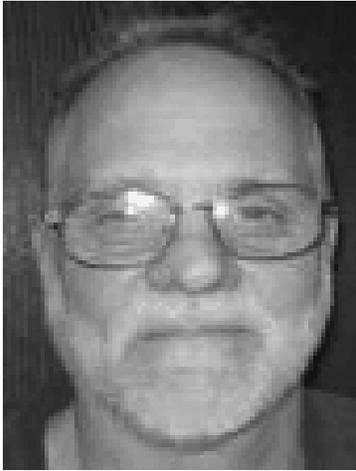


Gospel Gazette

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BEATING THE ODDS



Steve “Got Rhythm” Larsson

I was born in Washington State to a loving mother and father. The only problem is, both of them had severe drinking problems that contributed to a divorce when I was (9) nine years' old. After the divorce I went to live with my mother but not for long. Soon I was being shipped back and forth between my mother and father, which made it hard for me to develop any long term friendships or do good in school. One thing I did have going for me though was a praying grandmother who encouraged me and showed me what “faith in action” looks like. I know my mom and dad really did love me but they had a big problem with alcohol and arguing when they were drunk. Even though my parents drank a lot I didn't think much about it because it had always been that way. What is ironically sad about all this is I also started drinking with some friends when I was only 14. I ended up dropping out of high school and drank even more.

I married my sweetheart a few years later, we had two children and things seemed to be coming together, but I couldn't quit drinking. And just as my parents did, my wife and I ended up getting divorced after we had two children. I began to look for meaning in life.

I remembered what grandma had said about Jesus and how He could save anyone who turns to him in faith.

I came to the Salt Lake City Mission and gave my life completely to God. I finally found that everything wasn't my fault nor was it all somebody else's. I am learning to

take responsibility for my own action but not for those of others. I've also tasted the peace of God and what joy really is. When I drank I was depressed, angry and frustrated. Being sober in Jesus brings real life and the promise of a bright future.

COUNSELING



Have you ever felt like giving someone you care for advice but felt you were not qualified to do so or you didn't want to say the wrong thing and make things worse? 1 Thessalonians 5:14 is a great verse to lean on in counseling someone through something.

And we **URGE** you, **WARN** those who are **idle**, **ENCOURAGE** the **timid**, **HELP** the **weak**, be **PATIENT** with **everyone**. *1 Thessalonians 5:14*

(1) Exhort-urge - parakaleo: To call to a person (para-“to the side,” kaleo “to call”). To call on or entreat, to urge one to pursue some course of conduct. To encourage to move forward.

(2) Admonish-warn - nouthesia: A putting in mind, ministered by the Lord through the word, to correct, training by the word, encouragement or if necessary reproof, to correct by discipline, to train by act, to warn.

(3) Comfort-encourage - paramutheomai: To soothe, cheer up, console, encourage to the sense there is that of stimulating to the earnest discharge of duties.

(4) Support-help - antilambano: To help the weak and needy, to take, to lay hold of, to take instead of or in turn, to partake of.

(5) Be patient - makrothumeo: Long suffering, to be long tempered, having patiently endured, to have patience and to be patient.

PSALM 41

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

¹ Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

² The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

³ The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

⁴ I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.

⁵ Mine enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish?

⁶ And if he come to see *me*, he speaketh vanity: his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; *when* he goeth abroad, he telleth *it*.

⁷ All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt.

⁸ An evil disease, *say they*, cleaveth fast unto him: and *now* that he lieth he shall rise up no more.

⁹ Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.

¹⁰ But thou, O LORD, be merciful unto me, and raise me up, that I may requite them.

¹¹ By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me.

¹² And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever.

¹³ Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting.

Amen, and Amen.

Why Mary Smiled

Mary Thompson decided to give \$10,000 to the major fund drive of her favorite charity. But first, she donned her gift-planning hat.

She remembered that, usually, it's better to donate appreciated stock than write a check for the same amount. Locating a recent statement from her stockbroker, she reviewed her list of holdings. She noted that her stock in OPQ Corporation was valued at \$100 per share. Checking the evening paper, she found that the stock was still trading at that price.

Years ago, Mary purchased \$10,000 of OPQ stock. Since then, through stock splits and remarkable appreciation, her investment has grown to 1,000 shares valued at \$100,000.

She considered her options. If she sold 100 shares of stock, she would have \$10,000, less the sales commission, to give the charity. However, at tax time, she would owe capital gains tax on the growth portion of the stock, the appreciation amount. Since the 100 shares had a cost basis of \$1,000, the taxable amount would equal \$9,000. Applying a capital gains tax rate of 28 percent to the \$9,000, she calculated a tax bill of \$2,520.

Now it's true she would likely be able to eliminate this tax with the charitable deduction resulting from her gift. But, then, the deduction would not be available to offset other taxable income.

Mary smiled. She took pleasure reminding herself that, instead of selling the stock, she could instruct her broker to transfer 100 shares directly to the charity's stock account. Then, because the charity is a duly qualified charitable organization, it could sell the stock without incurring any taxes on the gain. And what's more, she would receive a charitable tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock, a value based on the mean trading price of the stock on the day of the gift.

If she sold the stock and gave the cash, she'd receive only the one benefit of the charitable tax deduction. But if she gave the stock directly to the charity, she'd receive two benefits: the charitable tax deduction and the bypass of capital gains.

When she bounced the idea off her accountant, he affirmed her prudence and, knowing her healthy financial condition, encouraged her to proceed. He also reminded her that the charitable tax deduction of \$10,000 could only be applied against 30 percent of her adjusted gross income, whereas a cash gift has a deductibility ceiling of 50 percent. However, if she wasn't able to use all of the deduction in one tax year, she could carry forward the unused portion into the next year, up to five years.

Once Mary made the gift, the broker sent a written confirmation to the charity indicating that the stock had been transferred and that the broker was holding it as agent for the charity, awaiting selling instructions.

Mary smiled again as she removed her gift-planning hat. She felt good about making her gift.

What about you? Do you have appreciated assets such as stocks and bonds that you could make a tax-wise gift?