

# 60 seconds with Les Steckel



Les Steckel

This former NFL and college coach and current president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes logged 205 days on the road last year (not to mention one very memorable trip to Long Beach, California), . . .

By Mark Cutshall

*Les Steckel has crossed paths with Hall of Fame players, fellow U.S. military officers and national political figures. Yet, he had no idea of the opportunities that awaited him as a first-time attendee at last year's CMA annual conference in Long Beach. And as for becoming a new member of Christian Management Partners, well that's another story.*

**CMR:** Surely, as a veteran football coach and Marine Colonel, you must have given the CMA conference careful inspection. First impressions?

**STECKEL:** It was very well organized. They really kept things on schedule. One thing I especially liked was the time scheduled in between sessions that allowed me to meet others in ministry. Those conversations really broadened my perspective for God's Kingdom.

**CMR:** And along the way you got your first taste of CMA's Christian Management Partners.

**STECKEL:** I was inspired. These were not people who've simply received Jesus Christ, they've committed their entire beings to the Lord. There was such a wealth of information about what CMA's member ministries are achieving with the help of the CMP, I felt I received a master's degree in three days.

**CMR:** Another major takeaway?

**STECKEL:** Again, it would have to be the time in between the sessions, talking to people like Bob Buford and fellow presidents and CEOs. As we listened in on each others' challenges, we'd look at each other and say, "You too, eh?"

**CMR:** Is there any parallel between coaching football and being on the CMP team?

**STECKEL:** A professional highlight for me was being offensive coordinator of the Tennessee Titans when we played in

Super Bowl XXXIV. It's amazing what a group of players and coaches can accomplish when no one cares who gets the credit. The Christian principle is that you sacrifice yourself for the good of the cause and give yourself for the team. It's not about me, it's about us. In the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, it's not about us, it's about Him. The same principle holds true for CMA and Christian Management Partners. What are we willing to sacrifice *together* for God's plans and purposes?

**CMR:** You joined Christian Management Partners because you want to make a lasting difference and help strengthen CMA's direct impact on hundreds of Christian ministries. What would you say to someone who's reading this interview and silently thinking, "Christian Management Partners appeals to me, but I don't have enough time and energy?"

**STECKEL:** I remember recruiting high school football players to come play at the University of Colorado. Often they'd be reluctant and too tired to visit our campus, so I'd say, "Just take one trip and see what others have seen." Many who said "yes" made the trip and ended up on our team. The same principle holds true for CMP: Make one trip to a CMA Annual Conference. Come with your spouse. See what you've been missing, and you just may wind up inviting others to join you.

Want to know the "the rest of the story" and how you can play an essential role to accelerate CMA's effectiveness through Christian Management Partners? Contact Suzy West at [Suzy@CMAonline.org](mailto:Suzy@CMAonline.org).

**Les Steckel** is president/CEO of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes. He and his wife, Chris, live in Kansas City, Mo. His book, *One Yard Short*, will be published this summer. Contact him at [fca@fca.org](mailto:fca@fca.org).

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