



Welcome to 2010 **The Year of The Steward**

The New Year is always an exciting time for me. It is a time for new beginnings, to start from a clean slate and a time for new diets and New Year resolutions! I want to encourage you to set aside some time to be alone for several hours and ask God what He wants you to do in 2010. Where does He want you to go? Whom does He want you to serve? What attitude does He want you to change?

As you reflect on God's plan for your life in 2010, I challenge you to a renewal of your commitment to the Biblical principle of stewardship. I believe that the Biblical theology of money can be summed up in two verses: God owns it all as found in I Chronicles 29:11-12, and Matthew 25:14-30 which tells us about how we are His stewards.

The first statement is fairly straightforward and it is usually an easy thing to say, but living a lifestyle that demonstrates that God owns it all is a much more difficult endeavor! If we fail to truly understand that God owns it all, we will NEVER have a right view of God, nor will we ever understand the Biblical principle of stewardship.

Stewardship is managing the resources of another. When we first think of stewardship, most of us immediately think of financial stewardship. While that is a part of stewardship, it is a very small part. The resources God has given us are too numerous to list, but they include the Scriptures, talents, skills, time, relationships, positions, physical health, mental abilities, and finances. All of these resources are HIS and we are to use them in a way that HE directs and that glorifies HIM!

How does God grade our stewardship? By our faithfulness. I Corinthians 4:2 says, "...it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." Then New International Version renders the same phrase, "...those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." Are you being a faithful steward of the trust God has given you?

How do you think God would grade you on your stewardship? Consider the following questions:

- Do I really believe God owns EVERYTHING?
- Do I act like God owns EVERYTHING?
- Do I manage the resources God has entrusted to me as if I were the owner instead of the steward?
- What are some areas in which I have taken over the ownership? Write those areas down and give them back to God. Ask someone to keep you accountable in your stewardship in those areas.
- Do the people around me see that I am God's steward and that EVERY area of my life belongs to Him?

I challenge you to make 2010 "The Year of the Steward." File this article away and ask yourself the same questions again regularly and especially at the end of 2010. Watch faithfully how your grade improves by His grace in your life. Ask God to turn your world upside down and make His ways your ways, His heart your heart, His economy your economy and His plan for 2010 your plan for 2010.

This article was contributed by Ed Gillentine, Senior Partner with Williams & Gillentine Legacy Planning. Ed and his partner, Chris Williams, are a part of the HOPE network of Generous Advisors. For more information about Legacy Planning, please visit www.wglpllc.com or call 901.435.6894. Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC.

NEWSLETTER
WINTER2010

Hope Christian Community Foundation exists to serve donors and ministries in order to facilitate the building of God's kingdom in our community and throughout the world.

DOWNLINE MINISTRIES: RECRUITING A BETTER MEMPHIS

DownLine (DL) is a local ministry committed to the training and equipping of church, ministry, and lay leadership to more effectively make disciples. Many have heard of the DownLine Institute, in which 120 of the Christian ministry and lay leaders in the city are presently being trained. However, less may be familiar with an incredibly redemptive facet of the ministry taking root in the community, the Emerging Leaders (EL) Program.

The Emerging Leaders program was birthed two years ago in an attempt to maximize the experience of the recent college graduates who were beginning to flock to Memphis to take part in the Institute, while at the same time utilizing these young professionals to bring maximum redemptive impact to our city! Thus, the class of EL which gathers in Memphis each year to participate in the unique, life changing EL experience is compiled of top notch, college educated, missional minded young adults who want to make a difference where the need is great.

While many are originally attracted to Memphis by the opportunity to go through the Institute (one facet of their program), they are quickly educated as to the opportunities to apply their training through DL's ministry partnerships existing within the city. During the course of 12 months, each student not only goes through the Institute, but serves 6-10 hours a week as a volunteer in one of our urban ministry partnerships, where they have the opportunity to minister up close and personal with youth in Memphis, most of whom are from broken homes and have no consistent Godly presence in their lives. On top of this, EL students are required to work a part-time job in a field of their choosing in order to make ends meet while being spiritually challenged and grown through the community, service, and training, both classroom and relational, which they are receiving.

If every EL were to disperse at the conclusion of their 12 month experience in Memphis, returning to their hometowns or pursuing their desired jobs where opportunity is found, their brief presence would still be profoundly impactful on the life of our city because their intimate involvement and impact in the lives of churches, ministries, neighborhoods and individual lives cannot be overstated.

HOWEVER, to a large degree, EL students are NOT dispersing, and their impact is MULTIPLYING! Though this is not necessarily by design, the Emerging Leaders are taken captive by the opportunity to serve and the incredible community with which to serve. They are tangibly growing in their understanding and relationship with the Lord while being able to see their training "pay off" in the lives of others, especially kids in need.

Last year alone, DL had 28 students in the EL class. By virtue of the quality of their experience and the mercy of God on our city, 25 out of 28 decided to REMAIN in the city, continuing to serve with their ministries whether as volunteers or becoming staff. No matter what vocation they pursue upon graduating the program, they are plugged into the growing undercurrent which is redeeming our city by the grace of God, and they are recruiting others to join the fight! The present class is composed of 45 of the sharpest young talent that America has to offer, and they have come to Memphis to make a difference.

A pipeline has begun, and a new story is being written...they are coming to serve, and as they come, they bring a fresh wind of hope with them...a difference will be made, and our city is transformed for Christ!

This article was contributed by Kennon Vaughan, Founder and Director of DownLine Ministries. For more information on DownLine Ministries, the Institute, and the Emerging Leaders program, visit www.downlineministries.com.

HELP GROW HOPE

Biblical generosity can be contagious.

One concern with contagious generosity is that most people who are generous also happen to be private about their giving. Very few Christians talk with their peers about ministries they are involved with and who they are supporting financially. When you do share, focus on passions and actions rather than dollar amounts.

As you are in community with others who are likeminded in sharing the Gospel and pointing others to Jesus, consider sharing your passions and where you have found a worthy investment for your charitable dollars and why. Allow God to use these conversations to draw others to what He is doing in Memphis and the world.

HOPE encourages you to pursue these conversations to grow your knowledge of what God is doing and allow opportunities to get involved in what God places on your heart.



contact
hope

5100 Poplar Ave, Suite 2412
Memphis, TN 38137
M 901 682.6201 F 901 682.8098
www.hopeccf.org

www.twitter.com/hopememphis
Also search for us on Facebook