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CREATING YOUR MULTI-LEGGED STOOL

By Richard & Tanya Curren

We used to live on a single stream of income, which we called our one legged stool. Imagine a chair or stool that only has one leg coming out of the middle of it, instead of the typical four legs that you usually see to stabilize it. This is what we had our life perched on, and for many years, this worked out great! We were able to pay our bills, save and buy things we not only needed, but purchase extras and luxuries without worry. We enjoyed doing side projects for a little extra fun money, but we weren't concerned with creating something to have as a backup in case our one legged stool was knocked over.

During our time of living on this one leg, God called us into ministry. If you have followed our journey, you know that just because God calls does not mean it will be easy or there will be pools of money for you to jump into! We had to learn very quickly how to develop more legs on our life's stool, because our single stream of income changed and the full time position in the corporate world was no longer there. Fortunately, the opportunity to work part time as we developed Boundless Limits was still open, but the income was drastically reduced and more legs were quickly needed to support our family and stabilize our stool.

Over the past four years, we have worked tirelessly to develop, create and produce quality resources for individuals and families that we passionately believe will make a difference. Not all of these ideas, productions and creations have produced income, yet every single effort has been worth it and for God's glory. The efforts will pay off, even if we have to be patient as we wait for the right time.

One of the many things we have learned is the value of multiple streams of income coming into the home. The single legged stool may work great for some people, and if you are one of those, you are very blessed! But for us and so, so many families, having several different ways to produce and provide is the way life is. And while it would be wonderful to not have to constantly be changing directions, multitasking and juggling different projects, sometimes the reality is that this is what we have to do for a while to get our more legs on our stool.

This is where we are in our life right now. We run our non-profit organization full time and travel, speak and host a live television program, Rick still covers surgical cases on an as needed basis, we are traveling and filming for our upcoming Scaly Adventures television series to bring a new quality, family oriented program to kids and families around the world, we write articles and develop material for speaking engagements and our websites, and we do graphic and design work for other people and organizations when we can. Basically, we are extremely busy! And when people ask us, “So what is it that you do?” We laugh and say, “A variety of things!”

While all of these things require a constant balance and focus so we don't get overwhelmed, we also know that this is a season of building, producing and creating. This season will pay off, just like your seasons of work WILL pay off! **Seasons of hard work produce great results, and if you are working on building more layers of support for your family, you will not be disappointed with the outcome!**

We have learned that while it feels good to bring home one big paycheck, it also feels great to produce a variety of things that bring home smaller, yet multiple streams of income. This shows you how you can use your God given passions, creativity and gifts to not only provide, but to bring new and amazing things into our world. **It reminds you have such value in our world and you were created for many purposes.**

Men in particular can get caught up into believing that they are the value of their paycheck. This is something that Rick struggled with for many years, and the more he made, the better he thought he would feel about himself. But even though he was proud of what he was providing financially, he always felt like something was missing. Now, even though we are bringing in far less, he is so much more fulfilled because he is following his calling and pursuing things that make a difference in our world. Through Boundless Limits, he knows that what we are doing in all of our efforts and especially now through new programming for children and families, that he was created for so many things and not just to bring home a piece of paper with a big number on it!

If you are a wife with a husband who struggles with this like Rick did, encourage your husband to pursue some of his talents and passions on the side and see what God does with it. Encourage him to pray and ask God to show him what He wants your husband to do and then allow him time to be creative. Or, if you are a husband and your wife feels unfulfilled, frustrated and wants to try something new, be a source of strength and encouragement for her and remind her that God will give her the desires of her heart. **The beauty of a marriage is that you are a team. And a united team cannot fail because you are in it together and will be there for each other as you grow and try new things!**

If you are a parent or grandparent, we highly encourage you to teach your children or

grandchildren the concept of the multi legged stool. Talk about all of the many, many options in our world for jobs, creating and producing! Encourage them to pray and seek God first to guide their future. Remind them to pray Isaiah 30:21 and ask God to turn them to the left or the right as they take each step. And show them multiple ways their hands can create things that will produce for their future families.

This is something we have passionately taught our son, Pierce. From a very young age, we have helped him seek out opportunities to not only help others, but to use his talents and creativity to produce income. In fact, just the other day we saw a post on Twitter for a reptile magazine looking for writers. If you know Pierce and our family, you know this was a post for us! So we helped him write an email to the editor that morning to be a contributing writer for the magazine! This is just one of the many, many examples of how we look for opportunities to show our son how faithful God is by bringing us opportunities to work.

This is one of the beautiful ways God provides. He may not have someone drop off groceries at your front door, but He may guide you to an opportunity to write an article for someone else. You may not get that promotion at work that you have been praying for, but He may lead you to start something else on the side that brings in just as much or more than a small promotion ever would. **You may be a little tired from juggling multiple jobs and trying to make it all work, but what God will do is show you that you are FAR stronger than you ever thought, that you can live off less than you ever thought, you are WAY more creative than you ever thought and that He continues to be INCREDIBLY faithful throughout the process!**

Look at the qualities, gifts, talents and creativity that you have inside of yourself:

Look at your hands. **Your hands were created to produce amazing and incredible things that our world needs!**

What do your eyes see? **Our world needs your vision, because you may see something that no one else sees!**

What touches your heart? What makes you smile and what makes you cry? **We need your passion! Use those emotions to make a difference around you.**

Where do your feet take you? **You may be going to places that no one else can go. The world needs you to take us on your journey and walk us through your life's experiences, so we can be inspired from where you've been!**

Do you see the endless amounts of opportunities that God gives us? Don't discount anything, even if it seems too small. We look back at one opportunity that God brought

that taught us more than we thought it would. We used to take pictures at our Tae Kwon Do tournaments and testing days. We love taking pictures and were there to test anyway, so we started taking them not only for ourselves, but for other students and families. We charged \$5 per disk to take pictures throughout the test/tournament and burn a copy for each family. Of course it wasn't a lot of money and it probably didn't cover our time, but here's what was great about it. We made just enough each time to pay for Rick and Pierce to test. We learned how to use our time at a place we were going to be at anyway to produce just enough so we wouldn't have to pay out extra money. We learned how to "turn and burn" as we came home and quickly turned over the product. We made new relationships with families we would have otherwise never talked to. Overall, it taught us that we could use a little stream of income, another little leg on our stool, to help support our family.

Do you see how doing something like taking pictures or making as little as \$5 here and there can add up? **It doesn't have to be the Red Sea you are looking for, it just has to be a simple, little baby stream.** Never underestimate the power of a stream, for you never know where God can take it. He can have your stream grow wider and wider and turn into a rushing river if you keep working and allow Him to guide all of your passions, dreams and efforts!

By creating a multi legged stool for your family to sit on, you are providing levels and layers of confidence. It will strengthen your faith in God as you watch Him move in ways you never imagined, and it will boost your confidence in your many talents and abilities to provide. You are able to do FAR more than you ever thought possible, "For nothing is impossible with God!" (Luke 1:37)

In His Love,

In His Love,
Rick & Tanya

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Richard R. Curren III is the co-founder and President of Boundless Limits International, Live Guilt Free and Best Life Strategies. He is the co-author of **ON COURSE: Strategies For Successful Living** and its companion **ON COURSE: Life Application Study Guide**. He is also the producer of several inspirational videos including “*IT’S ABOUT TIME!*”, which has been broadcast on television worldwide. He is also the developing producer for Scaly Adventures, a positive influential outreach to children using animals and nature to explore the wonders of God’s creation. Rick’s passion is to speak and motivate others to live to their maximum potential physically, mentally and spiritually. Through their events and publications, Rick and his wife Tanya inspire others and show that every person has boundless potential to change our world. He is a former United States Army Officer. Rick serves on the Board of Directors for the So Help Me God Project as an Advisor and is a founding Board Member. With a passion for health and fitness, he is a Black Belt in Korean Olympic Tae Kwon Do, and serves as an Associate Instructor for Palmetto Martial Arts School.



Tanya Curren is the co-founder of Boundless Limits International, Live Guilt Free and Best Life Strategies. She is also the co-author of **ON COURSE: Strategies For Successful Living** and the **ON COURSE Life Application Study Guide**, which has been distributed worldwide. In 2004 Tanya Curren was in a life threatening coma for 8 days as a deadly infection ravaged her body. Given two hours to live, she survived only to face the ordeal of a painful three year recovery. She is the author of **Broken Places**, **The Proverbs Devotion Guide**, **Embracing Change & Conflict**, and several other audio CD’s. Tanya and her husband, Rick, are developing producers for Scaly Adventures, a positive influential outreach to children using animals and nature to explore the wonders of God’s creation. In her conferences and seminars, Tanya shares with others the life-lessons she learned through her journey to restoration. Tanya travels and speaks at local, regional and international venues, and is passionate about guiding others to have a personal, real relationship with Jesus Christ. As an active homeschooling mother, she resides with her family in the mountains of South Carolina.