



THE INSIDE RUNNING

The Bible has plenty to say about money and possessions – over 2,350 verses. Work and finance are core parts of our identity as men, yet they are seldom talked about in church – unless it is in relation to giving! This month we have a strong emphasis on finance.

This summer I had a steep learning curve on credit cards. I had been using American Express to gather points for travel. I underpaid an AMEX account by \$487. Interest over the next two months was \$366.22 – even after paying the outstanding balance on the next account. Apparently they charge interest on the next closing balance, not the unpaid amount. If there was a closing balance of \$10,000 that's what they calculate interest on, even if that closing balance is paid in full on the due date. Ouch!

Financial stress is tough on everybody and is hard on relationships. This month we inspire and equip men to step up and make wise decisions with money.

"Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom." Proverbs 4:7a.

John

John Subritzky

CONNECTING SUNDAY TO MONDAY



Men want their work to be significant, to count for something important. Whether the goal is provision for family, financial security or helping others by making a difference in the world, men want their work to be worthwhile.

Although the role of provider for a family has been redefined, men still feel the burden of responsibility. It is part of our identity. The urge to produce fruit, create and reproduce is deep within us.

When there are financial struggles or the job seems mundane and meaningless, then any joy in work evaporates and it can become an intolerable burden. The answer is never to stand still or look back. The solution involves planning, prayer, courage and action.

The attributes which you need to succeed at work – strength, action, risk-taking, assertiveness, analytical ability and decisiveness are not generally given a place in church. Men can be pushed towards imitating a PC, nice, gentle Jesus. This can cause a disconnect for men – men who are good, not nice.

Some of the most successful Men's Ministry activities are business groups and task-oriented groups. These are the areas where men's giftings are accepted and esteemed.

In the church, it is not always possible to see measurable results. In the secular world there are sales budgets to meet, manufacturing quotas and turnover targets. Compare that to the experience on Sunday. David Murrow thought about it and added it up: *Over a year his church "conducted 104 regularly scheduled worship services, 7 special services, some 250 adult classes, 600 committee meetings, and 1,000 small-group meetings and ran through a \$750,000 budget to produce exactly zero new adult followers of Jesus Christ. We gathered. We worshipped. We loved each other. But we produced no crop."*

Every one of us can be significant. Act in a disciplined way. Plan our finances. Work diligently and faithfully. Love our family. Take care of those in need. Keep an eye out for brothers who may be struggling. Leave no man behind.



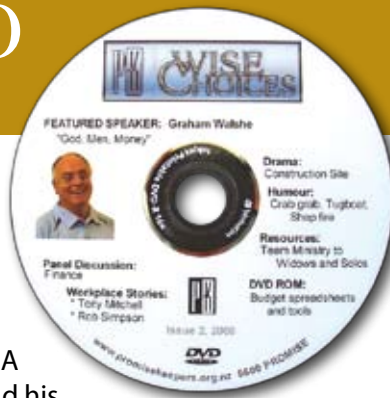
ESTATE PLANNING

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed a wife with whom to share his fortune. One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit 20 million dollars." Impressed, the woman obtained his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother. Women are so much better at estate planning than men!



WISE CHOICES DVD

Featured Speaker: Graham Walshe is the Chief Executive Officer of Brother International in New Zealand and has won the Brother award for CEO of the year within the organisation. A committed Christian, Graham and his Chief Financial Officer pray each morning



for the Company and the staff. He has served on the Board of Promise Keepers. Watch the DVD and listen with your heart to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying about you and how you see your work and finances and how to approach it differently in the future. | 35min |

Every calling is great when greatly pursued. Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr

Panel Discussion: Hear some practical advice on finances from men who represent a wide range of experience. This is good for discussion with your men's group as well as for individual application. | 20min |

Workplace Stories: Two men's stories about their life at work. **Tony Mitchell** started a marine engineering consultancy and works on super yachts. Since this video was made he has gone on to open offices in America and Europe. Each step of the way, his men's group has been a strong influence. **Rob Simpson** works in drainage and talks about being a witness for Christ in a true "blue collar" workplace.

PK Drama Team: Construction Site. The very popular Promise Keepers drama team bring worksite witness to life using humour and a powerful example.

Humour: We need to laugh so here's a few clips to help us.

Resources: A short promo explaining the power of men's team ministry to widows, solos and people in distress. How can you use the influence of relational ministry to change your community?

DVD ROM: Budget spreadsheets and links to websites with tools that are helpful with finances. Access on your computer using Windows Explorer.

WiseChoices

Are you receiving both these resources? You or your friends can request free samples or subscribe to receive regularly.



Men of Integrity devotional:

Sent bi-monthly, this booklet containing daily Bible verse and commentary readings is small enough to slip in your pocket to take to work and check out during your break or lunch time. It covers a topic during the week and then offers a wrap-up at the weekend. Includes group discussion questions.

WiseChoices DVD:

Also bi-monthly, this DVD tackles a key topic each issue. It also has bonus material and resources to create an interesting and powerful package.

Contact Promise Keepers to request samples, subscribe or update your preferences.



"I shovel out and God shovels in – but God's shovel is always bigger."

R.G. LeTourneau – Legendary inventor of earthmoving equipment and extraordinarily large shovels.

LeTourneau L-2350 is still the world's largest front-end loader with a capacity of 72 tonnes per bucket load. In addition, R.G. LeTourneau invented the selfjack-up offshore oil platform. For 30 years he also travelled extensively preaching and speaking.



Dunedin 25-26 July
 Christchurch 15-16 August
 Tauranga 29-30 August
 Wellington 12-13 September
 Auckland 10-11 October

Summer discount ends 30th April