

Book shows how to use Bible for help

By Alvin A. Reid
Special to Sentinel-Voice

ST. LOUIS (NNPA) — Calling it “an indispensable volume that shows how to succeed in business by using the Bible and its lessons as a source of inspiration and guidance,” World Wide Technology founder and CEO David Steward’s *Doing Business by the Good Book: 52 Lessons Straight From the Bible* hits book store shelves this month.

In 1990, Steward founded his company, World Wide Technology, Inc., “on a shoestring budget and borrowed money.”

He was well aware of the high-risk nature of the venture he was undertaking.

Despite the fact that he was a novice entrepreneur, he was certain he would succeed. Steward believed intensely that God wouldn’t let him down.

“Doing Business by the Good Book” shares the inspiring lessons culled straight from the Bible, that Steward says he continues to use to build his privately held billion-dollar company into a global information technology enterprise.

Steward delivers 52 chapters, each accompanied by scriptural passages that emphasize their impact on his personal struggle to build a billion-dollar business. Included are chapters such as:

- Being a Customer-Driven Company — “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Matthew 7:12)
- Implementation — “Be doers of the world, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” (James 1:22)
- Praise and Recognition — “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.” (Proverbs 3:27)
- Good Leadership — “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)
- Consistency — “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Skeptics warned Steward that an African-American “didn’t have a prayer in succeeding in the world of information technology.”

More than \$3 billion in sales later, Steward says the company “continues to thrive based on unshakable faith in God and guiding core values of desire, hard work and faith.”

Reviewer Harriet Klausner writes “Perhaps if someone less successful in business than David L. Steward and Robert L. Shook wrote this guide book, readers would chuckle over the concept that the Bible offers sage advice on business practices.”

She continues, “Business ethics seems an oxymoron as the Golden Rule of Wall St. seems that them with the gold makes the rule (look at who has access to Mr. Bush, Mr. Clinton or those fiefdoms we dub Congress).”

However, cynicism aside, Mr. Steward and Mr. Shook makes a strong case that those who follow biblical guidance have a very high chance of success”

Alvin A. Reid writes for the St. Louis American.

State leaders blast Arnold's budget plan

By Kevin Herrera
Special to Sentinel-Voice
LOS ANGELES (NNPA)

— Local officials, union members, economists and a host of Democratic legislators have blasted Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s plan to solve the state’s fiscal crisis by making drastic cuts in health care and other social services, while shifting \$1.3 billion in local tax revenues to the state’s coffers.

If the governor sticks to his pledge not to raise taxes, and if voters approve a \$15 billion, fiscal-recovery-bond in March as he has requested, the state’s budget deficit and inability to create new business investment will only worsen, economists and officials said, creating more unemployment and poverty.

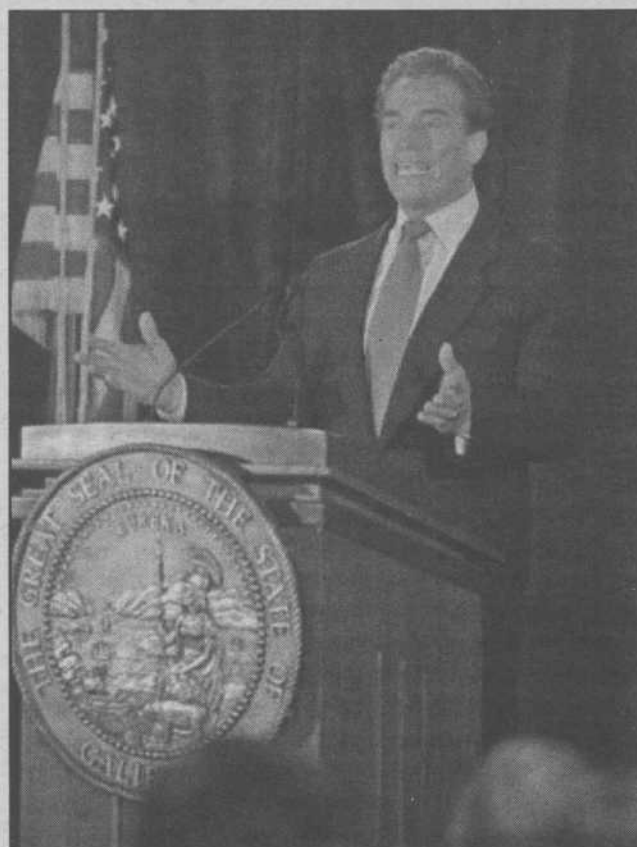
Democrats in Sacramento have urged the governor to not only make cuts, but to also create new revenue streams, meaning new taxes, to help solve the budget crisis in a “balanced way,” that would not solely target the poor and uninsured.

Local legislators said they are prepared to fight the most drastic reductions and will ask for a tax increase for the wealthiest of residents. This could signal a protracted budget debate in the coming months as both sides battle it out, neither one willing at this point to budge on cuts or new taxes.

A two-thirds vote in both houses of the Legislature is required for a budget to pass.

Schwarzenegger has not responded directly to the criticism, but he said in an interview earlier this week that he is optimistic about future budget discussions with Democrats, his biggest critics, who hold majorities in the Senate and Assembly.

“We just have to meet and talk and find a way to negotiate,” the governor said. “There will be fights and there will be arguments, but we



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger gestures during his speech to a meeting of the nation's chief justices in San Francisco on Monday.

will do it.”

H.D. Palmer, a spokesman for the governor’s Finance Department, said, “It is understandable that members of the Legislature may have a tough time coming to grips with this budget because the bill has finally come in for all the years of overspending.”

Although some of the cuts were anticipated, including caps to programs like Healthy Families, Medi-Cal and enrollment at state universities, local officials expressed anger and disappointment with the governor’s \$99.1 billion budget.

The indignation comes from a proposal to transfer nearly \$395 million in local property taxes from Los Angeles County. According to Mayor Jim Hahn, the city of Los Angeles could lose as much as \$45 million in property taxes, which most certainly would mean drastic cuts to the city’s general fund that pays for police and fire departments.

“To say that I’m disappointed would be an understatement,” Hahn said. The governor’s plan, he said, essentially takes the money reimbursed to cities last month for funds lost from vehicle license fees and puts it back in the state’s control.

Standing in front of beaming officials from local municipalities in December, Schwarzenegger made a pledge to not hurt local governments with his cut to the vehicle license fee. Now it seems his budget proposal will essentially do just that, hurt local governments, said

Hahn.

“It’s unacceptable to hurt public safety in L.A.,” he said, because it is America’s most “under-policed” big city.

City Council President Alex Padilla said the city has already “trimmed a lot of fat” in its budget.

“The governor is going back on his promise to protect local governments,” added Padilla. “As it stands now, there is no way I can see this budget passing and we will fight to make sure it does not,” he said.

Padilla, a committed member of the California Democratic Party, vowed to work with legislators in reaching a compromise with the governor.

“It’s like [Arnold Schwarzenegger] is shunning his responsibilities by looking to local governments to bail out the state,” he said. Officials said the city’s proposed litigation against the state over the car tax is back on the table.

“The game isn’t over yet,” said Hahn.

County Supervisor Gloria Molina warned if Schwarzenegger’s budget is approved, “Every resident of

this county will feel the blow.”

“The Legislature must stand up for the interests of the residents who elected them and demand that raising revenue be part of the state’s budget solution,” she added. “This is a move right out of Pete Wilson’s playbook: Steal from local governments to cover the state’s deficit.”

Tony Bell of Supervisor Mike Antonovich’s office said the budget proposals are tough, but the county can “weather the storm.”

“There are alternative cost-saving measures that we can employ,” he said.

“We need to look at program expansions and department additions over the last five years to see if they still make sense.”

Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen said the county has already made several moves to help balance its budget and should not have to pay for the state’s fiscal mismanagement.

“We are going to have to look at reductions in the same places we were looking when we were in jeopardy of losing the vehicle license fee revenue (VLF),” said Janssen.

“That means public safety, probation, parks and recreation, all of those things. It will not be as big a hit as losing the VLF, but it will most certainly poison the relationship local governments have with Sacramento.”

Janssen said the county will have to make serious plans for cost reduction in February if the governor’s proposed budget stands without significant amendments.

Los Angeles school board President Jose Huizar was one of the few officials who were thankful of the governor’s plan because it proposes no new cuts to education. It does, however, order the state to keep the \$2 billion it owes to local schools as part of Proposition 98. A provision of the proposition allows the state to withhold those funds during economic hardship, with a promise to reimburse

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Entity donates Black board game

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Research Knowledge, Inc., a Portland, Ore., board games distributor, recently announced it will donate its remaining inventory of “Black Americans of Achievements, the Game,” to nonprofits, schools and youth camps.

The game, which retails for \$25, features a 10-game set, in addition to teacher lesson plans and instructions on hosting tournaments.

All interested parties are required to pay is a \$6 shipping and handling fee.

The game’s nearly 2,000 questions focus on the accomplishments of African-Americans throughout 400 years of U.S. history. It

acknowledges individuals who have distinguished themselves in every field of endeavor, from arts and sciences, to religion and sports, entertainment and politics to technology and armed forces and much more.

Players will learn more about notable people such as Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan, Colin Powell, Tina Turner, Carl Lewis, Alex Haley, Thurgood Marshall, George Washington Carver, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis and Martin Luther King Jr.

Those interested in more information can call Tom Magee of Retirement Knowledge at 877-935-8790, e-mail him at thommagee@aol.com or www.Blackgame.com.

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