BE PROLIFIC

IN 2015

DO SUCCESS DIFFERENT

Co-Written by **25+** Christian Innovators

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PROLIFIC

/ˈprō-ˈli-fik/ *adj.*

producing much fruit, producing many works, high-yielding, plentiful, abundant, creative, productive, inventive.

Preface

Thank you for picking up this book. We appreciate you buying this book, but we want you to know that we don't make a dime on it. We don't even get our copies for free. We don't have any ulterior motives. We don't have any hidden agenda. We don't have any sinister motives. We don't have any secret plots to take over the world. We don't have any secret sauce. We don't have any secret formula. We don't have any secret anything. We don't have any secrets at all. We don't even have any secrets we don't have any secrets for. We don't even have any secrets we don't have any secrets we don't have any secrets for. We don't even have any secrets we don't have any secrets we don't have any secrets we don't

Celebration: Dare to Believe I'm Good Enough

by Eileen Dreyer

Eileen Dreyer is a Contributing Editor for Guideposts and the author of 40 books including the bestselling Drake series, the Eve Duncan series, the Andrea Mitchell series, the Chicago Sons series, the Bitter Creek series, the Rocky Mountain Rescue series, the Mercy Medical series, the Mercy Medical series, the Mercy Medical

The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Generosity

Jesus was one of the most prolific paradigms of a generous leader. Think about all He was able to accomplish during His brief thirty-three years of life on earth! Countless stories of how He converted lack into excess with what He had in His current possession. From well-known accounts like His first miracle turning water into wine at the wedding of later where He fed thousands from the sacrifice of a little boys meal of two loaves and five fish. I believe the humanistic part of Christ acquired this principle of good stewardship similar to that of His earthly father, Joseph the Carpenter. Let's look at what a carpenter is one who makes and repairs wooden objects. Through our spiritual eye the definition of an "ultimate Carpenter" reads: The One who makes (creates) and repairs (restores) wooden objects (a moldable vessel like you and I). This is how you not only function but flourish in excess! You continually create and restore resources that will in turn reflect what or who made it. So how do we alter our perspective to manifest, maintain and multiply in our excess?

Be Conscious
When given excess we should always have a mindset to multiply from it as seen in Matthew 25:15-30. The master gave his three servants gifts in inclining amounts. All but the one with the least amount of coins invested their excess. As a result he was cast out into darkness. One should note, the coins that the master blessed the servants with were gifts, not earnings. It didn't belong to them in the first place. Being mindful of the responsibility they had over this excess they were cognizant of multiplying it and were blessed for doing so.

Be Innovative
God always has a heart of great generosity. This allows Him to be a creative Visionary, always looking light years ahead as opposed to present situations. When God created the earth He made every living thing with a seed. We were made to be fruitful and multiply but done so through an innovative Creator! In your prayers you should petition God for both a cerebral approach in how you should manage excess and innovative ways to expand it!

Be Selfless
As willing vessels, in order to be filled, whether its knowledge, monetary gains or resources we have to empty ourselves to provide room for the blessing. With the ambiguity of what the future holds, we tend to want to withhold things we have acquired to give us the upper hand. Have you ever come across new information in the workplace and you are the only one proficient in the area? You instantly became an invaluable asset. This is your opportunity to invest in others and share that knowledge! If you have truly mastered that information, educating others and bringing them up should not be a threat. As Malachi 3:10 tells us, when we give our sacrificial seeds, God will not only return the blessing but do so in abundance.

With the miracles previously listed, the results always ended in excess. Excess represents opportunities to be generous. Begin to focus on how to be conscious, innovative and selfless in your excess in order to be impactful in your generosity!

by Tiffani J. Robinson

Tiffani J. Robinson is a young entrepreneur who completed her undergraduate studies at the University of North Texas in Business Administration. As a writer, her work has been featured on online publications such as Visit Black Dallas, Dallas Visitors Bureau, Elite Daily and AT&T's Inspired Mobility campaign. She currently holds a position as the Public Relations & Marketing Manager for MegaCARE International, a non-profit global humanitarian organization and owner of Aspects & Company a digital creative agency based out of Dallas.

Follow Tiffani on Twitter @iaspectsco

Embrace the Frustration of Compassion

Megan was a shy and sweet girl of 12. From the first time I met her on a student ministry trip, I could see the fear that overwhelmed her heart. She hardly spoke, though she was always attentive. She seemed to have an earnest desire to understand this love everyone kept talking about – this God who was savior, Father and friend — but she couldn't quite wrap her head around it.

After the trip, I got to know her situation better, and God began to break my heart for her. She lived with her mother, who had a history of bad boyfriends and instability. Megan spent hours a day by herself. In the middle of the school year, her mother moved the family to an apartment across town, which meant Megan had to switch schools mid-semester. Her friends at church didn't see her anymore and didn't know how to contact her. She had disappeared.

A few months went by without word. For all I knew, she didn't want to come to small group anymore. Then, in prayer one day I heard God speak to me as clearly as I've ever heard anything: "Find Megan."

The best I could do was find out which middle school she was now attending. I'll never forget how she lit up when she saw me from her lonely seat in the cafeteria the first time I went to lunch. All year, I had lunch with her and talked her up for small group once a week. I expected to be a big sister to her for a long time. She needed so much healing.

A few years later, Megan had moved on and settled into her new surroundings. She made new friends and stopped coming to our church. At times I wondered if I had done enough. I found her when God told me to find her that first time, but I didn't go after her when she disappeared again later on. I knew she still had so much to learn about God's love.

Merriam-Webster's definition of compassion touches on exactly why compassion can be frustrating. "Sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it."

To allow ourselves to feel compassion is to stir up in ourselves a desire to end the suffering we see in others. In many cases, we cannot be the ones to alleviate it. But in allowing compassion to take root in our hearts, we are constantly reminded of our inability to save and God's great ability to do so. The joy underneath the frustration of compassion is that every time someone's sorrow overwhelms us, God is ready to take up the burden.

God didn't send me to Megan to fix her life. He sent me to show her she wasn't alone or forgotten, at a time when she needed it most. He used me to alleviate her suffering in the way I could, while He pursued her heart in the ways only He could.

by Tiffany Deluccia

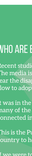
Tiffany is Director of Marketing & Communications for The Unstuck Group. She graduated from Clemson University and spent five years working in public relations with major national retail brands, nonprofits and churches on content creation, strategic planning, communication consulting, social media and media relations. She also founded and writes for WaitingPerfumes.com, a devotional blog for young women and teen girls.

Follow Tiffany on Twitter @TiffanyDeluccia

by Tim Abare

Tim Abare is the President of eChurchGiving and VP of Partnerships for Pushpay. He has worked at an executive or general manager level for non-profit and corporate organizations for over 30 years and is widely recognized in the US faith sector as a thought and action leader. Prior to joining Pushpay, Tim was the Chief Operating Officer for a US-based non-profit organization, with a staff of 240 people across 14 countries, which in 2013 and 2014 delivered record-setting top and bottom line growth.

Follow him on Twitter @TimAbare



Three Ways to Do Generosity Differently

In my many years of ministry work and in acting as the President of a giving solution company, the word generosity has grown familiar. It's one of those words that can mean everything, and very little at the same time.

I've encouraged, and been encouraged, to be generous with time, with money, and with any other myriad of resource. As with anything that grows familiar, we can begin to take it for granted or we can take it deeper.

As we head into 2015, the prolific year, I'm imploring us to take it deeper.

Here's three new ways to be generous in 2015:

Vulnerability as Generosity
One of the ultimate signs of generosity is shown by being the first person in the room to let down your guard. Walk into the room with your insecurities, failures, and bad day emotions transparent and honest.

Vulnerability allows for real conversation to happen. It allows for progress and connection. It throws away this crazy ideal that successful people are always successful, and that failure somehow didn't play a part in their journey.

It also dispels the crazy myth that leaders aren't allowed to show weakness, for fear of losing the respect of their followers. Vulnerability draws us in, brings us closer, and inspires us to grow forward together.

One-on-One Mentoring as Generosity
It's easy to write a blog post, give a lecture, or speak in leadership terms to those you oversee at work. The hard part comes when we make an intentional choice to notice and mentor those around us who are in need of development. This doesn't come from a position of authority or superiority, but rather as one person making an investment into another.

Who of us would not have benefited from the mentorship of an invested colleague? And how much of our current success can we trace back to the kind and invested words that someone chose to speak into our lives?

The trick is to be intentional and generous with this practice. Without intention it will never amount to anything other than aspirations.

Generous to Myself on the Inside
One of the most difficult areas to be generous in is with the words we choose to say to ourselves internally. All too often our default is to focus on our flaws, our faults, and all the reasons that we're not equipped to succeed.

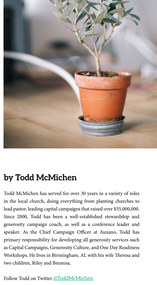
Each of us has a unique purpose for our lives and message that we carry. I've heard it said that the area of our greatest struggle is often the area meant to be our greatest strength. Use this wisdom to provide insight rather than constantly falling to the frustration of making the same mistakes. It's an invitation to discover your purpose, but only if you allow yourself to see it that way.

Begin by making small statements of declaration each morning. "This will be a good day, I will succeed."

"I am strong enough for the challenges that I will face today."

"I'm destined for success and I've got a God who believes in me."

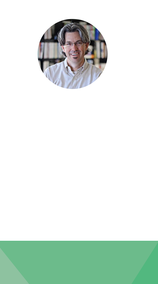
"2015 will be a prolific year."



by Todd McMichen

Todd McMichen has served for over 30 years in a variety of roles in the local church, doing everything from planting churches to lead pastor, leading capital campaigns that raised over $35,000,000. Since 2000, Todd has been a self-established stewardship and generosity campaign coach, as well as a conference leader and speaker. As the Chief Campaign Officer at Aunano, Todd has primary responsibility for developing all generosity services such as Capital Campaigns, Generosity Culture, and One Day Readiness Workshops. He lives in Birmingham, AL with his wife Theresa and two children, Riley and Breanna.

Follow Todd on Twitter @ToddMcMichen



Top 10 Proverbs on Prolific Living

I love the book of Proverbs. Virtually every chapter in Proverbs contains amazing life wisdom about finances, resources, marketplace, and generosity. I took the time to put together a brief list of the Top 10 Proverbs providing wisdom for gaining a prolific life. The key is to learn into all the generosity promises, blessings, and rewards from God. Here you go!

1. Your Life Success Is Held In God's Hand. (Proverbs 2:7)
When you are giving you are not losing. Your life success is in his hands, not your hands. Your ability to achieve does not guarantee success; however, your willingness to surrender does.

2. Your Life Can Receive Undeserved Blessings. (Proverbs 10:22)
I like getting rewards, but I like undeserved, surprise rewards by grace even better. Load me up, Lord!

3. Your Life Can Make An Impact In Your City. (Proverbs 11:10-11)
Everyone wants to live a life that counts. Usually we think a life of significance is for the mature or successful. Maybe you dream about it happening one day for you. You probably think you need to get some problems solved or gain a new career. That is wrong. Live righteously today and your city will be blessed.

4. Your Life Will Go Places When You Give. (Proverbs 18:16)
Jesus said that the last will be first and the first will be last. He also said that he came to serve and not to be served. Do likewise.

5. Your Life Can Give With Out Spring. (Proverbs 21:26)
Need and greed compete with giving. Givers have given long enough to know God gives without sporing so it is okay to do the same.

6. Your Life Will Relax When You Realize God Made Money To Come And Go. So Let It Go. (Proverbs 23:4-5)
Money is simply paper or metal to be circulated among all God's creation. It is never really yours to keep, so share it.

7. Your Life Will Become Consistent When Your Priorities Are In Place. (Proverbs 24:27)
God gave you principles, laws, and truth for your benefit. He does the same for your financial life. Follow the truth and you will be blessed. I think you probably know what the alternative is. You reap what you sow.

8. Your Life Will Be Rewarded When You Give To Your Enemies. (Proverbs 25:21-22)
Giving can be fun, but it can also be hard. Then sometimes, it can be really hard. God has a gift for you when you do the really hard thing like live generously towards your enemies.

9. Your Life Will Become As Generous As You Envision It To Be. (Proverbs 29:18)
Vision matters both at work, church, and home. No passion, no priorities, no plan, then no reward. Discover God's unique vision for you and live it.

10. Your Life Will Expand When You Focus On Today. (Proverbs 30:8-9)
Focus doesn't limit, it expands. Give today all you've got at every moment. Be generous when you pray, think, drive, shop, talk, work, and live. You will find more ways to be generous than you imagined. God will care for tomorrow and all its worries.

WHO ARE ECHURCHGIVING AND PUSHPAY?

Recent studies are clear: churches in America are facing declines in both financial tithing and attendance. The media is quick to emphasize the disconnect between the church and younger generations, while pastors fear the disappearance of a culture of generosity. And our past experiences tell us that churches are typically slow to adopt new technologies, especially in the area of contributions.

It was in the face of these problems that Pushpay and eChurchGiving were created. Our premise, how many of the above problems could be solved by simply making 10-second giving available on a smartphone, connected in real-time to the church's website and database?

This is the Pushpay and eChurchGiving model, and it's being used by hundreds of churches across the country to help drive sustainable increases in first time, young, and reoccurring givers.

If we were to come alongside your ministry, what type of resource could we see unleashed?

It would be prolific!

READ MORE ABOUT THE HEART BEHIND OUR MODEL HERE: **ECHURCHGIVING.COM/ABOUT**
SEE OUR 10-SECOND GIVING IN ACTION HERE: **ECHURCHGIVING.COM/DEMO**

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