

## Creativity at Work for the Kingdom

In 1995, Steve Perry was a Lutheran pastor, preparing a sermon on the parable of the “shrewd steward,” when he



first sensed a desire to help people to expand their thinking about serving God’s Kingdom. After pastoring for 17 years, Steve had seen a need to bring people’s networks, hobbies, and influence to serve God and help their neighbors because “so

often we’re creative in our business life, but not for the Kingdom.” Steve’s wife, Susie, had been raised in an affluent family, so together, they understood the unique challenges confronting Christians with significant resources.

A few months later, in the midst of some soul searching about the direction of his calling, Steve met with Bob Shank and was encouraged to step back from his pastoral work to pursue his vision while spending time with his teenage children who were getting ready to leave home. Bob introduced Steve to Jim Johnson, a Christian CPA with a Kingdom vision compatible with Steve’s. With his wife’s blessing, Steve left his role as a senior pastor and began to work with Jim Johnson to launch the Foundation for Christian Stewardship, a Christian community foundation that serves those who want to impact the Kingdom by providing them creative giving strategies and tools that provide favorable tax treatment and enhanced stewardship. The foundation provides counsel in identifying ministries that match people’s passions without compromising ministry goals and visions. They unearth opportunities for donors in a safe environment, producing valuable and lasting Kingdom investments.

## Journey of Faith

A year later, Steve joined the first class of *The Master’s Program*, which led him on a journey of faith. Steve realized that even though he knew the direction in which he was headed, he didn’t have a road map. The first few

years required steps of faith and discernment as Steve explored where he should be investing his time. *The Master’s Program* gave him the framework for discerning what God had in store for him. Armed with valuable questions, Steve sought to find out what God wanted for his life and career.

As a founding board member for the Foundation for Christian Stewardship, Steve is the “keeper of the vision and protector the culture.” His “passion is not about transactions, but about discipling people.” The desire to disciple people in their giving stems from the first fifteen years of their marriage, when Steve and Susie lacked mentors that shared both their faith and their means. The Foundation for Christian Stewardship was a platform that could provide mentors to people who were in need of guidance with their Kingdom giving. Steve now acts as a mentor, friend, and discipler for people who want to grow in their understanding of stewardship. The culture at the foundation is about discipling and helping others, regardless of the benefit to the organization.

Steve is clear about his Calling. When God called him to ministry in 1971, his words to Steve were “gather my people.” It took Steve three years to discover what that meant, and as a result, Steve has always been a gatherer. During his three years in *The Master’s Program*, Steve was able to apply that vision to the seasons of his life and ministry. As a pastor, his strength was being with the people in his church. Steve and his wife, Susie, are compatible in their calling to bring people together to lead others to Christ. Steve strives to create comfortable environments for Christians to come and experience community while learning about God’s views on stewardship.

Due to Steve’s time and energy working through principles from *The Master’s Program*, this Revolutionary has been able to use his unique gifts, talents, and experiences to help others in their stewardship journeys, and make a difference in the Kingdom!

*Steve and his wife, Susie, live in Newport Beach, Ca. and attend Mission Lutheran Church in Laguna Niguel, Ca..*

*Training Leaders for the Revolution*