



Stewardship SPOTLIGHT

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Christian Stewardship With Excellence

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



In this issue of *Stewardship Spotlight*, we take a look at the importance of passing along values—biblical stewardship values—to the next generation.

That really gets at the heart of what God has called Barnabas Foundation to do over the past three decades—helping Christians like you express biblical values to your families and the ministries that are dear to your hearts through your estate plans.

Our desire is to provide you with a fresh perspective and helpful tools as you consider the values you want to communicate to the next generation. On behalf of the staff here at Barnabas Foundation, let me say that it is a God-given honor to walk this journey with you.

Serving the Lord with you,

Henry Doorn, Jr. – Executive Director

Passing on Values to the Next Generation

The *New York Times* reports that when it comes to inheritance, Americans are increasingly thinking not only of the money they will leave behind, but also about the values they want to pass along to the next generation.

These discussions are taking place in an environment of changing estate tax laws, innovative gift planning instruments, plentiful advice on wealth management, a troubled economy, and family ties that are complicated by divorce, remarriage, and adoption.

As more Americans hire others to manage the financial content of their wealth, a growing number are busy managing its philosophical or ethical legacy themselves.

Patricia Angus, a financial planner in New York, said that many of her clients were changing how they define wealth. “The definition is broadening to include not just financial capital but human, social and intellectual capital,” Ms. Angus said.

“Professionals used to think it was just, ‘How do I transfer my financial assets at the lowest tax costs?’ Now people are asking, ‘What is the purpose and meaning of what I’m doing here, and how do I pass those down?’ [Estate Planning] is an opportunity to talk as a family about purpose and values that might not otherwise come up.”

For believers, the estate planning process is an opportunity to communicate biblical values to children and grandchildren, as well as to express commitment to kingdom causes. For more than 30 years, Barnabas Foundation has been a safe place for Christian families to consider the values they want to pass on to the next generation, and then to reflect those values in their estate plan.

Source: *New York Times* article; “Breaking the Silence”; by John Leland

WANT TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE WAY YOU THINK AND DO STEWARDSHIP?

Join us for the third annual *Christians & Money Conference* on Wednesday October 29, 2008 at the Calvin College Prince Center in Grand Rapids, MI. The “Extraordinary Makeover: Stewardship Edition” will feature musician Ken Medema and stewardship champion Mark Vincent.

Get inspired to ignite a stewardship revolution in your church with cutting edge solutions to your stewardship challenges as

well as energizing fellowship and networking opportunities with pastors and church leaders.

This vision-expanding event is co-sponsored by Barnabas Foundation and Calvin Theological Seminary.

For more information, visit www.barnabasfoundation.com/churchconference or call 1.888.448.3040



How can I increase my income when I retire?

There are many ways to “boost” your annual income once you reach retirement age. Many seniors own assets that are producing little or no income such as certain types of real estate, stocks, and CDs with low interest rates. Sometimes an investment property can actually be a drain on your annual income. For instance, real estate requires the annual payment of taxes, insurance, and miscellaneous maintenance.

One way to increase your annual income is to take an asset with little earning power and turn it into an asset with greater earning power. This can be done by converting the asset into a Charitable Gift Annuity or a Charitable Remainder Trust. These types of life income agreements do just that—provide you with income for life and a gift to charity after you are gone.

There are also tax benefits associated with Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts. When you fund them with appreciated property, you receive a charitable tax deduction and avoid the payment of capital gain tax.

For more information about the benefits of Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts, contact Barnabas Foundation at 1.888.448.3040

RESEARCH SHOWS POSITIVE IMPACT OF SPIRITUAL HEALTH ON GIVING

As spiritual maturity increases, so does giving.

That is the conclusion drawn by our researcher, Dr. Rodger Rice, as he merged and studied the results of over 4,000 responses to surveys of 25 individual churches. In our partnership with churches in Stewardship Education, we’ve developed a survey which measures the spiritual health and maturity of respondents, based upon the evaluation of a variety of factors such as participation in Sunday worship service, private prayer and devotions, volunteer service, etc.

Dr. Rice’s research shows that the most spiritually healthy people had given an average of 13% of their incomes to all charitable causes in the previous year, while the least spiritually healthy people had contributed an average of 2%. A finding of particular interest is that those whose lifestyles reflect spiritual disciplines are more generous, regardless of age.

For more information about this research, contact Good Steward Ministry consultant, Dr. Rodger Rice, at rrice@barnabasfoundation.com

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PASSING ALONG VALUES TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

“Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.” – Psalm 22:30

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all who are to come.” – Psalm 71:18

“I will sing of the LORD’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.” – Psalm 89:1

Resource Review

ROAD TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Crown Financial Ministries



Want to help yourself and others grow in stewardship? The *Road to Financial Freedom* is a user-friendly action plan to help your church understand and apply biblical financial stewardship. The kit includes resources for personal study, small groups, preaching, and promotional helps—and is presented in 4 easy-to-use components: a tri-fold “Getting Started” brochure, a handbook, a CD-ROM, and a DVD. Crown designed the series so that every church member will have the opportunity to experience 4 levels of learning for maximum life impact: preaching, teaching (small groups), celebrating, and applying. The support sections on the CD-ROM are outstanding. It includes a thorough guide to organizing the plan and training volunteers, as well as excellent promotional resources (clip art, posters, etc.).

For more information, visit the Crown Financial Ministries web site at www.crown.org



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