REAL MOMENTUM

A Man & His Money

by Steve Hyland

"Give me a man's monthly credit card bill, his checking account statement and annual tax return and I will tell what things are important to him!" - Steve Hyland

The title of this lesson should be a man and God's money, not his money. Have you ever been without food and basic necessities for some time?

- 1. God owns everything! Psalm 50:12 "for the earth is mine and all that is in it." We are stewards of the resources God gives us while we are on the earth. Stewardship is broader than money and includes all the resources God gives to you to use for Kingdom use.
- **2.** Servants are stewards of God's resources and will be rewarded for being a good servant (Matthew 24:46), not owners and will be judged accordingly. If you were the steward of Lebron's finances and spent 90% of his money on yourself would you be considered a good steward?
- **3. 2Cor.9:6-** "Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will reap generously." Be generous to all people at home, with other family members and church.
- **4.** Be a cheerful giver! (2Cor.9:9) Provide for your family. Give as the Holy Spirit leads you. Acts 4:32-35. Be the answer to prayer. Give targeted to ministries God gives you a heart for vs. general giving to all groups that contact you. Hindrances to giving include- tax deductions, tithe (10% limit reaches goal), high living expenses.
- **5.** Have a monthly budget that you set by major category. Housing cost, utilities, cable TV, car, car maintenance, gasoline, food eating out/ home groceries, insurance (house, car and healthcare), entertainment, giving, school loans. Stay on the same page with your wife regarding finances.
- **6.** Understand how/what you make (gross and net) and spend your money on. **Key levers are increasing income or reducing expenses**. Little things can add up quickly (i.e. \$10 per day to eat out for lunch X 250 work days= \$2500). Plan a budget for unexpected expenses.
- 7. Avoid Debt! Treat it like cancer. Get rid of it. An example is a \$2,000 loan from title max. \$200 per month for interest, 2 years \$4,800 paid in interest still owed \$1950 in principal. Don't live above your means, live far below your means.
- **8. Don't <u>try</u> to keep up with anyone else.** Don't look at just being able to make the payments. New house, new car, college loans. Goal is to not spend a penny on interest payments. As a general rule any asset paid over time is double the purchase price. \$200,000 house costs \$400,000. Car \$20,000 cost \$40,000. School loan \$50,000=\$100,000. Total \$270,000=\$540,000!

My rough monthly budget:

Housing cost - \$0 House taxes - \$300 Utilities - \$300 Cable - \$70 - \$500 Groceries - \$200 Eat out Carpayment - \$0 Gas-- \$400 Insurance - \$200 Cell phones - \$200 Misc. - \$500 Total \$2,670 \$6,000 Income