



# Stewardship SPOTLIGHT

A Publication of Barnabas® Foundation

Christian Stewardship With Excellence

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



In this issue of Stewardship Spotlight, we want to highlight God's life-changing gift of wise counsel. You'll see this powerful biblical priority come through in the

remarkable life story of Anne Oostendorp, the resources we feature in this issue, the appointment of our new Director of Planned Giving Services, and more. Our desire at Barnabas Foundation is to provide you with a safe, trusted place to receive wise counsel, as you discern how to make the most of the resources the Lord has entrusted to you.

Serving the Lord with you,

Henry Doorn, Jr. – Executive Director

## Wise Counsel Helps Preacher's Daughter Leave \$3 Million for Ministry

Anne Oostendorp sat in the back row of church for nearly 30 years, slipping out quietly nearly every Sunday morning after the worship services at LaGrave Christian Reformed Church. She never married or had a family, spending time instead with her sister and brothers, a small circle of friends and nieces and nephews.



And so when this quiet, unassuming daughter of a CRC pastor passed away on October 24, 2007 at the age of 66, friends and family were delighted and surprised to learn she had left \$3 million to the kingdom causes she loved.

"Nobody on her street would have guessed she had that kind of money," her brother Derk Oostendorp observed. "She lived like *The Millionaire Next Door*", a reference to a popular book that concluded many wealthy Americans live far below their means. When it came to buying a car, for example, "You wouldn't find her buying a Lexus," Derk noted. She opted for a Pontiac instead.

A graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School, Anne helped develop the specialty of pediatric radiology and became the first pediatric radiologist in West Michigan. She initially objected to the high salary she would be paid, prompting a colleague to suggest that Anne "use the money for what [she] thought was right." That advice would prove to be a defining moment in Anne's lifestyle of generosity to her family and the ministries she loved.

In her work, Anne developed a reputation for being very diligent, dedicated to finding the causes of disease in children through diagnostic tests and the latest research in her field. Anne was very gifted at asking the right questions, and was described as "very intense" when it came to finding the right answers to those questions.

The ability to ask the right questions and find the right answers carried over into Anne's finances too. Although she was quite private about her personal finances, she had an innate sense of who to trust and ask for advice on her investments. She selected a trusted advisor, and her assets began to multiply.

Anne also realized she needed good counsel when it came to thinking through her charitable investments in ministry organizations. She turned to the professionals at Barnabas Foundation, who, her brother Derk recalled, "allowed her to plan carefully how she would use funds to be able to give to things she was interested in."

Barnabas Foundation helped Anne develop an estate plan rooted in "very definite personal connections"—including her family, CRWRC, Christian Reformed World Missions, Kuyper College, Calvin College, Luke Society, and her church.

The Bible says, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." (Proverbs 15:22). Anne understood the importance of seeking wise Godly counsel, and her commitment to this biblical principle has blessed many others—and will continue to bless many more—for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom.

## Making the Most of Your Money

We feel this surge of triumph when we make the most out of our money and get the “biggest bang out of our buck.” It may surprise us to learn that Jesus Christ wants us to experience that in its finest form. If there ever was anyone concerned that we get the most out of the money we handle, it is Jesus Christ. In fact, I do not hesitate to say that the finest, wisest and most profitable financial investment advice ever given came from the lips of Jesus Christ. If you sat down across a kitchen table with Jesus Christ and asked him to be your financial planner, you would be amazed to discover that he has a very carefully thought-through pattern of financial planning that pays dividends that are literally out of this world.

Source: “Managing the Master’s Money” by Pastor Ken Koeman based on Luke 16: 1-13. This sermon was submitted to Barnabas Foundation for the “Sermon Ideas” link at [www.barnabasfoundation.com](http://www.barnabasfoundation.com)

## PLANNED GIVING SERVICES LEADERSHIP



We are pleased to announce the appointment of Amy Bakker Baty as Director of Planned Giving Services for Barnabas Foundation. Since joining our ministry in February 2006, Amy has demonstrated outstanding legal and planning skills, as well as organizational leadership. Her 17 years of private practice experience and track record of quality service at Barnabas Foundation, combined with her

Christian commitment, positions Amy to be an effective leader of the Barnabas Foundation Planned Giving Services team. Amy will continue to reside in Michigan and divide her time between Barnabas Foundation’s main office in Tinley Park, IL and its Grand Rapids, MI office.

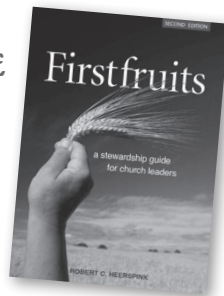
## New Book Features Church-tested Stewardship Resources

### FIRSTFRUITS: A STEWARDSHIP GUIDE FOR CHURCH LEADERS

By Pastor Robert Heerspink

Looking for a proven “how to” stewardship book for your church? Barnabas Foundation has partnered with Faith Alive Resources to produce FirstFruits: A Stewardship Guide for Church Leaders (second edition) by Pastor Robert Heerspink. You’ll not only gain a better understanding of stewardship within your congregation, but will also enjoy church-tested tools and resources to help your leaders and members develop a whole-life stewardship mindset.

For more information, go to [www.firstfruitsbook.org](http://www.firstfruitsbook.org)



## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT WISE COUNSEL?

*“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” – Proverbs 15:22*

*“The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.” – Proverbs 12:15*

*“Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.” – Proverbs 19:20*

## KEN MEDEMA FEATURED AT OCTOBER 29 CHRISTIANS AND MONEY CONFERENCE

Want to revolutionize the way you think and do stewardship in your church? 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 (who recently produced some excellent stewardship resources for worship) as well as stewardship champion and author Mark Vincent.



You’ll hear about cutting edge solutions to your stewardship challenges and enjoy 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](http://www.barnabasfoundation.com/churchconference) or call 1.888.448.3040



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