

# the fix

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### the envelope, please...

Here's an oldie-but-goodie youth ministry idea. Near the end of an event, after your kids have been challenged to run hard after a particular commitment, have them each write a letter to themselves that embraces the leadership decisions they've made. Then have them place that letter in an envelope, seal it, and address it to themselves.

Collect the letters and wait a few months, then mail them. Don't even think about opening them to read what they wrote—it's just between God and them. It's a powerful experience to reread a commitment you've made, written in your own hand.

Now let's turn the tables. Imagine this article is your sealed envelope. Make believe you wrote a leadership letter to me in January, and now in March you find that sealed letter in your mailbox in the form of this article. You're scratching your head right now, trying to remember when (and why) you wrote yourself these words. Then it comes to you. It's your New Year's Leadership Resolutions! So are you dreading what comes next? Do resolutions simply remind you of how you've already dropped the ball? Or will rereading your resolutions confirm your new leadership resolve? Maybe you're on track—not

months ago? Take a moment right now and, for the categories I've listed below, scribble what you would've written to yourself two months ago if you'd thought to do it:

- One goal for my spiritual growth...
- One goal for my relationship with my spouse or "significant other"...
- One goal for my family life...
- One goal for my friendship relationships...
- One goal for my ministry growth...
- One goal for my physical discipline...
- One goal for my stewardship of resources...

Now pause and look over what you've written—I hope you've scribbled some things that you're already feeling some success in. Why not let this "envelope" article do the same thing for you that you hope the kids' leadership letters

do for them? I promise, I haven't read what you've written—that's between you and God. But my hope is that you're already running hard after the leadership dreams God has given you.

Will you celebrate New Year's anew today? Reset your course and pay attention to your "compass"—the commitments you've just made. If you like, consider addressing another envelope to yourself today, to be opened three months from now. I have a feeling you'll be pleased with where your leadership journey takes you this year. ■



BY KENT JULIAN

with every goal, but overall you're doing well.

What are the promises you made to yourself two

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#### favorites

**BOOKS**—*One Person/ Multiple Careers*, Marci Alboher; *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture*, Shane Hipps; *The 4-Hour Workweek*, Timothy Ferriss



#### LEGAL ISSUES RESOLVING CHURCH CONFLICTS

"My youth ministry always seems to be 'in the eye of the storm'! How can we resolve conflicts within my church?" A good reference is *Peacemaker Ministries*—you can learn more by going to [www.peacemaker.net](http://www.peacemaker.net) or calling 406-256-1583 or dropping a note to them at: P.O. Box 81130, Billings, Montana 59108.

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[www.peacemaker.net](http://www.peacemaker.net)

