



## Setting Priorities

**How to be effective in the tasks God has called us to do** by Jim Hurn

**I have learned over the years that whatever task may come before us, and in whatever realm -**

- **Planning** its achievement
- **Prioritising** toward accomplishing it, and
- **Making time** for its completion - are key ingredients to finishing that task.

A very wise man named Solomon wrote a book called Ecclesiastes and made the following statement that was relevant for the day it was written, and the day we are living in now: *"Those who are wise will find a time and a way to do what is right."* (Ecclesiastes 8:5)

Just consider the ingredient of time -

- **Time is inelastic** - it can't be stretched
- **Time is irreplaceable** - it can't be reclaimed
- **Time is indispensable** - it can't be done without
- **Time is on short supply** - but high demand

The dictionary says of time, "It is a non-spatial continuum in which events occur in apparently irreversible succession from the past, through the present to the future."

I like what the little boy said: "Time is what God made to stop everything from happening at once."

Along with the planning, prioritising and making time for completion of a task, success will also depend to some degree on the **resources** we have available and the level of **experience** we bring to accomplish it. A point to note - if we are involving **other people** to assist, choose them carefully, as adding numbers to the work sometimes hinders rather than helps our effort.

You may have heard the story about four people named *Everybody*, *Somebody*, *Anybody* and *Nobody*... An important task was to be done and Everybody thought that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did. Somebody got angry, because it was Everybody's job. But Everybody thought Anybody could do it; Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Most of the tasks I am involved in now revolve around preparation of material for speaking; also travel and interaction with people in a mentoring or counselling situation. I list below some tips that have been a help to me:

- I always prepare material at least a week before it is required and include more material than necessary, together with several possible alternatives.
- I try to do short tasks outside of what I consider my normal work time - perhaps early morning, or late night, to redeem some time, and that makes me feel I haven't interrupted my normal working routine. In fact, I feel I have purchased some extra time for other work.
- Have a passion for God and you will see windows of opportunity and revelation presented to give instruction for the task at hand.
- There is a great story in Acts 10 where Peter was weary from travelling and at about noon stopped at a house where lunch was being prepared for him.

## THE INSIDE RUNNING

2010 has been different. From a subdued economy and sporting highlights, to tragedy at Pike River, it's been a bumpy ride.

At Promise Keepers, we have seen the impact of the economic downturn on many men and families. Yet in the midst of difficulty there have been hundreds of extraordinary stories of how God has been involved and provided security, transformation and hope. One of these men's stories is on each DVD.

This month we enclose the remainder of the year's WiseChoices DVDs. They cover what should be our top priorities; encountering God, and marriage/family.

As we plan for 2011, we are assured that God always has something new for us and will walk with us through any difficult situations we face.

I am looking forward to the summer break and a change of scenery. With four children at home and one adult son flatting, the realisation is strong that everything has a season. Our mission starts at home as we seek to live out the Seven Promises. Influencing our world, the Great Commandment and Great Commission all need to grow from home.

Take every opportunity to create great memories, celebrate milestones and seize opportunities.

May God be close to you this summer.

*John*

John Subritzky



## Articles on WiseChoices DVD ROMs - Here are excerpts of some of the exciting resources on the DVDs:



### Rites of Passage for Your Daughter by Pam Farrel, Doreen Hanna

The conversation with the group of young women that day had been one of excitement and laughter as they planned the upcoming special Night of Celebration. Each girl's family would join in a special rite-of-passage ceremony that would culminate with each princess's father reading a personalised blessing over his daughter. However, after the meeting, one princess was not as excited as the rest of the... [Read more: Issue #4](#)



### Rites of Passage for Your Son by Robert Lewis

Many sons today have a sense of themselves, a premonition that they were created for something significant, if only someone would notice them! Someone like a father.

With great clarity and regal pronouncement, manhood ceremonies tell a son, "I notice you! You are important to me! You are important to the kingdom of God! You have an important masculine destiny to..." [Read more: Issue #4](#)



### How Do You Relate? by John Eldredge

You and I have a way we relate to others. It was formed out of our childhood, mostly, and it weaves together what we do to avoid rejection, and what we do to get a little praise.

That is why the way we relate to others is high on God's list for the transformation of our character. It opens up a door to a whole world of joy and integrity and discovering we can live a very... [Read more: Issue #5](#)



### The Importance of Apologising by Nikki Bray

There are 3 components which are essential for a good apology. The first is to state "I am sorry" and it's important to be specific and state what you are sorry for. Secondly we need to say, "I was wrong" (which seems to be the hardest for people to say)... and then finally we need to say...

[Read more: Issue #5](#)



### 'Pastor, We're Not Having Sex!' by Doug Weiss

As soon as they all were seated behind closed doors, Tami blurted out: "Pastor—Terry and I aren't having sex!" Pastor Phil's mind reeled: Not this couple. No way, he thought.

His mind instantly raced back to his Bible-school training. He could not recall any lessons he might have had on "The Sexless Marriage". In fact, he couldn't remember ever counselling a couple who didn't want sex. In the end, all he could say was: "Terry, Tami—you should fast and pray."

Couples like Terry and Tami avoid sex for definite reasons. After counselling for almost 20 years, I know. Let's look at some of these obstacles... [Read more: Issue #5](#)



### Growing Great Marriages by Ian and Mary Grant

Commitment is the rainbow of promise around a relationship. It is the promise that you have given up all other loves and you will do what it takes to make this one work.

Recently modern culture has moved away from the concept of committed love, to the idea that feelings should be trusted in all circumstances and decisions made on the basis of what is best for me now. In the western world we have a generation of young people who are commitment-shy; many believing in keeping their options open. However those who study satisfying love relationships tell us that the only way real love can be experienced and the only way deep love will grow is... [Read more: Issue #6](#)

**Note:** To access these articles and books, MP3 audio and iPod videos, load the DVD into your computer. On Windows PCs, if the DVD autoruns, select "Explore" instead of a DVD player. Otherwise, open the DVD ROM by selecting My Computer > RIGHT click on WiseChoices DVD and select from menu > Explore - to access WiseChoices DVD ROM files. From the toolbar, select Views > Medium Icons to see pictures of file contents.

*Promise Keepers acknowledges the support of these people and organisations in providing material for the WiseChoices DVDs -*

*Christian Broadcasting Association, Derek Prince Ministries NZ, Dove Ministries, Family Life NZ, Focus on the Family, Man in the Mirror, Ministries Today, Parents Inc, Ransomed Heart, XXX Church.*



### My Family - Issue # 4

**Featured Speaker:** Ian Grant always zeros in on the important issues in a humorous and practical way. He covers several key areas that challenge us to step up, and be intentional and creative in parenting and grandparenting.

**Drama:** A hard-hitting drama called "Just Like You" that could be close to home.

**My Story:** Lawrence Alderson tells how he moved from a life of crime and drugs to God. When he came to Christ he was miraculously healed. You never know what the stories are of people around you!

## WHAT'S ON THE DVDs

**Humour:** GPS satellite; Tablecloth removal; Vase auction.

### Bonus Features:

- **Pornmobile Confessions** - Will tells why he decided to turn from drugs and porn and how the addiction was difficult to break.
- **PK Music** - "Great is Thy Faithfulness" and "How Great is Our God" - Christchurch 2010.
- **Dads Return Home** - A wonderful demonstration of family bonds as families reunite.
- **Bride's Promise Ring** - wedding affirmation of a dad.

### DVD ROM:

- **Study Questions** for Ian Grant's message.
- **GPS Event Photos and Testimonies** from Christchurch and Dunedin 2010
- **Weekly Studies** for Men's Small Groups
- **Bible Reading Plans**

### Articles:

- **Rites of Passage for Your Daughter** - Pam Farrel & Doreen Hanna, Focus on the Family
- **Rites of Passage for Your Son** - Robert Lewis, Focus on the Family
- **A Christian Bar Mitzvah**

### • Blessing Your Children

- **A Father's Leadership** - Derek Prince
- **Healing Marriages and Families** - Bill Subritzky

**Website Links:** Family sites

**MP3s** of the main videos. Also Derek Prince on "How to be a Father" courtesy DPM NZ

**iPod Videos:** Ian Grant, music and testimony.



### Encountering God - Issue # 5

**Featured Speaker:** Jim Hurn has some great points on encountering God in a close and meaningful way by having a good vision, dealing with issues, opening your heart and then responding to Him. Jim is always a popular speaker who can share his experience easily.

**Drama:** "Obey the Voice!" The importance of doing what the Holy Spirit prompts us to do. It really can change lives!

**My Story:** John Rose tells us how dealing

# Christmas gifts with real meaning!



See your friend or relative impacted by God at Promise Keepers "Game On 2011". Buy them a ticket as a Christmas present, then encourage them, pray for them and come to Promise Keepers together!

See [www.promisekeepers.org.nz/game\\_on](http://www.promisekeepers.org.nz/game_on) or ph. 0800 PROMISE (0800



Back view

Make a statement that provokes thought and discussion about our culture. Yes! It is great to be in love with your wife!

Yes! It is OK to be a man – especially a good man!



**I Promise**  
Dr Gary Smalley

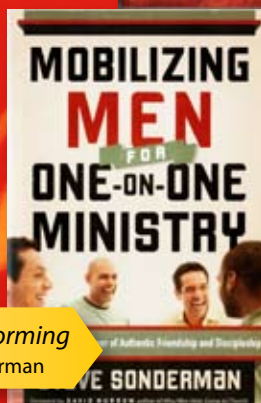
A great marriage is built on a foundation of trust, not behavioural skills! Creating security is easier than you think. It takes only five simple promises to each other. Promises you can most certainly make - promises this book will equip you to keep. Make your marriage the

safest place on earth. Gary Chapman brought us the five love languages but they are only effective when there is a basis of trust. \$29.00 + \$5 p&p



**How to Build a Life-Changing Men's Ministry** Steve Sonderman

This is an excellent textbook on Ministry with Men by Steve Sonderman. He has built a successful Men's Ministry by faithfully working with these principles over the long haul. \$35.00 + \$5 p&p

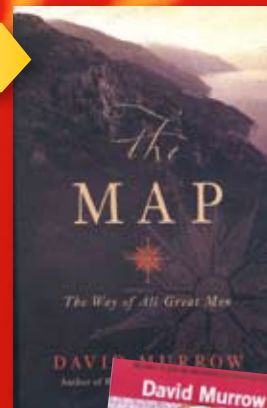


**Mobilizing Men for One-on-One Ministry: The Transforming Power of Authentic Friendship and Discipleship** Steve Sonderman

The problem Men's Ministries face today is that the men aren't growing in their faith and pastors can't meet every guy's needs. While breakfasts and golf outings still have a place in Men's Ministry, the solution is not how good your program is: It's how good your relationships are. Steve Sonderman shows how the most effective ministry happens one-on-one – with one man walking alongside another man. Learn how to make disciples who make disciples. \$30.00 + \$5 p&p

**The Map**  
David Murrow

David Murrow goes on a thrilling chase to find the map that guides men to spiritual maturity. How do you move from submission to Christ as a new Christian, to strength and finally to sacrifice? \$29.00 + \$5 p&p



**Bonus!** Buy the book now get David Murrow's new, exciting **Church for Men DVD** free!



with very adverse business circumstances has strengthened his faith.

**Humour:** 4 x 4 rollovers; Water skimming car; loop the loop car.

**Bonus Features:**

- **Porn Producer** - A porn producer reflects on his choices.
- **PK Music** - National Anthem
- **PK Coaching** - What is Coaching and how it can benefit a church.

**DVD ROM:**

**Study Questions** for Jim Hurn's message plus his PowerPoint.

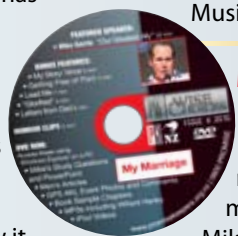
**GPS Event Photos and Testimonies** from Wellington and Tauranga 2010

**Bible Reading Plans**

**Articles:**

- **How Do You Relate?** John Eldredge
- **Pastor, We're Not Having Sex** Doug Weiss
- **Who Am I in Christ?** Bill Subritzky
- **"Game On"** Early Brochure
- **MP3s:** Jim Hurn and National Anthem

**iPod Videos:** Jim Hurn, Drama, John Rose and Music



## My Marriage - Issue # 6

**Featured Speaker:** Mike Gorrie looks at the husband's role, how history affects our marriage now, and intimacy.

Mike's faith and experience in counselling couples comes through in this message.

**My Story:** Vince describes his journey from a difficult domestic situation to following God more closely with his wife and family.

**Humour:** Raptor lake skim; tree fail; dead fly; and Darth Vader voiceover.

**Bonus Features:**

- **Getting Free of Porn** - Craig Gross explains why men need others to help them break porn addiction.
- **Lead Me video** and the story behind it.
- **PK Music** - "Glorified" Auckland 2010

• **Letters from Dad** - The power of written encouragement.

**DVD ROM:**

**Study Questions** for Mike Gorrie's message plus his PowerPoint.

**GPS Event Photos and Testimonies** from Auckland 2010

**Articles:**

- **Growing Great Marriages** by Ian and Mary Grant - sample chapter
- **Love Dare** - sample chapter
- **Men Are Like Waffles** - sample chapter
- **Red Hot Monogamy** - sample chapter
- **Marriage Prayer** - Man in the Mirror
- **The Importance of Apologising** - Nikki Bray
- **Husband of the Year Awards** - humour
- **"Game On"** 2011 Early Brochure

**MP3s:** Mike Gorrie, Music and an interview by Ian Grant with Willard Harley, author of "His Needs, Her Needs"

**iPod Videos:** Mike Gorrie, Music, Vince's Story and Letters from Dad

Scripture says he was hungry, but while it was being made ready, he went up onto the roof to pray and there God gave him a vision of what was the next phase of ministry that he would be involved in. His spiritual hunger far outweighed his natural desire and he was rewarded for it. (Acts 10:1-21)

- Learn to block out uninterrupted periods or units of time for yourself.
- Many of us shuffle attention between people, other projects, and permitted interruptions, like phone calls and emails. All requests or tasks that come before me, I normally run past my "4 Ds": **Defer / Drop / Delegate / Do.**
- **Defer** - the timing looks wrong; more information is required; talk through with others.
- **Drop** - not in keeping with my gifting; good idea but not for me; learn to say "no".
- **Delegate** - I know who can do this well, network with and refer to others you have confidence in.
- **Do** - confirm the person you're working with has authority and get the task in writing/email and not just talk.

A quick comment on stress -

**Positive stress** - In its positive aspect, stress can help us to concentrate, focus and perform, and can often help us to reach peak efficiency. Many people, in fact, do their best work when under pressure, then when the challenge has been met they take time to relax and enjoy their achievements.

**Negative stress** - Stress becomes negative when we stay "geared up" and don't or can't relax after meeting the challenge. In today's world, where many situations are aggressive, it's no wonder some people think stress is a way of life. Unfortunately, when stress becomes a constant ongoing cycle, our health and wellbeing can suffer.

In conclusion, practise your **decision-making skills** and use these skills to solve problems by selecting one course of action from several possible alternatives. These skills are a key component to remaining effective in the tasks God has called us to do.

*Talent is plentiful, but persistence and determination are rare.*

# Do it Now

by Bill Subritzky

*"Now is the accepted time, now is the time of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 6:2)*

One of the aspects of our flesh with which there is constant conflict is the urge to postpone doing the things we should be doing now. Instead of attending to matters when we should do so, we leave them until another day. Sometimes this day never comes. As a result we miss out on a blessing, or worse still, we create a major difficulty for ourselves. By the time we are prepared to do it, the time is too late. The opportunity has gone. As the Bible says, "to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Frequently I meet a person who knows me, in a public place such as an airport or shop, and I find they have a need for prayer. I pray for them immediately. Recently we went to Auckland Airport to meet an elderly couple arriving from Australia. As we met, I realised that the wife was walking with difficulty and the husband had another major problem. They were on their way to another destination and we only had a few minutes together. Despite the fact that there were hundreds of people around us, I prayed for their healing there and then. A few weeks later I received an email from them telling me that both of them had been miraculously healed from years of sickness at the moment I had prayed for them.

The opportunities to witness to our Lord are anywhere and everywhere. It is easy to do so in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Do it now" is our motto. Every day Pat and I pray together, read our Bibles, proclaim scripture aloud and sense the presence and the power of God. Every day we are blessed. Every day we hear His voice. Every day we feel the call of God on our lives. As we respond to that call, proclaim the Gospel and pray for the sick we always know the anointing and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus warned us to watch for His return, "Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming". (Matthew 24:42)



## The Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper

**A Promise Keeper is committed to:**

1. Honouring Jesus Christ
2. Pursuing vital relationships with a few other men
3. Practicing spiritual, moral, ethical, and sexual purity
4. Building strong marriages and families
5. Supporting the mission of his church
6. Reaching beyond racial and denominational barriers
7. Influencing his world



## PK Events 2011 - Book Early!

- ◆ Dunedin 29-30 July 2011
- ◆ Christchurch 12-13 Aug 2011
- ◆ Tauranga 26-27 Aug 2011
- ◆ Wellington 9-10 Sep 2011
- ◆ Auckland 7-8 Oct 2011
- ◆ 0800 PROMISE (77 66 47)