

extensions

building up the church one investor at a time

Summer 2009



Pastor Sam Slaffey

Christian Compassion, Philadelphia, PA

Pastor Sam Slaffey from Christian Compassion Baptist Church in Philadelphia was awarded the first ever Lehotsky Lazarus Award at the 2009 North American Baptist Triennial Conference. It was decided that Pastor Sam exemplified the qualities of leadership and ministry that best represents the spirit for which Harry Lehotsky was known. A spirit of creative passion. Pastor Sam has been described by Pastor Larry Burd (Atlantic Association Regional Minister) as a man who is “God honoring, passionate, inspiring, encouraging, selfless, caring, and a community builder who takes action. He always seems to have a smile on his face and a testimony of God’s transforming work in his life and in the lives of many people he ministers to.”



The Burden –

“Christian Compassion Baptist Church is located in one of the most poverty stricken areas of South Philadelphia – the Point Breeze/Grays Ferry section. Here many people, including whole families, live in dilapidated and abandoned houses. I have preached the funerals of infants who died because of exposure to bitter winter temperatures. I have visited homes



where five or more children slept in one bed or on piles of old coats. I’ve had to feel around in the dark to find a milk crate to sit on as we gathered around a single candle to read the Bible.

Children as young as eight years old are trained by their parents to sell cocaine. Some youngsters at age twelve are already hooked on alcohol or the devastating drug “crack”. Young women and girls sell their bodies for as little as \$2.50, half the price of a packet of cocaine. Incest is a common practice in some families. Young men, as young as nineteen to twenty-two are gunned down or knifed to death in this deadly enterprise of drug dealing. Older people are robbed in broad daylight. Many men and women are illiterate, unemployed, and frustrated to the point of chronic depression. Many contemplate suicide.



With various programs, we minister to the homeless with clothing and food. We help persons addicted to drugs and alcohol by leading many to Christ and developing them spiritually as we see them through rehabilitation.

Although it is sometimes dangerous, we interact with various gang members and have seen the Lord deliver them from that lifestyle. Some who were members of the “Bloods”, the “Crips”, and other gangs are now born-again believers. Some armed drug dealers have given up that “occupation” to follow the Lord Jesus.

Because 78% of all African-American families in the US are headed by females (in 1987 Philadelphia had the highest rate of unwed mothers in the nation), it is a major ministry of our church to give them hope by leading them to Jesus. We teach them parenting skills, personal hygiene and health care, while exposing them to governmental programs to enhance their lives.



Many children, teens and young adults do not know who their fathers are, or where their mothers are. So the church provides positive role models for them. They learn Biblical principles while they have fun and enjoy positive social activities. Single men and women are encouraged to live godly lives. Bible classes, wholesome events, and workshops are key motivators.



It is a priority to reach out to persons who have spent time in prison, both male and female, leading them to Christ. They are assisted in their search for employment, education and housing.

The church’s Eden Ministry focuses on strengthening relationships of engaged and married couples. They are supplied with tools to help them practice good communications and demonstrations of real love.

It is the Lord that gives us wisdom and compassion to serve our fellow man in these dilemmas.” — Pastor Sam Slaffey

Bob Glim

Adult Financial Seminar



Over the past few years God has looked after and blessed the ministry of CEIF immensely. Knowing that we are a financial institution that *has* been blessed even during these turbulent times, we have felt God calling us to serve His Kingdom further. This is why we believe God is asking us to educate the people we serve in the area of personal finances. With the economy affecting so many people, we consider it not only a great opportunity, but vital that we reach out to God's people in need.

Recently, at Triennial, we led adult break-out sessions on finances. We looked at what the Bible has to say about money and how it applies to our daily lives. Afterwards, we were able to talk with numerous people about their own personal struggles and how they were looking to make changes in their lives. Those discussions alone made the session worthwhile, but hopefully we reached many more.

Also, over the past years we have been blessed with the opportunity to serve God by traveling to various regions in the U.S. and Canada sharing about personal finances. This workshop is aimed at providing valuable information about personal finances, offering a greater understanding of the financial struggles facing many people, and discussing why they face them and how to overcome them. We hope to give people answers to questions about money and a "checkup" on their financial health. Using practical and spiritual principles, we seek to have people come away with the skills and information needed to help create financial credibility by improving the management of their personal finances. We have begun to see how God is changing the hearts and minds through these principles He has called us to share.

If you would like to find out how to bring this workshop to your region, please call us at 800-543-CEIF (2343) or email me at bglim@ceif.org.

Bob Glim

Spreading the CEIF Ministry

One challenge CEIF has faced over the years is spreading the word about the ministry. Our best form of advertisement has been word of mouth. Many people never have the opportunity to hear about the CEIF ministry unless they hear about us from a friend. So, if you know of someone who might want to make a difference in God's Kingdom with their investment dollars, we invite you to refer them to us.

Another great way for us to spread the word about the ministry is by visiting the churches we serve and sharing for a few minutes from the pulpit. This gives us the opportunity to not only share about the CEIF ministry, but also to personally answer any questions that people may have about CEIF and get information into their hands. Plus, visiting churches is a great way for us to see firsthand how God is working in our churches and the surrounding communities. The third way to spread the word about the CEIF ministry is by having churches show a video during one of their services during the year. This gives churches the opportunity to share our video at a time that is most convenient and opportune for them. One example of this would be during a stewardship series. Over the years, however, the single push back we have received from our churches is that our 5 minute video is just too long. Recognizing this issue, we launched a new CEIF promo video at Triennial. It is under 3 minutes in length and can now serve the requests of our churches.

If you would like to see our latest video, we invite you to visit the Investments section of our website at www.ceif.org. Also, if you would like to request a copy to show at your church, please email us at ceif@ceif.org or call us 800-543-CEIF (2343).



Bob Glim

Triennial's Youth Financial Lesson Plan



The idea of developing a program for youth on finances started with the realization that we needed to reach people before they built destructive financial habits.

CEIF has been doing financial seminars for the past number of years around the conference and we have too often heard people say they wished they had heard what we had to say years before. They said that if they had just known some of the right steps then they might have had the time to change, or not make the mistakes that have gotten them into trouble.

The statistics back this up. It is generally accepted that most people establish their financial habits by age 14. It is at this age that most people will have worn the "grooves" into which they will fall for the rest of their lives; and whether they are trained habits or not, these habits are being worked into their lives each day.

The other observation we found is that many pastors, and especially youth pastors, are not trained in this area at all. It was with this as our impetus that we decided to develop material that was both modern in its approach, and interactive enough for the youth to engage in.



What we have developed is a five-week study that deals with the main areas critical to developing good financial habits. These areas are one's beliefs, giving, saving, debt, and balance. Each lesson consists of a set of 10 response-provoking statements or unspoken social norms in our society. Along with this we have included some general thoughts to spark the conversation, along with some Bible verses that speak directly to the topic being discussed.

To date, we have had a couple of youth pastors in the Conference test pilot the project for us and help us improve it where they saw a need; and this month, we were able to bring out a shortened version of it to present to the youth who were at the Triennial Conference in Winnipeg. We were encouraged by the feedback that we received from both the youth who were there, and the youth pastors that were helping out.

In the end, we had 60+ pastors and staff request copies of the program at our booth for their churches. If this is something you might be interested in requesting for your church, please give us a call. It is a free service that CEIF has developed to equip the church of tomorrow. We believe the stakes are too high to leave it to others.

Les Collins



Care
for a
"Green"
Newsletter?

Do you have a desire to enjoy our CEIF Newsletter and be "more Green" as you do so? We've got just the thing for you! Visit www.ceif.org and sign-up for receiving an e-mail of our Newsletter right to your inbox! Or just send us an e-mail with your name and e-mail address and we'll be sure to sign you up!

Nugget for your Noodle

Be more concerned with your character than with your reputation. Character is what you really are; reputation is merely what you are perceived to be.

-Unknown

Rate Review

US Term Certificates*		
	Under \$5000	\$5000 and up
Five Year	3.25%	3.75%
Canada Term Bonds*		
	Under \$5000	\$5000 and up
Five Year	3.25%	3.75%

*Rates good through August 31, 2009 and subject to change without notice.

This is not an offer to sell investments or a solicitation to buy. The offer is made only in states/provinces where authorized and solely by the CEIF Offering Circular/Information Statement.

Colleen's Corner

Triennial's Impressions



In my life, I have found that expressing God's life lessons to me are best noted and better remembered by placing them in bullet points rather than paragraphs.

Sometimes it is in the "lack of " words that we speak more. So here are a few bullet points - nuggets if you would - which God deposited into my heart from my first ever Triennial experience:

- A connected Body moves with more efficiency and creates a stronger influence than a solo part.
- God's heart beats for relationships.
- It is enough in God's eyes for me to not do anything but just "be" with someone and let that be ministry. Presence is more necessary than actions sometimes.
- Beauty brings hope.
- Everyone is a walking story to be shared, if one would just take a moment to stop... and listen.
- Smiles and warm greetings can be an opening for God to minister to hearts, especially my own.

- God knows me so intricately and personally that He knows what makes my heart beat and lie down in peace- and He provides it. He loves to love us!

- When we judge we don't have time to love.

- It is being faithful in the everyday, mundane parts of life that God is looking for from me- not just those moments where He has me swept along in experiencing moment after moment of His hand at work.

- Nothing speaks more than being incarnational, the hands and feet and mouth of Jesus.

- Building and forming relationships is the way of incarnational ministry.

- Give thanks; it is the quickest way to stop the seed of bitterness or guilt.

What about you? Might I encourage you to take a few moments in your day today and still yourself before the Lord to contemplate what God has been teaching you lately? It is amazing what nuggets are laying there awaiting to be listed.

Colleen Stegmann

PR-ayers & PR-aises

Please pray for:

- A church in PA to find a buyer for their building.
- Healing for investor Anna's son that has bone marrow cancer.
- Health and healing of eyesight for investor Marilyn.

Be sure to check out www.ceif.org to add your own prayers and praises!

Living H₂O

"His master replied, 'Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"
- Matthew 25:23

White Heaven Meat Loaf

- 1 1/2 lb. Hamburger
- 1 cup Crackers, crushed
- 1/2 cup Milk
- 1/4 cup Catsup
- 2 Eggs, beaten
- 1/2 tsp Salt
- 1/4 tsp Pepper
- 1/4 tsp Garlic powder
- 1 Tbl Worcestershire sauce

Mix all ingredients well. Shape into loaf baking pan.

Top with sauce:

- 1/4 cup Catsup
- 2 Tbl Mustard
- 3 Tbl Brown sugar
- 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce

Bake at 350°F for 1 hour.

Submitted by: Maureen Keutzer, LaMoille, IL



If you have a special recipe that you would be willing to share with others, please e-mail us at newsletter@ceif.org.

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