

## **A WOMAN'S FINANCES**

*with Mary Hunt*

### **1. Spending money is deceptively simple and becomes a trap.**

*Mary shares her story...*

I married a banker and thought I would never worry about money again.

I BEGAN USING tomorrow's MONEY TO PAY FOR today's goods.

We began putting more and more on credit:

- Secrecy
- Shopping was an anti-depressant
- I tried to create a better childhood for my children through buying things.
- Began using a cash advance

MAJOR PROBLEMS:

- Relationship with my husband began breaking down
- I became secretive and dishonest
- Our business failed and we were in huge debt... There was nothing left to do

### **2. The Turning Point:**

I begged God to forgive me and asked Him to change me.

GOOD NEWS: Over a long time, we paid back every single line of debt:

***WE MADE IT***

**\*There are two kinds of Debt:**

1. Intelligent borrowing: Home mortgage
2. Stupid debt: credit cards, installment loans

**\*Stupid debt promotes discontentment:**

(Nothing seems to satisfy.)

**\*Debt keeps me stuck in the past.**

**\*Debt makes an arrogant presumption on the future.**

**\*Debt transfers potential wealth to our creditors.**

**\*Debt can destroy relationships.**

### **3. Debt-Proof your Life!**

We can begin to manage our money so we're always prepared for the unforeseen.

- To protect your marriage
- To survive lean times
- To reduce your stress and protect your future

**PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY:**

- God is the source of money – All good things come from God.
- You must never keep all your money -Learn to give.
- You must never spend it all – save an equal amount for yourself.
- What you receive from God is the amount you need and the amount He can trust you with.
- More money will never be enough

## 4. Are you headed for a debt trap?

- \*Are you living on credit instead of cash? If you can't pay off your credit card bill every month, you're living on credit
- \*Are you delaying or making late payments? (Juggling)
- \*Are you unwilling to save or give back to God?
- \*Are you unable to pay your taxes?
- \*Are you living an extravagant lifestyle?
- \*Are you looking for 'get-rich' quick ideas?
- \*Wealth does not bring happiness.

*What do you do if you discover you're headed for a debt trap?*

### Make a change.

1. Make a commitment: Fall on your face before God; write down today's date.
2. Start paying God first and yourself second.  
Giving and saving brings joy and fulfillment!
3. Begin tracking everywhere your money goes for 30 days.

**\*\* Tracking: write down each purchase alongside two columns.**

What for: \_\_\_\_\_

How much: \_\_\_\_\_

After 30 days, look at the patterns that have developed.

- Have a sale.
- Get your plans in place.

“Wise people prepare for their future”

- Make a commitment to “No more new DEBT”.
- Start looking for the solution – God has a solution for you.
- Persevere.... God will give you strength.

*Money should be a tool, not a trap.*