

# Tentmakers and Teaching of the Free Enterprise System

By Dick Amundson, Tentmakers Founder and CEO

Tentmakers has established a comprehensive "in the church, classroom and community" leadership/discipleship training program for students, young adults, and families. It can be delivered in weekly sessions over a 40-week time period or in four, 9-week "Treks." We plan, eventually, to be presenting this program in hundreds of communities throughout the country.

The foundation for this course is the Bible and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Additional curriculum includes the founding documents of the United State of America, including the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

At least one of the weekly units focuses on the free enterprise system and its Biblical foundations. Additional units focus on sharpening relational skills, public speaking skills, management skills, selling and motivational skills, creative thinking and decision making skills, vocational skills and citizenship skills--all of these are important for the entrepreneur. The Free Enterprise System is also taught in our major 40-day tent-makers, Daniel and LINC leadership programs which prepare the lead trainers for the 40-week program.

Foundational to Tentmaker training is the cultural mandate outlined in Genesis 1: 26-28. As Nancy Percy says in her book, *Total Truth*, "we are to develop the social world: build families, churches, schools, cities, governments, laws...and harness the natural world: plant crops, build bridges, design computers, compose music...our original purpose was to create cultures, build civilizations—nothing less." We recognize that work and enterprise is our part of our calling from God. Jesus was a carpenter and was in business with his father. Paul the Apostle was in business for himself as a "tent-maker."

The foundation for private property and business ethics is provided for in the 10 commandments. Jesus references money, stewardship and productivity often in his teachings. His parable on the talents is most impressive, especially when one considers how harshly he judged the servant who hid the talent in the ground for fear of loss.

Another core teaching of Tentmakers is in reference to one's God-given imagination and ability to be creative. Tentmakers challenges and enables leaders of all ages to dare to imagine and dream and then equips them with the skills to plan, organize and manage to make those dreams come true. Graduates have started new businesses, ministries, non-profits, and have reinvigorated churches and organizations.

Tentmakers stresses the importance of the Free Enterprise System because this system more than any other, allows people to fully develop and utilize their God given freedom, potential, and gifts.