

MTM Foundation

From: MTM Foundation [charleschandler@mtmfoundation.ccsend.com] on behalf of MTM Foundation [mtmfoundation@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2012 2:21 PM
To: mtmfoundation@verizon.net
Subject: Someone is Spending My Coins



mtm

messenger

Ministering to Ministers Foundation, Inc., Newsletter

April 30, 2012

Someone is Spending My Coins

As pastor I was sitting with my family at home enjoying an evening meal, which was a cherished experience of the day for me. Most often I left the home in the morning and did not return until the late afternoon. Sometime I had to return to the church for a meeting or perhaps make a scheduled visit. On this evening I was relaxed with gratitude for additional, unlimited time with my wife and two small children. What a treat!

Then the phone rang! Have you ever been there? Has this happened to you? Or should I ask, "How often has this happened to you?" Plans are short circuited by an emergency call from a parishioner about a family member in the hospital who is critical or at the point of death. That was the call I received, "Oh, pastor, you need to go to the hospital to see who is at the point of death and needs your visit." With little other information asked for because I felt the press of time to get to the person before the death angel arrived, I quickly polish up a bit, then rush to the hospital.

I prayerfully prepared my heart as I briskly walked down the hall to the patient's room. After gently knocking on

Future Wellness Retreats

Monday, July 16 - Friday, July 20, 2012

**Carson-Newman College
Jefferson City, Tennessee
Co-sponsored by Norton
Institute for Congregational
Health**

**at Carson-Newman College,
Jefferson City, Tennessee**

Monday, July 30 - Friday, August 3, 2012

**Samford University Birmingham,
Alabama
Co-sponsored by Samford**

the door, I carefully entered to offer comfort and encouragement to a dying saint. To my shock, the patient greeted me exuberantly, "Well, hey, pastor, what are you doing out here this time of the night?" Containing my urge to say a family member had placed her at death's door and I was hoping to bid her farewell before her trip into eternity, I responded kindly and pastorally as if it was no bother, no interruption and no stress to me.

We all know there are times when plans need to be interrupted, family time cut short or other changes to respond to crises or emergencies. There are times when we need to "drop everything and run." We want to do that as shepherd. But I learned that evening that I need to be the one to determine the emergency and not the person on the other end of the line. I had to develop some key questions and keen listening skills to determine what really demands an emergency response on my part.

What a blessed privilege it is as pastor to be with an individual or family at the most sacred moments of life's journey: birth, marriage, crises, illness, dying, death. Few people get to share such significant moments. We want to have that privilege to be pastor, priest in those times that can so obviously reflect the presence and work of God. Some of these experiences call for praise. Others call for petition. But we can be there to say a word, represent The Word or otherwise respond redemptively.

Carl Sandburg once wrote, "Time is the only coin you have to spend. Don't let others spend it for you." That experience was spending coins I had saved up for another purpose.

We are talking about more than simply time management. We often have to manage time to get certain tasks done to fulfill obligations or opportunities. The determination of the use of our "coins" must be intentional because we have only so many. Time management plans our time to correspond with known demands. However, my unexpected call disrupted my planned management of time that evening. It was an "emergency" or was it?

Because I did not inquire sufficiently or delve a bit deeper into the current situation of the patient, I let someone spend some of my precious coins I had saved for my family. I determined an emergency is something that will definitely deteriorate if not dealt with in the next twenty-four hours, some more immediate than others. Adjustments to that idea are occurring regularly. I would rather err on the side of compassion than the protection of my coins, but I believe we have to manage our coins, too. Irresponsible spending of my coins certainly causes them to lose value. I want to determine how and when they are spent. Good stewardship and faithful ministry require it. My parishioners will need to help in this definition and response plan.

Someone spending your coins may lead to your discontent or bitterness which may stir irresponsible attitudes and responses on your part. This may result in criticism by

University, Birmingham,
Alabama

Contact us at

[MTM Foundation](#)

for more information.

Non-refundable Registration

Fee: \$50.00 per family unit.

Retreat scholarships are
available.

Click "Donate Now"
to donate to the
MTM Foundation.

[Donate Now](#)

You can help the MTM
Foundation in its ministry by
making a donation using a
major credit card. The
Ministering to Ministers
Foundation is a non-profit
501 (c) (3) organization.

[MTM Website](#)

Contact us:

Charles H. Chandler, D.Min.
Executive Director
Ministering to Ministers
Foundation, Inc.
501 Branchway Road
North Chesterfield, VA 23236

Cathy Ralcewicz
Ministry Assistant and
Director of Development

Linda Serreno
Development Assistant

mtmfoundation@verizon.net

Phone (804) 594-2556

FAX (804) 897-4728

your parishioners and become a factor leading toward their disenchantment which opens the way for conflict. Teaching good stewardship, including respect for each person's "coins", will enhance your ministry and reduce conflict.

Editor: David Al Myers

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



Past Issues of *mtm messenger* Now on Line

If you would like to read past issues of the MTM Messenger, click this link: [mtm messenger](#). Interesting articles, personal testimonies and other information are found in each issue.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to mtmfoundation@verizon.net by mtmfoundation@verizon.net | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Ministering to Ministers Foundation, Inc. | 2641 Cromwell Road | Richmond | VA | 23235