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accounting profession. They are all active in the professional community, as well as in their local communities, where many are small business owners and employers.

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Nate Hagerty – 38

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What is the name of one book that has been a great influence to you?

The Bible contains the words of life, but one or more recent publication that has greatly shaped me is a book called Adopted For Life by Russell Moore. We adopted four of our five children, and read this book before we brought any of them home. As our family has grown, we have learned the immense privilege it is to graft children

into our family — and this book gave us fuel for the battle over the hearts of our

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CEO, Troy Lakey, who has been with me for 8 years. Because of my staff, I'm able to focus on copywriting on behalf of our tax and accounting firm clients, setting strategic direction and speak to groups of CPA's and tax professionals about how they can grow their firms. In many ways, I'm a mere figurehead because of how effective and diligent is my incredible staff.

In what ways do you participate in the professional community to change/improve the accounting profession?

My passion in this industry is that CPA's and tax professionals would recognize their greatest asset remains the relationships they form with their clients and prospects. In this age of automation, it's imperative that small and medium-sized firms recognize this point of leverage and find ways to integrate relationship-building into their marketing automation and activities — specifically in the online arena.

One of my favorite activities is to speak on this to groups of tax and accounting professionals, which I have recently done at the NATP conferences, Accelerate (hosted by OfficeTools) and a variety of other success-oriented events hosted by different groups within the industry. My recent book: *How To Attract, Retain and Profit from More Tax & Accounting Clients Using The New Channels of Marketing* has been very well received, and I'd be glad to offer it to any of your readers who shoot me an email at nate@taxpromarketer.com (which goes right to me).

In what ways do you participate in your local community to help others?

With five children in the house (ages 11, 10, 10, 8 and 2) and a wife who homeschools and is a widely-recognized author in her own right (Sara Hagerty), I've found that reaching beyond the borders of our homestead is difficult during this season. But we make it a point to serve as a family, and have done so in a variety of different contexts, whether it's working together at a local homeless shelter, or providing space in our home for various gatherings and meetings. I'm very involved in my

church, and am on the board of a few different ministries that serve overseas as well

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regulations (like the ACA, etc.) continuing to increase in scope, no matter what political party holds majority power, there will always be a market for CPA's and advisers who can help small business owners and families cut through the red-tape and secure their businesses and families against risk and liability. And this represents real opportunity — as long as the CPA is able to speak the language of their clients and prospects in such a way that resonates with them.

How do you see yourself participating in shaping the future of the accounting profession?

We've built a hardy tribe of success-oriented CPA's and tax professionals who recognize the power resident within their client relationships, and all of the possibilities therein. But regardless whether a CPA joins our little tribe, I'm going to continue to bang the drum of CPA's cutting through the jargon and speaking to the conversation going on within the hearts and minds of our clients and prospects.

What is your career philosophy?

Am I old enough yet to have followed a coherent career philosophy? That'd be remarkable! I suppose if I had to look back on my young career, I'd say (and I don't always reach its fulfillment) that I believe that God cares about even the transactional details of our daily lives ... so I may as well seek to find Him in every activity of my day and career. I'll go where that leads me, and let the chips fall.

Describe one person who has been an important mentor to you and how that person helped change your life.

More than 12 years ago, I was on staff with a non-profit called YoungLife which wanted to transfer me to points remote, and a local businessman named Chauncey Hutter, Jr. helped my wife and I stay rooted in our local community by offering me a job in marketing for his tax business. I didn't realize at first, but this was life-

changing. Four years later, he helped me to start TaxProMarketer and recommended

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