

## Outstanding Leader: David Curry

*For the past five years David Curry has served as the CEO of the Tacoma Rescue Mission, a humanitarian organization that serves the homeless and poor through emergency services and housing in six locations around Pierce County in Washington state.*

*An author and public speaker, David has written three books and spoken to such diverse groups as the Congress of Peru, Cingular Wireless and Christian leaders in the Amazon jungle. He is also the founder and former President of the Foundation for Grace, an organization that provides leadership and management training to non-profits in South America, and the past Chairman of the Tacoma Public Utility Board.*

*David and his wife of 19 years, Kate, reside in Tacoma, Washington with their two sons.*

**What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment at your organization?**

Our team has had many great accomplishments, including the building of new facilities, improving our services to our clients, and creating an inspiring and beautiful atmosphere for the homeless and

hurting people we serve. But without question the greatest thing I've done here is build a team of leaders and innovators who can do their task with excellence. When I arrived here we



had a good team, now we have a great team. This has been and continues to be a process and not a destination. Our leaders are developing and taking on more responsibility all the time, and looking for new responsibilities as well, which is great.

**What do you believe is the key to success?**

A radical commitment to development and excellence is without question a necessary ingredient. So many Christian

leaders seem to be ashamed of leadership roles or diminish their desire to lead. I love leading, love the responsibility and embrace the challenge of it and I am radically committed to the task to which God has called me. But it's more than that, it's the desire to keep developing it and not just fill the corner office, but to build on the past success and change the course of the future. Without that commitment, I can't imagine how a leader would push through the discouragement, isolation and challenges of leadership. You must have that commitment.

**What advice would you give the leaders of other Christian organizations?**

I always encourage leaders to adapt a passionate obsession for the work to which the Lord has called them. This is best reflected in your intensity towards excellence and the quality of people you are willing to hire and what your leadership will demand from them. Far too many Christian leaders talk the passion game, yet they tolerate so much mediocrity because they feel they can't get the quality people to fulfill a higher standard. My feeling is that this is the most important thing I could be

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doing and I won't settle for less than a great offering to the Lord. I think it's possible to do that with love and joy, which will create a positive, challenging work environment, not a totalitarian state that most fear.