

The following letter was written by Charlie Williams, Ministry to Men Director. After many requests for him to write a book about *Ministry to Men* and after several attempts to do just that, someone suggested he simply write letters sharing some of the truths God has been teaching him during the years.

We will be posting his letters on the Ministry to Men Web site. This letter was posted on August 30, 2010

7th letter **Give God Your Bouquet**

Usually when we speak about giving it relates to money. However, God's word teaches me to reap joy by giving time, talent and treasure. Giving is not a sacrifice, it's a joy. II Cor. 9:6-8 says 'Decide if you are going to give, either bountifully or sparingly. We must make that decision with joy of giving not under the compulsion of the necessity to give. It touches God's heart when I give cheerfully. And God is able to give me all I need to give all that God gives me the desire to give.

A small lesson on giving to God was shared at a Gary Smalley couples conference many, many years ago. Gary told us how difficult it was for him as he was becoming more and more well known in the Christian community through his seminars and books. He tells how when people thanked or praised him for the impact that his teaching had on them he would not receive it with grace but would try to explain that it was God not him. One day God spoke to his heart and told him to receive the gift from them and in his heart see it as a long stem rose and at the end of each day lay your flower or flowers at the feet of Jesus as a love gift for all He's doing in and through your life. If you choose to keep them they just dry up and die.

Oswald Chambers says 'whenever you get a blessing from God give it back to him as a love gift. Another of the lessons that God is teaching me is that I (we) need to learn to thank God for what He has already done more than to ask him to do it again. Eph. 1:3, 4