



Stewardship SPOTLIGHT

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Christian Stewardship With Excellence

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Do you ever feel that you're *alive*, but not really *living*? That's a great question posed by Steve Ganger in his book [Time Warped](#).

I like the question because it challenges us

all to think about our stewardship of the time God gives us. No matter who we are or what our circumstances are, we all have 24 hours in a day to use. In this issue of *Stewardship Spotlight*, our aim is to reflect on how we use our time, and how to "make the most of every opportunity" for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom.

Serving the Lord with you,

Henry Doorn, Jr. – Executive Director

5 SMART THINGS YOU CAN DO TODAY... TO HELP YOUR FAMILY TOMORROW

SPECIAL E-MAIL BULLETIN

Would you like to avoid some of the most common but completely avoidable financial "headaches" experienced today by 70% of Americans?

Get your complimentary copy of "5 Smart Things You Can Do Today To Help Your Family Tomorrow." Just send an e-mail to info@barnabasfoundation.com

You Don't Have to be 100 to Leave a Legacy

Peter de Graaf wanted to live to be 100 years old, hoping he could personally support the charities he cared about for many years. Although he passed away at age 85, the Lord used Peter's charitable intentions to not only bless untold numbers of people, but also to inspire us today with important lessons from his experience.



Peter's story begins in 1929, when he emigrated from the Netherlands to southern California at the age of 23. By 1936, he owned and operated his own dairy farm. Later Peter entered the real estate business, developing a knack for spotting bargains, and becoming a savvy investor through the California real estate boom.

Peter also prioritized time to serve his community. He was a charter member of the San Diego Christian Reformed Church and helped start the Otay Mesa Christian Reformed Church. He also served on the boards of several service organizations, including the Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club, and Kiwanis. His community recognized his leadership abilities and elected him to serve on the Chula Vista city council, and then as mayor. Peter and his wife, Alice, enjoyed providing warm hospitality for World War II servicemen who needed a "home away from home."

Peter was both a successful businessman and a generous supporter of numerous organizations; yet for most of his life he did not use tax-advantaged ways to maximize his support of the charities he cared about. It wasn't until the final years of his earthly life that Peter somewhat reluctantly agreed to meet with Barnabas Foundation to explore gift planning options. This meeting resulted in Peter gifting a parcel of real estate, freeing up significant additional resources for the Lord's work.

Five years later, Peter suffered a major disabling stroke, which took his life shortly thereafter. A month before he passed away, Peter met with Barnabas Foundation again to revise his estate plan. As a result of that meeting, he set up the Peter de Graaf Charitable Fund to provide ongoing support to nearly 20 organizations dear to his heart.

Today, the fund continues to advance a wide range of kingdom causes—including overseas missions, Bible placement, Christian education, and much more. In fact, in 2008 the fund distributed more than \$500,000—the highest support level in its 16-year history.

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STEWARDS OF OUR TIME

Read Ephesians 5:8-20...

"Be very careful, then, how you live . . . making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

Time is a remarkable gift from God. The pages of our personal planners and the squares on our calendars represent the moments God has entrusted to our care. But how should we use them? We can fill those moments in an almost limitless variety of ways.

The Apostle Paul challenges us to be stewards of time, "making the most of our opportunities" (Eph. 5:15). But does seizing every opportunity mean we can never relax, never have a moment for ourselves, never take time to "smell the roses?"

No! Here in these verses, Paul reminds us that using our time well is set against the backdrop of God's divinely established rhythm for life: "Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God" (Ex. 20:9-10).

God's "six and one" pattern reminds us that we do not live by work alone. Rather, our times are in God's hand. God's grace working through us makes a difference—not only for today but for eternity.

Source: "The Joy of Generosity" devotional series developed by Barnabas Foundation and available at www.barnabasfoundation.com; adapted from the HomeLink series written by Pastor Bob Heerspink and released by Faith Alive Christian Resources (www.faithaliveresources.com).

Recommended Resource

TIME WARPED—FIRST CENTURY TIME STEWARDSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY LIVING

By Steve Ganger



Would you like to be a better steward of your time and make the most of every opportunity?

Time Warped takes an honest look at the hectic pace of our lives, and invites the reader to evaluate how they are using their time from God's perspective.

Throughout the book, 21st century living is contrasted with 1st century living within 6 major focus areas: What We Believe, How We Live, Whom We Serve, How We Renew, When We Die, and What We Change.

This book is certainly a "good read," but it is also a call to action. Using the practical tools such as the "Personal Time Plan" and "Time Chart" will help you be successful in assessing and setting priorities and budgeting your time anchored in sound biblical stewardship principles.

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Peter's story highlights important lessons for everyone who wants to honor God with the time and money He has entrusted to them:

First, **don't wait**. Although most of us would like to live long, healthy lives, the day and hour of our death may come sooner than expected.

Second, **gift planning is wise stewardship** because it maximizes the resources available to your family and God's Kingdom—both during and after your lifetime.

And finally, if we **live and give with eternity in mind**, it doesn't matter if God gives us 10 years or 100 years on earth—we all have the opportunity to leave a legacy that brings glory to God and eternal joy.

ASK BARNABAS FOUNDATION

Q. Couldn't I save a lot of time and hassle by simply naming my children as beneficiaries of my life insurance and retirement benefits, instead of preparing a Will or Trust?

A. Your desire to be a good steward of your time is admirable. However, others who have tried this strategy have ended up disappointed. Naming beneficiaries of your life insurance and retirement benefits, in an attempt to avoid the time and costs associated with preparing an estate plan, does not address the transfer of other personal assets such as your home, savings, etc. An unintended consequence of simply naming children as beneficiaries is that children may receive cash distributions from these benefits as early as age 18, whether or not they are ready to handle that responsibility. As a good steward, you may also receive tax advantages by funding the kingdom causes close to your heart with your retirement benefits.



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