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The Platt Street *Journal*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL INVESTORS AND
 PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

SET GOALS SO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE HEADED

Presented by John Boyer, Inc.

A recent speaker told a story that I think most of us can relate to. Here's my version of it.

Whenever I get in the car, I have a driving companion named Tom. Tom has an Irish accent. He charmingly calls highways "motorways" and traffic circles "roundabouts". Whenever I need to turn, Tom warns me in advance and reminds me just before the turn comes. Even when I make a wrong turn, Tom patiently tells me to turn around. He never calls me stupid or criticizes me in any way. Even when I get it wrong, Tom tells me he's "recalculating".

And, when I finally successfully get to where I'm going, Tom triumphantly exclaims: "You have reached your destination." This always makes me feel like a million bucks.

It's too bad that living isn't as easy as GPS has made driving. But, Tom is just a machine, and he only tells me how to go where I want to go. Tom doesn't decide the destination.

Even when you know your destination, you can get all mixed up because of the pressures that influence us in life. Here's a real life example.

Florence Chadwick set many international swimming records, including the record for swimming the English Channel between England



"We cannot direct the wind..."

but we can adjust our sails."

-unknown

(Cont. from pg. 1)

and France. On July 4, 1952, she attempted to become the first woman to swim 21 miles across the Catalina Channel, from Catalina Island to the California coast.

The ocean that day was ice cold, and the fog was so thick that Chadwick could hardly see the support boats following her. Sharks prowled around her; the support crew fired rifle shots to drive them away several times. Her mother and her trainer, who were in one of the support boats, encouraged her to keep going.



However, after 15 hours and 55 minutes, with only a half-mile to go, she felt she couldn't go on, and asked to be taken out of the water. She told a reporter, "I'm not excusing myself, but if I could have seen land, I know I could have made it." The fog obscured her goal, and she felt like she was getting nowhere.

Sound familiar? When we don't have a goal, or when the goal is obscured, we lose our sense of purpose.

So, we come to this basic question: What's your life goal? What's the destination programmed into your GPS? In life, we're in the Catalina Channel. It's cold and the sharks are circling. What's on the other side?

Today, sit back and think about your life, not the problems of the world, but your own life and how you feel about things. **Ask yourself, what's my goal? The answer for most of us, very simply, is happiness. We want to feel happy,** which means that at any given moment we want

to feel good about things. We talk about having the right to the pursuit of happiness, but you must pursue happiness **because it sure isn't going to pursue you.**

And, how do you find happiness?

An eye-opening study has been conducted and analyzed for 42 years by a psychiatrist named George Vaillant. Vaillant found that money or fulfilled ambition were not what made them happy. Instead, the ability to adapt brought them happiness.

Think about it: How well do you adapt to the things that happen in life? The question is not how much trouble you have in life. You can have very few troubles and not be able to cope with them. How do you respond to pain, to conflict, to uncertainty?

Nothing stays the same. For good or for ill, everything changes. If things are good, we want them to stay that way, **but life just isn't like that. They might get better or worse, but they will change. So, if our goal is happiness, we must be able to adapt to life's changes in order to stay happy.**

You may not be able to do everything you always did. If you're not working, what do you do after you wake up each day? What's your goal today? Most of us slow down some as we get older, but slowing down means getting to your goal at a slower pace, not giving up on it.

I'm not saying that's easy. The challenge, the new adventure, is to adapt and go on. But, being older should mean you have developed the ability to adapt, and thus to find happiness.

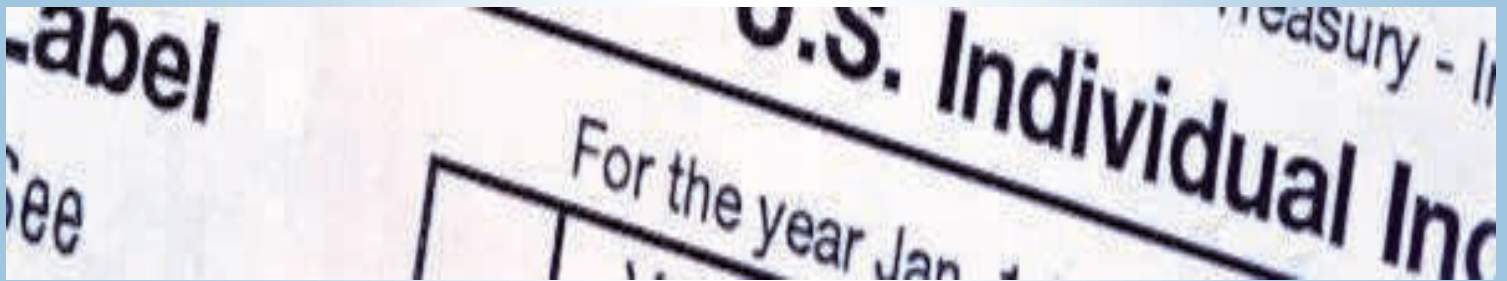
We always talk about "someday": Someday we'll do this, and someday we'll be happy. My hope is that today will be someday and that you will soon hear a voice say loud and clear, "You have reached your destination."



Enjoy

the little things in life...

For one day you will look back and realize they were the **BIG** things



THE BUSH-ERA TAX CUTS LIVE ON

With the President's signature, most of them will remain in place through 2012.

Presented by John Boyer, Inc.

A holiday gift for taxpayers? After a 277-148 passage in the House and an 81-19 approval in the Senate, President Obama signed the 2010 Tax Relief Act into law on December 17, extending the Bush-era tax cuts.¹ Here is the impact of the new legislation:

Current federal income tax rates are preserved for everyone. The federal income tax brackets will remain at 10%, 15%, 25%, 28%, 33% and 35% for 2011 and 2012.²

Unemployment insurance extends for 13 more months. This is retroactive, so the federal extension of long-term jobless benefits applies from December 2010 through December 2011.²

A payroll tax holiday occurs in 2011. The payroll taxes that employees pay will drop from 6.2% to 4.2% next year. (There will be no payroll tax cut for employers in 2011, only employees.) As envisioned, this will result in a savings of about \$1,000 next year for a wage earner bringing home \$50,000. This replaces the Making Work Pay credit.^{3,4,5}

Estate taxes will be milder than at any time in the past 80 years. For 2011, the federal estate tax drops to 35%. The estate tax exemption rises all the way to \$5 million. President Obama had earlier characterized these parameters as too generous, but he and Congressional Democrats ultimately accepted them.²

Tax breaks for middle-class and working-**class families won't sunset**. As a result of the new law, the child credit, the child and dependent-care credit, the EITC, and a \$2,500 tax credit for higher education expenses will all be around in 2011.^{5,6}

No marriage penalty. The new law wards off the comeback of the marriage penalty so that married couples may take a more generous standard deduction.⁶

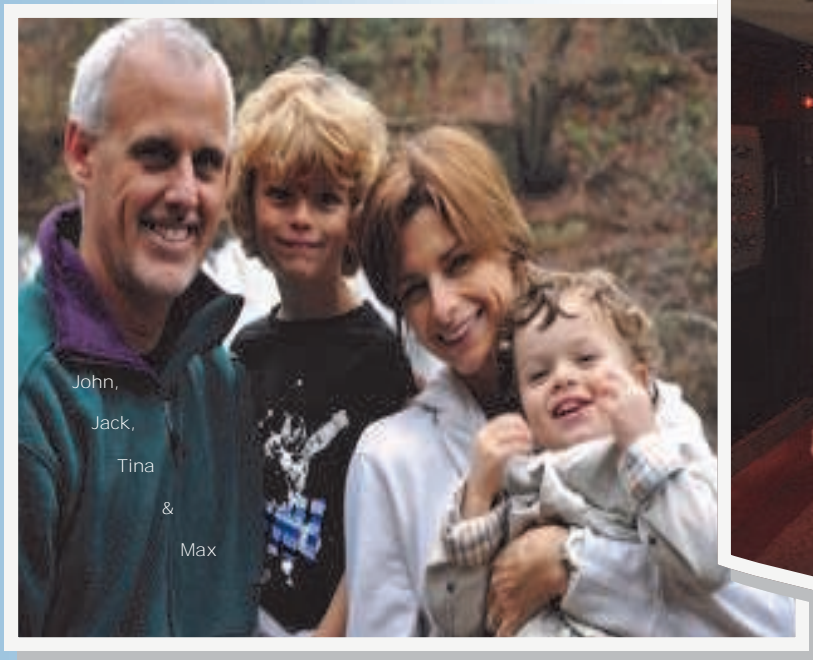
Taxes on capital gains and dividends top out at 15%. Passage of the 2010 Tax Relief Act means rates will top out at 15% through 2012.⁷

Businesses may expense 100% of their investments in 2011. In fact, qualified investments made after September 8, 2010 and before January 1, 2012 are eligible for this bonus depreciation. In addition, 50% expensing will be available for qualified property placed in service during 2012, and so-called "**long-lived**" property and transportation property may be eligible for 100% expensing if it goes into service prior to 2013.⁷

The tax break for IRA gifts to charity returns. The IRA charitable rollover, as it was informally called, was much beloved by non-profits and IRA owners, but it went away in 2010. In basic terms, it allowed someone 70½ or older donate up to \$100,000 in IRA assets annually to one or more qualified charities. This opportunity is back for 2011 – and the especially good news is that Congress included a special rule in the new tax bill allowing IRA gifts made in January 2011 to count for 2010.⁸

An AMT patch, of course. Congress decided it might as well take care of that. It passed an AMT (Alternative Minimum Tax) fix as part of the 2010 Tax Relief Act, thereby exempting about 20 million middle-income households from a potential \$3,900 average leap in federal income taxes.⁶

What's the price tag of all this short-term tax relief? It is sizable. The federal deficit is projected to increase by about \$858 billion over the next two years as a consequence.⁵



John,
Jack,
Tina
&
Max

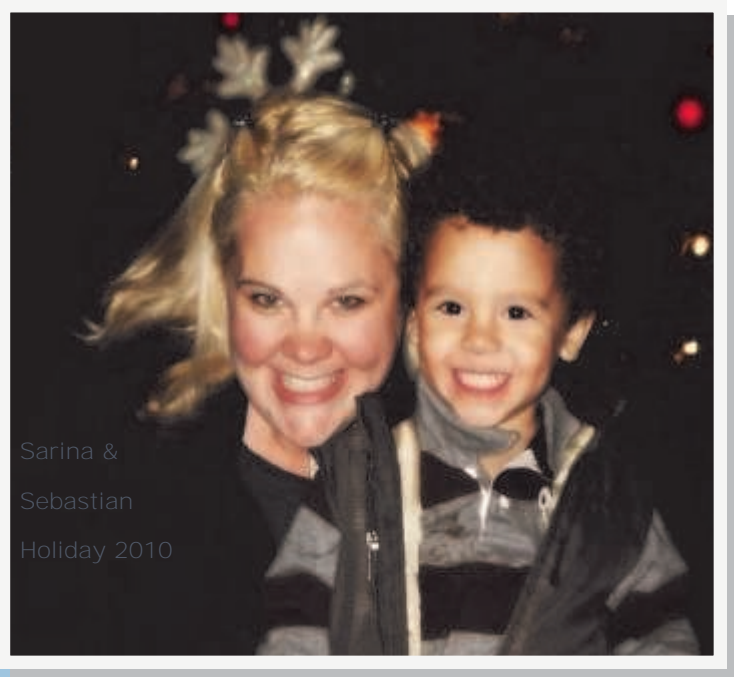


Terrell & Heather Boone



We would love to hear from

You



Sarina &
Sebastian
Holiday 2010

Please email us your thoughts or suggestions for future newsletters.

We would also love to have some pictures of your children and grandchildren!

2011 - Stock Market Holidays	Date
	*
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 17, 2011
Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day)	February 21, 2011
Good Friday	April 22, 2011
Memorial Day	May 30, 2011
Independence Day	July 4, 2011
Labor Day	September 5, 2011
Thanksgiving Day **	November 24, 2011 **
Christmas Day	December 26, 2011 (observed)



To join our conference calls

- 1) At 3 pm call 1-800-920-7487
- 2) Participation Code is 52148624
- 3) When prompted, enter your code followed by # symbol

February Conference Call 02/17/11

March Conference Call 03/17/11

[2011 Conference Call Calendar](#)

*Please join us
At 3 p.m. on*

Citations.

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"The Best thing
about the future is
That it comes
one day at a time"
-Abraham Lincoln

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