

SMI *From My Perspective...*

"For what we were in word... we were also in deed." II Cor 10:8-13

The way we live our lives makes a statement about who we are. At times, our private existence confirms the public representation. We live what we believe. Sometimes though, a mask is worn unveiling an inner reality of inconsistency. What is outwardly portrayed is nullified by our actions. We say one thing while doing another.

Integrity brings forth a consistency in our everyday lives that drives right behavior. It is something internal we practice – a standard by which we live. It implies values that are complete and confirmed within us that provide soundness to our actions. A strong sense of right and wrong prevails when integrity is present. A sense of something beyond self compels us to moral and ethical strength – always.

Integrity is learned from that which is modeled before us. From exposure to the people of our upbringing and social environments and the behavior that is lived out around us, our character and integrity are formed. Ultimately, integrity has its origins in God Himself. With God, there is no shifting shadow or variation. He is consistent and true. His words equal His actions. God will do what He says He will do. God's character and His values are the standard of measure for people of integrity. For those who belong to the Lord, integrity should be a way of life.

At SMI, we hold integrity very high. It is our desire for our students to have modeled before them such depths of character and integrity – to be intentionally placed among people, seasoned ministers, who can live lives of integrity before them and before God. Rather than merely pursuing positions of leadership and ministry, it is our prayer that these future ministers would develop an extreme sensitivity to and passion for integrity.

Dr. Lynn Anderson says in his book *They Smell Like Sheep*, "A shepherd of God's people – a spiritual leader – is 'the kind of person God-hungry people want to be like.' In other words, such an individual is a person of character, a man or woman of integrity to the very marrow of his or her bones."

Hebrews 4:12 says, "The Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do." No matter what is portrayed outwardly, God sees what is inwardly. God sees deeply. And it is by this we will be held accountable. God desires truth in our innermost being. Integrity matters because it honors God.

Jimmy R. West
Executive Director

MINISTRY FOCUS

Overwhelmed by the Majesty of God

Recently I've been thinking of how blessed I am to have been under the guidance of so many Christ-loving men. The internship at Grace and Peace Fellowship facilitated by SMI is no exception. I thought I would share a short excerpt from a recent letter one of my pastors wrote to the church —


"God's great goodness and beauty is scarcely known in a world preoccupied with lesser things. This obsession with created things rather than the Creator might seem to us something unfortunate. The biblical record shows that it is actually a disaster of the highest order. It reduces human life to an empty, trivial show. Missing the center of reality demeans, twists and perverts lives designed for freedom, meaning and joy. The world lives in a perpetual state of emergency, calm though the waters may appear.

We believe our spurned and rejected Creator has acted! He has lovingly pursued us in our folly, suffered bitterly to remove the curse, and offered to us a Kingdom." Pastor Kurt Lutjens

I thank God for seeing fit to put me under the care and training of men like this. No high-powered programs or longing for a finely-tuned social club but seeking to be overwhelmed by the majesty of our God.

Luke Morton is pursuing a Master of Divinity from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis. He is a pastoral intern at Grace and Peace Fellowship, an established Presbyterian church. Luke is planning to minister in a church or church plant hopefully in the Pacific Northwest. He continues to write worship songs and musical arrangements of hymns which he has recorded on two CDs as he offers his abilities in leading and facilitating worship.

Under the Influence...

Those who serve as Supervising Mentors are SMI's unsung heroes. Seasoned ministers who volunteer their time and service to invest in the lives of future ministers play a vital role in the ministry of SMI. The impact of their service and sacrifice will be multiplied for a lifetime as they invest personally and spiritually in individuals who will influence many through their ministries. Their role is significant in the Kingdom and highly valued by SMI. We at SMI say thank you. 

mentoring

student contractor

ministry involvement...

youth : college : adult : pastor
: pastoral intern : chaplaincy :
international ministries : counseling

Areas
of
Service

• Avenues of Giving

Donors have several options when giving to SMI:

1. Mail check or money order.
2. Monthly contributions can be automatically deducted from your checking account. Automatic contribution (EFT) forms are available on the website or from students.
3. Credit card via our website.
4. Many companies will match contributions made to non-profit organizations through their employee matching gifts program. We have received matching gifts from companies such as Macys, Exxon, AXA Financial, etc. as a result of donors' efforts to access these resources. Maximize your gifts by checking with your company to see if they have a matching program.
5. Many companies are limited in supporting religious organizations; however, employees can re-direct gifts through United Way to SMI. Simply communicate with your company's United Way representative to initiate this process.
6. Stock Donations: Individuals can take advantage of a tax deduction for appreciated stock gifts. Contact the SMI office for details.

"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." — Helen Keller

• Spread the Word!

Remember, it's not just students who can benefit from the ministry of SMI — churches as well as schools and individuals benefit also.

“I Have a Dream”

I have a dream that SMI will fulfill its God given dreams— following His directives, experiencing full potential.

Please join us in praying for His continued leadership and provisions.

Pray we would receive the leadership and financial resources needed for the greatest ministry impact.

The next generation is worth the investment. Impacting the Kingdom exponentially is the call. God is worthy of our full response.

influencing shepherds hearts
inspiring biblical stewardship

Our Vision

Our hope is that students will not only be blessed financially through SMI but they will be enriched spiritually and personally as well. During the time God has entrusted them to our care, our primary focus is to invest in this next generation of ministers. Our goal is to provide relevant resources to encourage and enhance their personal and professional growth. It is our desire that this investment in tomorrow’s ministers will retain life-long effects with far-reaching rewards as they develop and equip those under their leadership and impact those who are involved in their ministries.

Investing in Tomorrow’s Ministers Today

- *Personally*
- *Professionally*
- *Financially*

Our Mission

SMI empowers the next generation of ministers to maximize their opportunities today in order to increase their effectiveness tomorrow.

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A higher purpose.*

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Sojourning