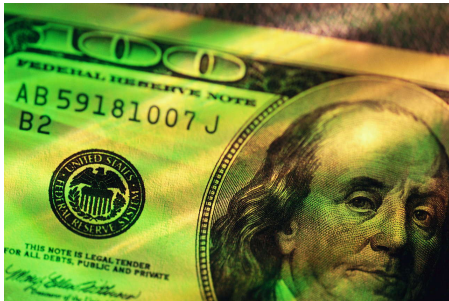
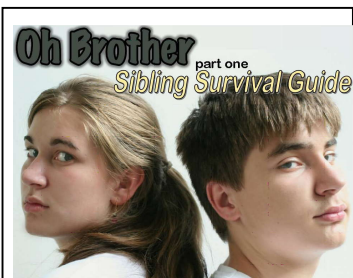


Youth Pastors, try these sermons!



PAID TO BE THERE?

**IF YOU WERE NOT ON PAID STAFF
WOULD YOU CHOOSE YOUR CHURCH AS
THE ONE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
TO ATTEND?**

For some of you this is a “no brainer.” You love your church, the vision, and your pastor. Rejoice and be thankful. But for some of you reading this article it just caused a deep sigh or moan. The purpose of my question is not to cause you pain. However, you are most likely heading down a dead end road that is only going to get worse. You have said for years, “I’m praying this situation will turn around.” Yes, there will be small glimmers of hope. Your enthusiasm is ignited only to then be blown out by your ministry leader or the team around you. Ministry has become a job and a daily grind. Creativity has stopped. Many are merely living to exist on a daily basis. This situation is not healthy for you, your family, or the church you are attempting to serve. You have made valiant attempts to stay in the game but it may be

time for a trade. I have often seen damage done by people clinging on to a ministry position too long after they know it is time for a transition.

We tend to look inside and ask ourselves, “What’s wrong with me?” Although it could be as simple as you being the right player who is on the wrong team, it may be that you have fulfilled what you were supposed to accomplish for this assignment and God has another one for you. If you’re married, ask your spouse. They typically have seen the need for a change long before we have.

I know, the big question is, “Where will I go, what will I do?” This is what I call the “Tarzan Effect.” You have to be willing to let go of the first vine in order to swing to your destiny on the second one. Otherwise you end up being stuck, hanging between your comfortable past and fear of the future. Relax and trust the Spirit of God that is leading you. I’m always intrigued how God works things out through my personal walk and as I have walked with friends through their transitions. Think about it. Your obedience will have a “domino effect” on churches and ministries you have never heard of. As you take the next step it opens the door for the next person God has waiting to come in. As one steps out it opens the door for another person to fulfill their position. Are you getting the picture? It goes on and on to effect multiple layers of ministries and churches. Take some time, dig into your Bible, and rest in His presence to allow His will and direction to be made clear in your life.

Just For Fun

25 Ways to Ride a Dead Horse



Many variations of “*How to Ride a Dead Horse*” have appeared, especially on the internet, and we don’t know who the original author is. Here is a

rewritten and adapted version for churches. Every organization (whether it's business, government, educational institutions, etc.) can have a tendency to hold on to old forms of doing things long after their effectiveness has diminished or ceased entirely.

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians—passed on from generation to generation—says that when you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. Modern churches, however, have found a whole range of far more advanced strategies to use, such as:

- Buying a strong whip.
- **Changing riders.**
- Declaring, "God told us to ride this horse."
- Appointing a committee to study the horse.
- **Threatening the horse with termination.**
- Proclaiming, "This is the way we've always ridden this horse."
- Develop a training session to improve our riding ability.
- **Reminding ourselves that other churches ride this same kind of horse.**
- Determining that riders who don't stay on dead horses are lazy, lack drive, and have no ambition - then replacing them.
- Lowering the standards so that dead horses can be included.
- **Reclassifying the horse as "living-impaired."**
- Hiring an outside consultant to advise on how to better ride the horse.
- Harnessing several dead horses together to increase the speed.
- **Confessing boldly, "This horse is not dead, but alive!"**
- Providing additional funding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
- Riding the dead horse "outside the box."
- **Get the horse a Web site.**
- Killing all the other horses so the dead one doesn't stand out.

- Taking a positive outlook – pronouncing that the dead horse doesn't have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overhead, and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line of the church's budget than do some other horses.
- **Rewriting the expected performance requirements for all horses.**
- Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position.
- Name the dead horse, "paradigm shift" and keep riding it.
- **Riding the dead horse "smarter, not harder."** Stating that other horses reflect compromise, and are not from God.
- Remembering all the good times you had while riding that horse.

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