

# Priorities in Stewardship:

- Stewardship as regular component of Worship
  - What part of your worship teaches/encourages stewardship?
- Year-Round Congregational Stewardship
- Scarcity or Sufficiency thinking
- Integrating stewardship into our Spiritual life
  - Offering of Love
  - Integrated with service, using spiritual gifts, hospitality
- Healthy Conversations about Money
- Best Practices
- Reality testing

A steward is someone who has been entrusted with something of value on behalf of someone else. A good steward is that same trusted person who uses the resources given them wisely to benefit the one who trusted them. As Christians, we understand that God has given us time, talents, and treasure. As God's stewards we are accountable to Him for how we use these valuable gifts.

A good steward from our region has given back to God a gift of \$100,000. This gift was given to provide camper scholarships at Camp Judson. Year after year this gift will send boys and girls to camp to hear the salvation story of Jesus, to grow in their faith and for some to hear the call to ministry. This gift will provide at least \$5,000 per year to send say 21(10-17 year olds) and 38 (3-9 year olds). I know God will bless the giver and the recipients of this wonderful act of stewardship.

Each of us is to be a good steward of what we have been given. I ask that you let your heart guide you're giving back to God what you have been blessed with. This may be the time for you to give a gift in cash at this person has done, or a gift in your estate. An endowment like this could provide for continuing improvements at either Camp Judson or Camp Bentley. Your gift could supplement the operations of a camp thus keeping the cost low. If this is a matter I can discuss with you please call me at 605-575-2071. Further Paul Weer our representative from the American Baptist Foundation or Mark Griese

from the University of Sioux Falls Foundation would be willing to assist you. There is no cost to you for either of these folks to assist you.

Your giving back to God will be defined by either your Scarcity or Sufficiency Thinking

Scarcity Thinking says there won't be enough and I can't afford to give any away. It contradicts who we know and have experienced God to be. Our God provides, Our God supplies, Our God blesses. Our God does not punish us for being generous and giving what he has provided to support his ministry.

Sufficiency Thinking says; there is enough and if I am faithful in my giving to God, God will be faithful to me in meeting my needs. God has provided what I have and God will continue to provide as I am generous and faithful.

Sacristy Thinking

I am running out of  
Resources, I have to Hold on  
To what I have

Sufficiency Thinking

God provides  
I can afford to give  
because God will  
Meet my needs.



Its cold today, with freezing rain; good day to be inside. But if Glenn Riley or Don Weibers have to feed or move their cattle they just go do it. There are some rocking chair cowboys who would stay inside.

In the Dakotas you can't let outside influences control what needs doing. In the church of Jesus Christ we have to be the same way. We have a job to do that is more important than our comfort. Our responsibility is to (Luke 4:18) *...to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach*

*deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.*

There is a lot happening in our country and our world that would keep us in our rocking chair, complaining about how bad things are. In our nation marriage is being twisted beyond God's intent for a man and a woman to share life and intimacy. It seems that the "You Cant's" are louder and more demanding than the "You are free to's". World news tells us of unending violence in the Middle East and intentional starvation in northern Africa.

Lee McGlone pastor of First Baptist Sioux Falls tells about getting a speeding ticket on Christmas morning in a small town in Arkansas. He was hurrying to a family gathering and exceeded the posted speed limit of 25 mph in the little town. A local policeman pulled him over. Lee said he thought it was Christmas morning so he would try to talk his way out a ticket. The officer said in an Arkansas drawl, "That sign doesn't say 25 cept on Christmas does it?"

Well Luke 4:18 doesn't say "*...to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised*" except when things aren't the way we want them. The Spirit of God is with us, is our power and our guide no matter what is happening around us. Frankly our city, our nation and our world needs Christ message more in such unsettled times.

We are called to share the good news of Christ in good time and bad times. Good weather and Bad. And God will be with us.