

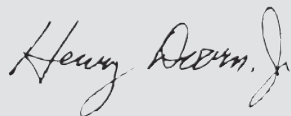
## FROM THE DIRECTOR



In his thought-provoking book *Jesus and Money*, Ben Witherington, the author, tells a compelling story of an affluent attorney who was a member

of the pledge drive team for his local church. One of the people he was assigned to visit was a retired woman living on a fixed income in a trailer at the edge of town. After a pleasant chat, the attorney noted the woman's modest means, assumed she would not be interested in the pledge drive, and rose to leave without asking for a gift. The woman protested, "Wait a minute! Don't take away my opportunity to contribute to the ministry of Jesus." What a beautiful perspective! In this issue of *Stewardship Spotlight*, our aim, like the retired woman, is to draw near to the heart of God together.

Serving the Lord with you,



Henry Doorn, Jr. – Executive Director

## Finding God in Financial Challenges

My wife Beckie has a small purple notebook she calls "love letters from God" where she has jotted down pages full of little-known Bible verses that she uses to encourage our family and others. One of the texts that has really blessed people who are struggling with financial concerns is found in Acts 17:26-27, which tells us that God arranged the exact time and place we are now living through "so that [we] would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."

So how should we seek the Lord and reach out for Him if we are concerned about finances? In a recent *Christianity Today* article, noted Christian author Philip Yancey shared that in one of the most turbulent weeks of our nation's current financial challenges (when stock markets around the world declined by \$7 trillion) an editor at *Time* magazine phoned him and simply asked, "How should a person pray in a time like this?" Three compelling insights on prayer emerged in that conversation that I trust God will use to speak to you:

**1. Help!** Yancey explains that when someone faces a major challenge in their life, such as a job loss, health issue, or watching their life savings dwindle away, they tend to cry out for help instinctively. Prayer gives voice to these fears and worries. Yancey says he has learned to resist the temptation to try and edit his prayers to make them more "sophisticated" because God wants us to come to him as we are, with childlike faith.

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## INTRODUCING A NEW FACE AT BARNABAS FOUNDATION

With the move of Kurt Knoll to the newly created position of Director of Investment Services, David Schutt takes over Kurt's prior responsibilities as our new Director of Finance and Administration. David is a Certified Public Accountant and brings extensive financial management experience to his new position at Barnabas Foundation. He is responsible for managing the financial and administrative functions of the organization which include financial statements, tax returns, human resources and office management.



Prior to joining us, Dave served as Division Controller for Republic/Allied Waste Services in the Chicago area; Senior Staff Accountant for Lafaye, Brock & Associates, a Florida CPA firm; and Financial Analyst for Gottlieb's Financial Services in Jacksonville, FL. He is an active member of the American Institute of CPA's and has served as treasurer for churches in Florida and Indiana. We're pleased to add Dave and his gifts to the Barnabas team.

## MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH BARNABAS FOUNDATION

Assisting individuals and families with their estate plans as well as unique charitable gift opportunities is a specialty of the professionals at Barnabas Foundation.

On September 29, Barnabas Foundation hosted its annual Planned Giving Conference in Tinley Park, IL. A special session entitled "My Personal Experience with Barnabas Foundation" featured a panel of people who have used the services of Barnabas Foundation and agreed to share their personal perspectives in collaborative gift planning.

Several themes emerged, including Barnabas Foundation's professional expertise, Christian stewardship perspective, commitment to trust and confidentiality, benefits of objectivity and independence (Barnabas Foundation doesn't ask for gifts or sell financial products), and options to make giving more flexible and simple.

To discover how Barnabas Foundation can help you achieve your charitable giving goals, go to [www.barnabasfoundation.com](http://www.barnabasfoundation.com) or call 1.888.448.3040.

## Finding God in Financial Challenges

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**2. Meditate.** Yancey observes that times of uncertainty provide a good opportunity to evaluate what we are truly putting our faith in. He advises not only talking, but listening in our prayers, and asking God to show us what He wants us to learn from the current economic challenges we face.

**3. Compassion for others.** The third thought is perhaps the most difficult—taking our eyes off of our own financial worries, and looking with compassion and prayer on the staggering needs of others. Yancey notes, for example, that in the same week the global stock market sank by \$7 trillion, the inflation rate in Zimbabwe soared by 231 million percent (in other words, if you lived in Zimbabwe and had \$1 million yesterday, it would be worth just \$158 dollars today). Yancey concluded with a surprising challenge: "What a testimony it would be if, in these challenging times, Christians resolved to *increase* their giving to the needy. Such a response defies all logic and common sense."

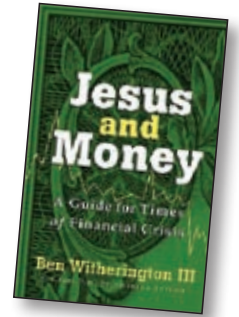
Bottom line: God is using the financial challenges we are facing to remind us that He is near, and His heart longs for our hearts to seek Him together, reach out for Him, and draw closer to Him.

*Mike Buwalda (mike@barnabasfoundation.com) is a stewardship consultant for Barnabas Foundation.*

## Recommended Resource

### JESUS AND MONEY

*Ben Witherington III*



Recognized twice by *Christianity Today* as one of the top "biblical studies" authors in the U.S., New Testament scholar Ben Witherington recently released a timely book in the wake of the global recession to help Christians rethink their approach to money, using God's Word as a guide. While highlighting the wisdom found in the Old Testament regarding money and possessions, Witherington urges a New Testament theology of stewardship and giving—guided in part by the Lord's Prayer. Readers are urged to "deprogram" themselves from the culture, and recognize that financial resources are given to us in order to support our families, help people in need, and advance the gospel message.

## SIMPLIFY YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

Barnabas Foundation's Stewards Fund (our donor-advised fund) is one of the best ways to simplify your year-end charitable giving. It allows you to make a one-time gift to Barnabas Foundation that you can later use to recommend multiple gifts to your favorite charities. Benefits include:

- **Timing** - You may time your gift to gain the greatest tax advantage.
- **Flexibility** - Using the Stewards Fund simplifies gifting non-cash assets to several charitable organizations.
- **Tax Benefits** - You receive an immediate tax benefit, and avoid capital gain tax on contributions of long-term appreciated assets.
- **Privacy** - You may decide to give anonymously whenever you choose to do so.

You can enjoy all of these benefits and more with a Barnabas Foundation Stewards Fund.



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