



WALKING alongside

strengthening congregational community ministries

»» Financial Literacy Ministry ««

»» RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

In a time of national economic crisis, many American families have experienced budget strain, debt, and difficulties beyond their imagination. The purpose of this Backpack is to help you discover the resources necessary to plan your own financial literacy ministry for your community and congregation as well as give you personal insight on the spiritual application of financial responsibility and freedom. These resources offer information on savings, help for debt redemption, and spiritual direction for living a simple lifestyle. Some of these resources focus on specific goals such as financial integrity or home ownership.

Books

- *Individual Development Account Program Design Handbook: A Step by Step Guide to Designing an IDA Program* by Tim Flacke, Brian Grossman, and Colleen Dalley (published by the Corporation for Enterprise Development, 1999). Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) match funds saved by the individual for the purchase of a home, starting a personal business, or furthering their education. This handbook provides information for those who are interested in beginning this program in their community.

- *The Secrets of Money: A Guide for Everyone on Financial Literacy* by Braun Mincher (published by Braun Media, 2007). This book can be a good resource for teachers and volunteers. It explains credit and debt, rental and lease agreements, real estate, insurance, taxes and more.

Journal Articles

- "Churches Tackle Worshipers' Money Management" by Liz Wolgemuth. *U.S. News and World Report*. (2008, April 11). <http://www.usnews.com/articles>.

This article looks at some of the ways churches are addressing their members' financial concerns. All of these churches use programs produced specifically for congregations and church families.

Websites

- Crown Financial Ministries – www.crown.org

Crown Financial Ministries provides resources that teach people of all financial backgrounds how to practically budget income and to recognize the spiritual aspect of managing worldly possessions. They offer a structured curriculum that covers all facets of financial management and the accompanying spiritual walk as well as their "Crown Money Map Financial Software", "Adult Small Group Financial Study", and their "Career Direct Online" guidance system.

MORE ON BACK

»» Financial Literacy Ministry ««

- Christian Financial Ministries - <http://www.good-steward.org>

The mission of Christian Financial Ministries is to help individuals and families make informed, Bible-based lifestyle changes in order to eliminate debt and build wealth. They seek to accomplish this mission by leveraging the spiritual gifts God gives people, as well as current technology to offer quality, accountable, Bible-based financial education, teaching, training, coaching, mentoring, counseling, and supporting financially-related products and services.

- Alliance Financial Ministries, Inc - <http://www.financialministries.org>

AFM is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote financial literacy. They provide financial education programs for individuals and organizations that want to enjoy a more financially secure future.

- Emmanuel Gospel Center - www.egc.org/programs

Emmanuel Gospel Center's Community Development ministry helps facilitate church-based economic development in Boston and overseas. Their Network Savings and Training Program help low- and moderate-income people learn financial literacy concepts.

- Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. - www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart

Money Smart is a training program to help adults outside the financial mainstream enhance their money skills and create positive banking relationships. Financial education fosters financial stability for individuals, families, and entire communities. The Money Smart curriculum helps individuals build financial knowledge, develop financial confidence, and use banking services effectively.

Stepping Stones

Brief descriptions of how to implement specific ministries. For each of the five broader areas above, many ministries can be envisioned. We have identified a few of these for each area and have articulated the steps for how that ministry might be planned.

Pathways

Learn from the first-hand account of those already engaged in this specific ministry. Plus, develop networking contacts as go-to sources to explore solutions to challenges or celebrations of successes.

Food for the Journey

A short devotional based on scripture that can be used in church bulletins, as a Moment for Mission during worship or as an introduction to a Bible study.