kriz: Bringing Fresh Eyes to LMS

Having worked on volunteer editing projects for 20 years, Ruth Kriz assisted with a 30-month long major revision of the student materials for CSM's Life Management Study. The goal was to improve the progression and flow of ideas, reduce any duplication and address student comments from the course evaluations.

Ruth did not take the course before she began editing the workbook because "I wanted to take a fresh look, from the eyes of someone approaching the materials for the first time." In her view, the LMS moves the student beyond "just learning concepts to being able to apply them, building life principles and habits." The 13-week small group study also provides a support group of others who are committed to seeking God's will and doing it.

"I would like to see more people benefit from the LMS. Many Christians give intellectual assent to the truth in the Bible, but they don't always know how to apply that truth to their daily lives. Ken's materials show people how to do that in a concrete way."

In addition to working on the LMS materials, Ruth is on the vestry at Church of the Apostles in Fairfax, Virginia, serves on the prayer and intercessor teams, coordinates Lenten retreats and ministers as a spiritual director. She and her husband Stan have three children.

## Making Your Money Count

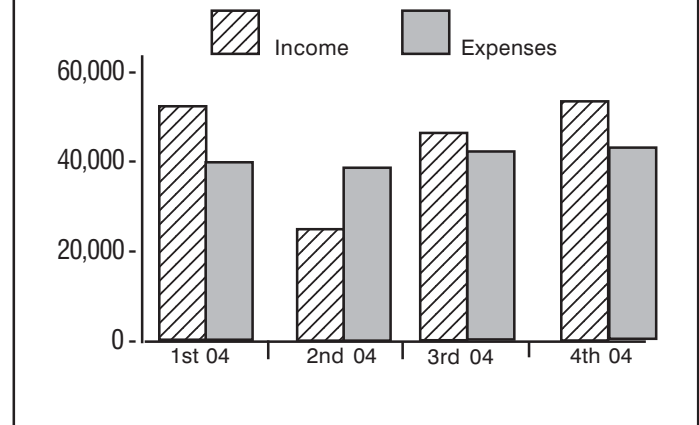
By Dan Smith

Moses asked the Lord to teach him to number his days aright that he might gain a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90.12). Most of us will live a full measure of a normal life expectancy. However, numbering our days helps us to deal with the fact of our mortality and to count each day as precious. Hopefully, too, we will realize that life is fragile and always temporary. It takes more than a little hubris for one to assume he/she will live to old age.

Estate planning, which may be simply writing a will, should be a normal part of a mature person's life journey. In fact, one may write several different versions of a will before meeting his/her final reward.

Sure, there is some gravity involved in the process. For example, especially poignant moments may occur when young parents have to consider who would replace them as guardians of their children if they were to meet an untimely demise. Remember, however, that executing testamentary documents is usually a hypothetical exercise – most wills are eventually replaced because they are outdated by the long life of the testator. Insurance companies make money because they usually win the bet on how long the insured is going to live. At the same time, putting the estate planning process off until there's an illness or other pending event (such as a trip overseas) usually means it won't get done.

## CSM FINANCES 2004



## Christian Stewardship Ministries Advisory Council

CSM's Advisory Council is a network of pastors, lay leaders and heads of Christian businesses and ministries who are committed to applying biblical principles of stewardship to their lives. The group meets three times a year to advise the Board of Directors on setting goals and objectives and developing potential resources for CSM. The following individuals are currently serving on the Advisory Council:

- |                       |                              |                             |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
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Don't see your name? Forgive us and please let us know.

\* designates members of CSM's Board of Reference.

\*\* designates members of the Pastors Board of Reference.

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