

Transformations

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Feature: The Stewardship of Leadership (an excerpt from Dr. Jeff Myers's latest book, *Handoff: The Only Way to Win the Race of Life*)

Editor's note: Jeff Myers is a leadership training expert who speaks to thousands of people each year all across the globe. In his spare time, he is a professor at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee. He was also the best man at my wedding many moons ago. So not only is Jeff a great thinker, leader, teacher, and disciple, he's a really good friend too.

Jeff gets stewardship, and in his new book, *Handoff: The Only Way to Win the Race of Life*, he clearly outlines the importance of how leadership and mentoring boils down to being a good steward of the relationships God places in your path. I wanted to share an excerpt with you in his issue of the Abundant Living newsletter, *Transformations*, because I thought it might help you think about stewardship from a different angle. This book really got me thinking about how I can be a better steward and disciple maker, and I hope it will do the same for you. I hope you enjoy this excerpt as much as I enjoyed *Handoff*. —Matt Schoenfeld

Compound Influence: The Secret to an Enduring Legacy

Jeff Myers, Ph.D.

Excerpted from *Handoff: The Only Way to Win the Race of Life*

“Knowing that we are fulfilling God's purpose is the only thing that really gives rest to the restless human heart.”

Chuck Colson

Author's note: I appreciate this opportunity to write about my passion—passing the baton of godly faithfulness—using an example from Matt's passion—preparing faithful stewards for God's kingdom work!

Shortly before he died, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to pass the baton to Timothy, a young man he had mentored for years. Here's what he said:

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, [2] and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Tim. 2:1-2, ESV).

Notice that there are four generations listed: Paul, Timothy, “Reliable men,” and “Others.”

Those who influence to the fourth generation can cement their influence for centuries. This is true for evil as well as for good. “I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me” (Exodus 20:5 ESV).

Some years ago I began teaching a leadership class for people going into youth ministry. Wanting to encourage them toward good stewardship, I developed a lecture entitled “How to Become a Millionaire on a Youth Pastor’s Salary.” No one *ever* missed that class period.

It’s a pretty simple idea, really. I demonstrated how saving 10% of a low ministry salary starting at age 23 could give you more than a million and a half dollars in a retirement fund.

Then, just so they could see the power of compound interest over four generations, I asked my students to guess how much money would be in that fund if it were left untouched during their lifetime, their child’s lifetime, their grandchild’s lifetime, and opened only upon the death of their great grandchild.

It’s over six *billion* dollars.

That’s the power of persistent financial investment of a small amount of money over four generations. And it’s just money—it’s going to burn, and you can’t take it with you.

What would be the cultural—not to mention spiritual—influence if you trained one person to be a trainer of trainers? It’s just four people deep. Yet the impact is exponential—to the power of four.

From Shoe Clerk to Global Evangelism

One of my favorite stories about the power of influencing others across generations is that of Edward Kimball, a Boston Sunday school teacher in the 1850s. Working with young men, he placed a lot of tools in a lot of toolboxes. Many of those boys probably never bothered to pull them out.

But one boy did. He was a shoe clerk named D. L. Moody. Twenty-one years later, Moody became America’s most well-known evangelist. On one of his trips, Moody helped spark a spiritual awakening in London. A local pastor, F. B. Meyer, was inflamed with evangelistic zeal, and began placing tools in toolboxes. Preaching in America some years later, Meyer had a transforming influence on a student named J. Wilbur Chapman.

Chapman became involved with the YMCA, which as a strongly Christian organization at the time was a terrific way to put tools in toolboxes. Through the YMCA, Chapman discipled a former pro baseball player named Billy Sunday.

Sunday traveled all across America preaching evangelistic crusades—handing out tools, so to speak. One crusade was organized by a group of North Carolina businessmen, who, pleased with the crusade’s success, scheduled another one the following year with Mordecai Hamm as the evangelist. Hamm preached for three weeks. During one of the services, a lanky country boy came forward and gave his life to Christ.

That boy was Billy Graham who, during his decades of preaching, shared the gospel with two billion people.

Everybody's heard of Billy Graham. Lots of people have heard of Billy Sunday and D. L. Moody. But almost no one has heard of Edward Kimball, the humble man whose faithful discipleship of boys has changed the world.

If Edward Kimball had not faithfully placed tools in toolboxes, imagine how the world would have been different.

Faithfulness, Not Fame

More than two millennia ago the prophet Ezekiel cried out, “[I] sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none” Ezekiel 22:30 (ESV).

This generation desperately needs people to risk heartbreak and stand in the gap for them. Will you be there?

Shortly before his martyr's death at the hands of Adolph Hitler, German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer asked a penetrating question:

Who stands fast? Only the man whose final standard is not his reason, his principles, his conscience, his freedom, or his virtue, but who is ready to sacrifice all this when he is called to obedient and responsible action in faith and in exclusive allegiance to God—the responsible man who tries to make his whole life an answer to the question and call of God. Where are these responsible people?²¹

With all of my heart, I want to raise my hand and call out, “I’m right here!” I can’t say that I know the outcome, or that I’m without fear. But I can trust the one who said, “Those who sow in tears will reap with joy.”

The Power of Four starts with you. You’re number one. Find a number two and start passing that baton!

Jeff Myers, Ph.D. is president of Passing the Baton International www.passingthebaton.org and associate professor at Bryan College www.bryan.edu. To obtain a copy of the book, go to: www.handoffbook.com.

Faith In Action: Abundant Living Testimonies

How God is using Abundant Living around the globe to help His people:

Since we've begun using the Abundant Living Personal Finance Organizer and money management system, we've saved countless hours each month managing our finances. Because we now have a simple system to organize and keep track of all our financial affairs, we have a lot more time to focus on other pursuits we love like playing with our kids and working out. This tool really works! —Ann and John, Shawnee Mission, Kansas

After attending Abundant Living, the need to focus on financial freedom became clearer to me.

—Jay, Lakeview, Ohio

I took the Abundant Living Finance Course and loved it. It has given me a new outlook on my finances—strengthened the things I was doing correctly and brought me closer to what God expects of me. I highly recommend anyone and everyone take this class—young and old alike.

—Mischeal Williams, Oak Harbor, Washington

The Abundant Living material has helped me greatly to make wise use of the gifts God has blessed me with. It helped me glorify Him.

—Participant, Gardner, KS

Has the Abundant Living ministry helped you? Please drop us an e-mail and we'll share your testimony in a future issue of Transformations.

Funny Money

CATHY



Tips and Encouragement

Tip: Be a good steward of your leadership abilities. Make sure you have a Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy in your life.

Paul was the spiritual father of Timothy. Barnabas encouraged his friend and partner Paul. Timothy was a young man being mentored who had loads of potential.

We all need a Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy in our lives. We all need to be a Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy as well. Great spiritual growth has occurred in exponential ways in my life every time I've had a mentor. We all need a Barnabas who can be that trusted friend and partner in a mutually beneficial and encouraging relationship.

And just as Dr. Jeff Myers teaches in his new book *Handoff* (see Feature article), we also need to be intentional about being good stewards of our relationships. We also need a Timothy in our lives, someone we can love, mentor, and invest in. Take a moment to explore your relationships and see how you can hand off the baton to a young disciple.

Look for the Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy's in your life. Here are some questions that can help you get started:

- Are you being mentored by someone?
- Do you have someone that you can invest in as a spiritual big sister or brother type?
- Do you have a friend that you serve as the key encourager for?
- Who is your Barnabas that exhorts and encourages you when you need it?

Notes and Quotes

Editor's note: In keeping with the theme of our feature article, try substituting the word "stewardship" for leadership in each of these quotes.

Leadership is communicating to people their worth and potential so clearly that they come to see it in themselves. —Steven Covey

The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership. —Colin Powell

Leadership should be born out of the understanding of the needs of those who would be affected by it. —Marian Anderson

Men make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better. —Harry S. Truman

Abundant Living Toolbox: Hidden Treasures

Over the last five years, I've had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with a wise older man named John. I feel like I have an advantage in life because I have access to the wisdom of his 70 plus years on earth. Every nugget he shares is like a hidden treasure. The key lesson I've learned from him has to do with the most important thing in life. It's not knowledge, or wealth, or power, or influence. It's not fame, or family, or even "Christian service." The key thing in life, like Paul said, is love—"The greatest of these is love."

The *Hidden Treasures* small group Bible study will use the theme of love to help you and your church learn loving ways to handle money so that God's love can be shared in power. This training tool can equip your folks to be generous givers and generous lovers.

- **Hidden Treasures: the secrets to abundant living**

The Hidden Treasures bible study includes:

- Six 60-90 minute lessons on personal finance and stewardship
- Practical exercises to help you set up your spending and debt reduction plans
- Discussion and prayer time focused on the theme "Do the loving thing with your money"
- No training needed to lead the study
- Cost: \$12 per workbook (couples may share)

- **[Click here](#) for more information or to order the study for your group or church today.**

All resource sale proceeds go to support the Abundant Living ministry.

Abundant Living Ministry News

- **Abundant Living Single Moms Conference Set for September 6, 2008, in Kansas City.** Abundant Living will host a special conference this fall in Kansas City to specifically help single moms with money management, financial coaching, parenting skills, and more. Would you like to practice generous giving by sponsoring a mom to attend? A gift of \$100 will cover the basic costs for a mom to attend the conference. Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to Abundant Living at the address listed below. You will receive a prompt gift confirmation.

Better yet, would you be interested in helping us host a similar conference in your city? If yes, please contact Abundant Living executive director, Matt Schoenfeld, at: matt@abundantlivingministry.org.

- **New Abundant Living Books Available in November 2008:** Beacon Hill Press (www.bhillkc.com) will release three new personal finance books by Abundant Living author, Matt Schoenfeld, this fall. The series includes books on creative ways to make ends meet, getting out of debt, and basic investing information and strategies. To pre-order copies of the book, please contact Abundant Living at: 1-877-434-9878, 913-710-5012, or matt@abundantlivingministry.org.
- **Prayer requests.** We would love for you to join with us in prayer for the following issues and concerns:
 - God's provision for the Abundant Living ministry
 - Churches to partner with Abundant Living so we can offer our life-changing workshops.

- Single Mom conference. Abundant Living is planning a conference in Kansas City for single moms in 2008. Please pray for event sponsors and volunteers to help us reach those moms who could use some help with financial training and other issues facing single moms

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Editor: Terry D. Cooper

If your organization is seeking expert editing services, please contact Terry at tdc1821@sbcglobal.net or 816-220-9003.

Instructions

If you would like to financially support this ministry, you may send your donation to:

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