

# SMI *From My Perspective...*

“Biblical stewardship is:

Living life in such a way that God can give me away.”

*Perspective from a Mennonite Believer*

One of our goals at SMI is to influence biblical stewardship – in the lives of our students as well as our ministry partners. Not just stewardship of money but stewardship of life – whether time management, various resources, or life direction.

Such decisions are never easy. Stewardship requires daily choices – choices that deny the comforts of self, choices that manage daily activities for desired results – and the will to sacrifice for the sake of something else, for something Greater. There is a desire to participate in something Glorious. Though the choices may cut deeply at times – sacrifices always do – the thrill and joy of witnessing something Greater far exceeds the pain of the decision and sacrifice. The end result is a life lived for God’s glory – a life of biblical stewardship.

From our viewpoint at SMI, we are in a privileged place to see God working every day. We not only have windows into the lives of our students and their ministries but also the many decisions they make. We have glimpses into the lives of our ministry partners through their sacrifices of self and their decisions to participate in God’s Kingdom which brings about financial exchange, diligence in prayer or service.

I wish I could share with you the many stories. Each story enables us to see God working intricately in lives across the U.S. and around the world. We get a small glimpse into something glorious – this thing called stewardship – this expression of worship. At times, it’s inspiring. Sometimes it’s disappointing, but always, God is working, faithfully yearning to see all of us make the hard decisions.

Let me invite you to consider your story. Max Lucado has said, “It’s what we do for Christ in the here and now that will make a difference in the then and there.” Every choice matters. Every decision makes this difference. Every day. What do our daily activities and decisions say about our management of the resources God has given us? To what extent are we living a life of stewardship – allowing God to give us away for His purposes?

Jimmy R. West  
Executive Director

## MINISTRY FOCUS

### Dinner with a Lonely Stranger

As we walked down the steps into the large room where dinner was to be served we encountered a room that was only in the beginning stages of being filled up. There were a few voices talking & laughing, a few people spread around the room. In front of us & slightly to the right was a lady sitting alone at a table. Lori had made her way over to her.

We spent the evening talking. As we heard her story, we found out that our new friend, Madeline, had lost her job a month before. She had been laid off & as a result lost everything. She was now homeless. She spoke of how scary it was on the streets, & yet she talked of how **she was trusting God to take care of her.** She spoke of how she had to avoid others on the streets, most of whom were into heavy drinking and drugs, & how she feared them. She had found an abandoned house that she would sneak into & sleep at night. She would have to go in late & come out before sunrise to avoid being seen.

Madeline had never in her life experienced anything like this, & she never could have imagined having to go through such a thing. Her first inclination was to go to a church to seek help. Very often she would receive a set of clothes, a meal or sometimes both, but all the while she was left to live in this dangerous and scary situation. She desired to get back on her feet & find a job, but how could she without a shower & clean clothes & a place to stay?

The church in offering help needed her to come back on Tuesday. Upon hearing this, we invited Madeline to stay with us until then. The next two days we told her she was our special guest, & we sought to treat her that way. We took her to get some new clothes, a nightgown & some of her favorite munchies. She was able to sleep without fear of being found or attacked. She was able to shower, relax & even watch some of her favorite TV shows.

After that, Madeline was able to find a shelter where she could stay while she looks for a job. We are offering her rides to church & to find a job as needed. Please pray that she will be able to rebuild her life, but most importantly pray that we would be able to be an example to her of how our God cares so much for the weak & the hurting & calls His people to love them as He loves them. We pray that our time with Madeline will help her (and us) to know our great God in a more real and intimate way.

*Doug & Lori Kothe live and minister in St. Louis, Mo.*

*They are both attending Covenant Theological Seminary and serve at Crossroads Presbyterian Fellowship through small group ministry, marriage counseling, & discipling men and women.*

Sharing Christ requires the effort of boldness and vocal cords.

But sharing the love of Christ requires time, energy and patience.

The hours are long and hard.

But loving people in Him requires just that.

If people truly shared the love of Christ, they would realize how hard it is.



*Memoirs of Ruqaya Naser, an SMer in the midst of ministering to an Iraqi refugee family through a shopping expedition for school clothes...sizing feet and bodies...translating Arabic to explain and teach discounts, coupons and sales.*

SMI  
website



update

coming soon

Refining our communications to better facilitate the possibilities— for those who dare to dream.

keep  
watch

### Spread the Word!

If you know of someone who can benefit from the ministry of SMI, please tell them about our ministry. Remember, it’s not just students who can benefit—churches as well as schools and individuals benefit also.

## Contractor Stats! (2005-2006)

School	Students	Contributions	School	Students	Contributions
Asbury	1	\$30	Moody	2	\$10,200
Ashland	2	\$2,685	Multnomah	1	\$9,574
Bethel	11	\$125,111	Phoenix	4	\$48,697
Birmingham	1	\$10,670	Reformed	5	\$64,045
Capital Bible	1	\$26,035	Regent College	1	\$4,705
Christian Theological	1	\$3,090	Southern Baptist	2	\$1,355
Columbia Biblical	1	\$400	Southern Evangelical	1	\$2,825
Covenant	10	\$64,242	Southwestern Baptist	3	\$24,335
Dallas Theological	40	\$334,428	Talbot	6	\$19,150
Denver	6	\$45,174	Trinity Evangelical	6	\$87,938
Emmanuel	1	\$5,080	The Masters	2	\$7,210
Fuller	2	\$26,650	Tyndale	2	\$23,243
Golden Gate	1	\$5,591	Wesley Theological	1	\$14,355
Gordon-Conwell	4	\$68,175	Western Seminary	3	\$5,485
Grace Theological	1	\$6,585	Western Theological	1	\$35,852
Grand Rapids	1	\$1,169	Westminster	1	\$24,000
International Schools	2	\$1,970	Wheaton	1	\$6,590

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Over 1 million dollars in support of student ministries!

\*Recently approved students

### 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.

Student Ministries, Inc.  
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A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Sojourning