

## Master of the Routine

In his book *Ordering Your Private World*, Gordon MacDonald, author and pastor for many years of Grace Chapel in Lexington, Mass., tells how one of his college professors gave him a piece of priceless advice.

Here's how it happened. MacDonald read a paper to a special gathering of students and teachers at Denver Seminary expressing his views on a burning moral issue. To write that paper, MacDonald had cut two of his classes during the day, one of which was the missiology class of Dr. Raymond Buker.

Dr. Buker came up to MacDonald after the special meeting and said, "Gordon, the paper you read tonight was a good one but it wasn't a great one. Would you like to know why?"

MacDonald sensed this would hurt, but said yes.

"The paper wasn't a great one," Dr. Buker said as he thumped his finger on MacDonald's chest, "because you sacrificed the routine to write it."

Of that experience, MacDonald wrote: "In pain, I learned one of the most important lessons I ever needed to learn. Because my time as a Christian leader is generally my own to use as I please, it would be very easy to avoid routine, unspectacular duties and give myself only to the exciting things that come along. But most of life is lived in the routine, and Buker was right: The man or woman who learns to make peace with routine responsibilities and obligations will make the greatest contributions in the long run."

MacDonald's lesson is one we must take to heart. Every one of us in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have responsibilities that require the "routine, unspectacular duties," the steady attention to details that help us achieve good outcomes in each task or venture we undertake.

Those who master the art of the routine do, indeed, make the greatest contributions.

– Beecher Hunter