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Changed Mind = Changed Life

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

You may think that talking about financial literacy at your stage in life is not the most important thing for you. But, I want to convince you that this subject should be a priority in your life at any stage in life. Financial literacy is not about getting rich quick. It’s about planning and managing your finances wisely and carefully. You see before you a man who has been earning a 6 figure income since I was 23yrs old. I currently work as an Executive Chef at the US Embassy. There, that got your attention, didn’t it?

But, I haven’t always earned this amount of money, nor had a prestigious position. Over the years I have lost up to $500,000.00 through failed business attempts, by not knowing how money works, and by using less than frugal spending before I started to educate myself on finances. When you think of your future, many of you have plans to go to college. The idea of accruing student loans to earn that education may seem daunting. But, if you think school is expensive try stupidity. I come from a poor background. My family has never created wealth. I'm the first in my family that has achieved this large amount of income and I didn’t know how to manage it.

When I realized how much money I was wasting I decided to make the necessary changes in my life and stop wasting money. I researched to determine the best way to learn how to manage my money wisely. The first thing I did was seek out and hire a financial Coach name Paul Gibson. I am currently enrolled in the Robert Kiyosaki Rich Dad program.

In addition to learning how to manage my own finances, I decided I wanted to help others to learn the same lessons I learned, but learn them before they lost as much money as I did. To that end I am starting a new company that I’m calling M.A.D.E, Inc., which stands for Motivated and Determined Everyday. If you follow the principles I will be presenting then you too can achieve financial literacy and success.

I have 7 major principles. The first is M-Million mind set. That means that you set your mind to earning and managing your money in the millions, not in the hundreds or by living paycheck to paycheck. That is how the majority of the people in live and they are only three to four steps away from losing it all. They live in a tunnel where they only see what is immediately in front of them, using the old “nose to the grindstone” mentality. If your nose is always pushing against the grindstone, then you never take the time or effort to look up and see the world around you. You are stuck in a rut and don’t think about having dreams or making them come to life.

The second is A-Applied Faith. We’ve all heard it said that faith is the substance of things hoped for. But, faith that only hopes never achieves. In order for faith to achieve what it hopes for you must put feet to your faith. You must believe in what you are hoping for and then act as if it is going to happen. Believe you are going to succeed. If you doubt yourself, why should anyone else believe in you?

The third principle is D-Determination. You have to be tenacious and set your mind to doing what must be done in order to succeed. There are important lessons you must learn. There will be sacrifices you may have to make in the short term that will pay off in the long term. If you spend your money as soon as you earn it, then you’ll never increase it or have money for emergencies. There have always been people whose money “burns a hole in their pocket.” That was me for a while, but it will never be me again, and you can’t let it be you. Once you set down the steps you must do to make and increase your income, you have to stick to them. You can’t allow temptation to allow you to spend it carelessly on unimportant thing.

The fourth principle is E-Education. You have to learn how to earn money first. It won’t just be from having an hourly wage job. One of the things I learned along the way is that you must have multiple sources of income and always be developing them. That way you will never be caught with no job and no money. Then, you have to learn how to manage that money. Managing money means developing and maintaining a budget. It means spending your money wisely from the smallest expense to the largest expenditure. Last, it means managing your associations so that those you associate with cannot hinder your finances in any way.

The fifth principle is I-Invest. You must learn how to invest your money wisely. There are many different types of investments where you can place your money. The wisest investors vary their portfolio and monitor them regularly. You can’t just set them and put them on automatic pilot. You must learn how to track them and make changes when necessary.

The sixth principle is N- Negative thinking. This is something that can overcome any of us. It’s easy to give in to negative thinking when we are faced with failure and poverty all around us. Growing up poor, I was never taught that I could hope for anything better. You have to see better things for yourself in the future and keep a positive attitude. Negative thinking will prevent you from thinking clearly and making good decisions.

The last principle is C- Choice- choice to be rich. You have to choose to be rich. If you don’t then you will just settle for whatever job you can find, or a job that is comfortable or a job that is steady. If you just settle in to that job and never seek to do anything more, then you are choosing not to be rich. If you choose to be rich, then you will act accordingly. You will choose how you earn your money and choose how you manage your money in ways that will increase your wealth. You will also make decisions so that you will keep your wealth and not lose it all based upon one decision.

I believe that achieving financial literacy is something that will affect your quality of life so it is important at every stage of life.

Thank you