



Proclaiming Christ's Love in Mililani and the World:

Building For Eternity

Mililani Community Church

Volume I, Issue 4

Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendars for these stewardship campaign events:

September

Home Bible studies on stewardship

Sermon Series: Time to Build

October 9

Commitment and Silver Anniversary Dinner



Don't forget those pennies!

Inside this issue:

- Pastor's Corner 1
- Transforming 2
- Catch the Vision 3
- In God We Trust 4
- Dinner Invitation 4

Pastor's Corner

Rick Bartosik, Pastor

Seeing Yourself as God's Investment Manager

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1)

While walking on my treadmill this past month, I read Randy Alcorn's great little book, The Treasure Principle. I was struck particularly by the first of six keys to understanding the Treasure Principle. Key #1: *"God owns everything. I'm his money manager."*

Thinking biblically about our possessions involves learning to think like a "steward." A steward carries no sense of entitlement to the assets he manages. He is simply managing assets for the owner's benefit. He knows that he is ultimately accountable to the owner for how he invests those assets.

Since God is the Owner and we are the managers, we

need to adopt a steward's mentality toward the assets He has *entrusted* – not *given* – to us! (Alcorn, 24)

Randy Alcorn writes: "Whenever we think like owners, it's a red flag. We should be thinking like stewards, investment managers, always looking for the best place to invest the Owner's money. At the end of our term of service, we'll undergo a job performance evaluation: *'For we will all stand before God's judgment seat ...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God'* (Romans 14:10, 12)"

When we realize we are stewards rather than owners we can more easily see material possessions as secondary to our life and purpose.

Some people live a frugal lifestyle because they are

afraid of the future. And fear prevents them from giving sacrificially to God's work.

But God calls us to be faithful managers of all our resources. We don't have to live in fear of loss through circumstances beyond our control. God has no shortage of resources. He can entrust to us whatever He chooses whenever He knows it is best. And He has promised to care for His children (Matthew 6:28-33).

In September we will have an opportunity to study all six Treasure Principle keys in Sunday School or in a Small Group.

I hope you will join us for this wonderful study of the principles of biblical stewardship.



Building For Eternity

Transforming Your Finances: Building a Life of Financial Obedience

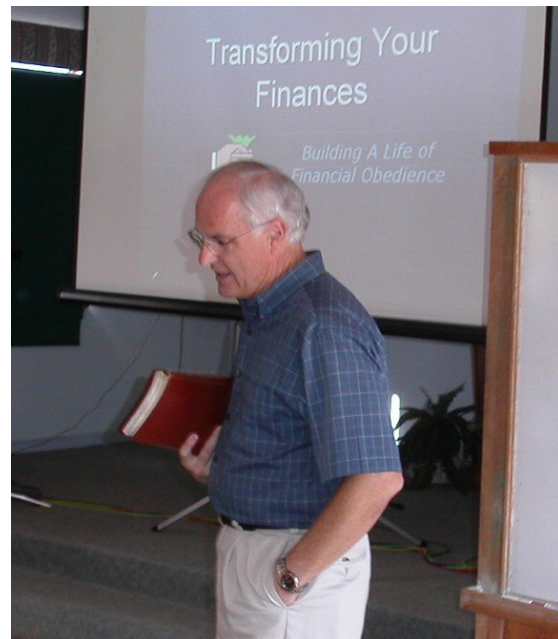
Did you know that 2,350 Bible verses, one-sixth of the Gospels, and two-thirds of Jesus' parables refer to our use of financial resources? Why does so much of the Bible touch on the theme of money? And what does the Bible say about how we should handle our money and finances? At the "Transforming Your Finances" workshop for MCC members held on Saturday, July 30, 2005, Gary Summers, the Assistant Pastor at Grace Community Church (our sister EFCA church in Kona) and a certified public accountant, helped members discover why our spiritual health is so dependent on our faithful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us.

Having counseled many Christians in desperate financial straits, and having experienced first-hand how a life of financial obedience transformed his own life, Pastor Summers is intimately familiar with the financial traps (greed, deceit, envy, pride, and foolishness, Mark 7:21-22) that can cause worry, grief, marital discord, and financial bondage in our lives and turn our hearts and minds away from a pure focus on God. Pastor Summers is therefore passionate about his ministry to share with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ God's plan for overcoming these financial traps and building a life of financial obedience to God's Word.

Pastor Summers gave MCC permission to share the following checklist that he developed for achieving God's life-transforming plan for each of us (additional notes of explanation jotted down at the workshop are in parenthesis and italicized):

- Search God's Word daily to learn His principles of finance.
 - * *God Owns It All. Psalm 24:1-2*
 - * *God Will Provide All You Need. Matthew 6:31-33*
 - * *God Must Be Your Only Master. Luke 16:13*

- Read a chapter of Proverbs daily.
- Commit to integrating God's principles into your financial life.
- Deed everything to God. Put it in writing.
- Establish a Giving Covenant (The Treasure Principle, page 94).
- Be a slave to God only.
- Spend less than you make.
- Save some amount every month.
- Live by a budget, regardless of your income.
- Learn to live on 90% of what you earn. (*Then you can freely give 10% to God.*)
- Faithfully keep a record of all expenditures, by category.
- Keep track of the cash you spend.
- Keep your check register current daily.
- Reconcile bank statements monthly.
- Wait 7 days before making any major purchase -- give reason a chance over emotion.
- Keep only 1 credit card. Destroy all others. (*The only exception is if a second credit card is used for business expenses and is repaid immediately upon reimbursement by your employer.*)
- Pay off all credit card balances monthly.
- Sacrifice to accelerate debt repayment. (*Debt shifts one's*



focus from God.)

- If you're in debt, get out. If not, stay out.
- Never lie to creditors. (*If you're in trouble, admit it. Creditors are willing to help someone who is honest.*)
- Never co-sign for a loan. (*The Bible prohibits this.*)
- Pay all taxes when due.
- Sell unused items.
- Borrow items instead of buying.
- Make your financial life accountable to another.
- Give up your rights. (*Do it God's way.*)
- Give to God first.
- Tithe -- Try it, you'll like it!
- Live for the line, not the dot! (*The dot represents our brief moment on earth; the line represents eternity. So live for eternal purposes.*)

Building For Eternity

Catch the Vision for A New Generation

Cori Omura

On any given Sunday, you can walk by Portable 10 at Mililani Waena Elementary School and hear singing, laughter, stories, bible verse memorization, and more. What's going on? Church is in session for the Preschoolers of MCC. The children enjoy Circle Time, and then complete an arts and crafts project before enjoying a snack. If you continue down the walkway to Portable 12, you are likely to hear music playing as toddlers clap along, or play with toys.

What does it take, each Sunday morning, to get ready to welcome these children into a loving, godly environment? The set-up team arrives at our storage locker at 7:00 a.m. to load up the van with equipment and supplies: mats, folding tables, bins of books & toys, CD players, snack supplies, soap and first-aid kit, safety gates, playpen, etc., and unload it all at the school. Preschool and Nursery team leaders arrive before Sunday School to set up the classrooms. After church, it all goes back to storage. We are especially grateful to the tireless set-up teams who bring everything back and forth every Sunday.

With the recent increase in attendance, a move was made to split the original group into two: Nurs-

ery (ages 0-2) and Preschool (ages 3-5). Although this has been wonderful for the children and staff, it has doubled the set-up load. Imagine two rooms to set up and childproof now!

A particular challenge has been the very nature of the classroom we use; being the Music class, it is filled with all kinds of fascinating musical equipment, such as bongo drums, xylophones, and ukuleles. We are constantly vigilant in training the children to respect the classroom and the teacher's desk (meaning no banging on bongos!). It has also been an opportunity to be a blessing to the music teacher, Ms. Ayson. With the beginning of this school year, the children have used some of their offering money to purchase a little gift to welcome her back to school.

While we are extremely appreciative of the use of the classrooms, we eagerly look forward to the time when we will have our own facility. According to Taryn de la Sierra, Preschool

and Nursery coordinator, "Mililani Mauka is a growing community with lots of families with young children. We can really reach out to them with the nursery and preschool ministries...it will also be wonderful not to have to pack up all our stuff at the end of church. Rather than rushing to pack up, I'd love to spend time getting to know the families of our children better." Our vision is one of breadth and depth.

How are we working to achieve our vision? On Father's Day, besides making a cute goodie bag for their dads, the preschoolers also made a special gift for their Heavenly Father—a decorated milk carton that they pledged to fill with coins to help build His house. They have been busily doing things to earn money, such as redeeming HI 5 cents bottles and cans, extra chores, etc. According to her mom, Kelsi Akana made her brother Jordan's bed for him "because I can get money for that, for my Father's house, yeah?" Christine Daugherty is

already working on filling her second milk carton bank. Remembering that it was a little boy who gave up his five loaves and two fish to feed a multitude, we can rejoice that God can use even his littlest children to bring glory unto Himself.



Lindsay Sasaki and Jenna de la Sierra are holding their milk carton banks and Joshua de la Sierra is displaying his collection of HI 5 cans

Building For Eternity

IN GOD WE TRUST: Investing in Eternity, Penny by Penny



I think it's God's way of starting a conversation with me and reminding me to trust Him."

There's a story told about a very wealthy man who, whenever he saw a penny on the ground, never failed to stop, pick it up, gaze at it for a long, silent moment, then smile and put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. A woman who had witnessed this scene more than once thought it rather absurd that a man of such means would waste his time to pick up a single penny. One day, after seeing this man pick up yet another penny, the woman could stand it no longer. She approached him, mentioned that her daughter was a coin collector, and asked him whether the penny he had picked up was of great value.

Smiling, the man reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. "Look at it," he said, "read what it says."

"United States of America," she

read.

"No, not that; read further," he said.

"One cent?" she asked.

"No, keep reading."

"IN GOD WE TRUST?" she asked.

"Yes!" he exclaimed. "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it. If God drops a message right in front of me, whom am I to pass the coin by? When I see a penny, I pray, stop to see if my trust in God at the moment. I pick up the coin as a response to God, acknowledging that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it's God's

way of starting a conversation with me and reminding me to trust Him."

At the beginning of the Stewardship Campaign, MCC members and attenders were given Chinese take-out boxes that had a picture of a penny inscribed with the words "IN GOD WE TRUST". The box was a tangible reminder to save our pennies and trust in God to provide the resources to build on the land He entrusted us with.

Terry Tanaka, who has enlisted the help of some of our children to help him count the pennies, reports that since the boxes were first distributed in April, \$700 in pennies has been offered to the building fund. That's 70,000 "IN GOD WE TRUST" reminders! Isn't God amazing?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!

All adults and children who call or have called
Mililani Community Church home
are invited to join us at our 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner

Sunday, October 9, 2005

5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Trinity Church Central Oahu
at Mililani Technology Park**

This complimentary dinner and program will be a time to
remember, rejoice, fellowship, sing praises, eat,
and pray over our vision for the future,

Proclaiming Christ's Love in Mililani and the World:

Building for Eternity

You won't want to miss this special event.