



*Synergism  
for a  
Lifestyle  
of Change*

*"When they  
were satisfied,  
Jesus told his  
disciples,  
'gather up the  
fragments,  
left over....' "*  
*John 6:1-14*



# STEWARDS FOR **NEW** LIFE

## Satisfaction Guaranteed

by Lisa Harris

My neighbor's three young children rushed into the house and were greeted with the scent of hot, freshly popped popcorn. They washed their hands (yea right), gathered around the bowl and began crowding their little mouths with popcorn.

With a mouth full of popcorn, one complained that the two others were taking too much. The mother assured them she would make more until they were all satisfied. But the children continued to gorge and complain about one another. They really did not seem to be enjoying the snack.

The mother guaranteed them satisfaction, but they did not believe her. Rather than being occupied by their own satisfaction, they were preoccupied by the portion their siblings received.

God bids us to believe that our satisfaction is guaranteed if it is based on the true desires of our hearts and the true needs of our lives instead of the needs and desires culture imposes upon us. If we base our pursuits on truth, we will enjoy them more, treat them better and indeed, there will be enough for us and our neighbors.



## FACTS OF LIFE

- Americans consume 63 quarts of popcorn per man, woman, and child each year.
- \$328 was spent on toys and video games per child in North America in 2000. That's 67 million children, ages 0-14. In Asia, that figure is \$11 per child; \$1 in Africa.
- The toy industry spent over \$837 billion on advertising from 1996-2000.

- Two Barbie dolls are sold every second.
- The median amount spent by individual grandparents on their grandchildren is \$489 per year, or about \$30 billion annually. According to an AARP survey: 74 percent buy clothing; 60 percent buy books; 38 percent buy toys. See [www.igrandparents.com](http://www.igrandparents.com).

# STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION



- Help children (and adults) develop a healthy sense of things, whether food or other items. A healthy attitude emphasizes more than the mere possession of objects. Encourage children to talk about how belongings are used and enjoyed. Emphasize the quality of objects instead of the quantity or their appeal to others. By saying, "Stacy, I bet your jacket keeps you warm" instead of "Stacy, I like your new jacket," you focus on the usefulness of the object, not its appeal. (From National Network for Child Care, [www.nncc.org](http://www.nncc.org))
- Look for the phrase, "Satisfaction guaranteed" on TV and newspapers. Offer to help your church's stewardship committee make a bulletin board display on this theme and scripture text during your annual stewardship emphasis.
- Become aware of media advertising that appeals to children. Talk to your kids about what they see.
- If you or the kids are bored, take a walk, play a game, or bake a treat for a neighbor. But don't go shopping as a past time!
- Do a possession inventory. What's necessary? What's luxury? What's just too much? What can you give away?



*Synergism  
for a  
Lifestyle  
of Change*

*"When they  
were satisfied,  
Jesus told his  
disciples,  
'gather up the  
fragments,  
left over....'"*  
John 6:1-14



# STEWARDS FOR NEW LIFE

## Satisfaction Guaranteed

by Lisa Harris

My neighbor's three young children rushed into the house and were greeted with the scent of hot, freshly popped popcorn. They washed their hands (yea right), gathered around the bowl and began crowding their little mouths with popcorn.

With a mouth full of popcorn, one complained that the two others were taking too much. The mother assured them she would make more until they were all satisfied. But the children continued to gorge and complain about one another. They really did not seem to be enjoying the snack.

The mother guaranteed them satisfaction, but they did not believe her. Rather than being occupied by their own satisfaction, they were preoccupied by the portion their siblings received.

God bids us to believe that our satisfaction is guaranteed if it is based on the true desires of our hearts and the true needs of our lives instead of the needs and desires culture imposes upon us. If we base our pursuits on truth, we will enjoy them more, treat them better and indeed, there will be enough for us and our neighbors.



## FACTS OF LIFE

- Americans consume 63 quarts of popcorn per man, woman, and child each year.
- \$328 was spent on toys and video games per child in North America in 2000. That's 67 million children, ages 0-14. In Asia, that figure is \$11 per child; \$1 in Africa.
- The toy industry spent over \$837 billion on advertising from 1996-2000.

- Two Barbie dolls are sold every second.
- The median amount spent by individual grandparents on their grandchildren is \$489 per year, or about \$30 billion annually. According to an AARP survey: 74 percent buy clothing; 60 percent buy books; 38 percent buy toys. See [www.igrandparents.com](http://www.igrandparents.com).

## STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION



- Help children (and adults) develop a healthy sense of things, whether food or other items. A healthy attitude emphasizes more than the mere possession of objects. Encourage children to talk about how belongings are used and enjoyed. Emphasize the quality of objects instead of the quantity or their appeal to others. By saying, "Stacy, I bet your jacket keeps you warm" instead of "Stacy, I like your new jacket," you focus on the usefulness of the object, not its appeal. (From National Network for Child Care, [www.nncc.org](http://www.nncc.org))
- Look for the phrase, "Satisfaction guaranteed" on TV and newspapers. Offer to help your church's stewardship committee make a bulletin board display on this theme and scripture text during your annual stewardship emphasis.
- Become aware of media advertising that appeals to children. Talk to your kids about what they see.
- If you or the kids are bored, take a walk, play a game, or bake a treat for a neighbor. But don't go shopping as a past time!
- Do a possession inventory. What's necessary? What's luxury? What's just too much? What can you give away?