



Stewardship SPOTLIGHT

A Publication of Barnabas® Foundation

Christian Stewardship With Excellence

July 2007

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Greetings, and welcome to your Summer 2007 issue of *Stewardship Spotlight*! Since merging two previous Barnabas Foundation publications—

Firstfruits Findings and *Spotlight*—we've received numerous positive comments from readers like you, and are pleased you are finding this newsletter to be such a valuable resource on your stewardship journey. As Randy Alcorn noted in his book *Money, Possessions and Eternity*, "Stewardship is not a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship is the Christian life." With that in mind, may we experience the joy of the Lord together as we use all of the gifts He's given us—our treasure, our time, and our talents—for His glory.

Serving the Lord with you,
Henry Doorn, Jr. – *Executive Director*

Raising the Bar

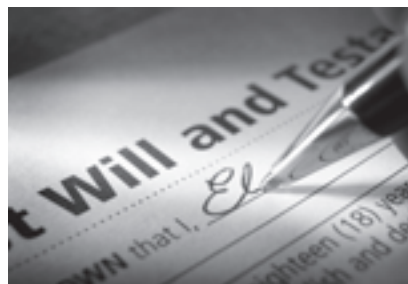
Phil Fehlen from Carlsbad, California, broke the high jump record when he cleared the bar at 5 feet, 7 ¾ inches. If you're a track and field enthusiast, you probably know that the world record in the high jump is over 8 feet. What was so amazing about Phil Fehlen's jump is that he was 63 years old when he soared 5 feet 7 ¾ inches off the ground—breaking the record for high jumpers in their 60's. How in the world does a 63-year-old guy leap over a bar nearly 6 feet off the ground? When asked about his world-record accomplishment, Phil notes, "I've been training hard and intelligently for this record for years." We can imagine how it went, can't we? At a much earlier age, Phil set the bar at a more manageable height—say, 2 feet 6 inches. Then with intelligence and hard training he was able to slowly move the bar up higher and higher. Weight training, technique study, skill honing, professional coaching, and practice, practice, more practice paid off. Eventually, Phil Fehlen could soar where no 63-year-old man had ever soared before. Similarly, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthian Christians to raise the bar on their giving higher and higher. And that's our challenge today: to see to it that we get better and better at the Christian virtue of giving.

Excerpted from a sermon titled "Raising the Bar on Giving" by Pastor Frank Wevers, Calvary CRC (Holland, MI), submitted to Barnabas Foundation for the "Sermon Ideas" link at www.barnabasfoundation.com.

ISN'T ESTATE PLANNING JUST FOR THE WEALTHY?

You're Invited ...

Join us at the 2nd Annual Christians and Money Conference, October 24 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This event is designed for pastors, church leaders and anyone involved with church stewardship. This event is co-sponsored by Calvin Seminary and Barnabas Foundation. **Find more details at www.barnabasfoundation.com/churchconference or (888) 448-3040.**



Not at all—estate planning is for everyone! It is simply the process of deciding where your assets should be distributed after your death. Most people underestimate the value of their estate. When assessing your net worth, don't forget to include the face value of insurance policies, retirement benefits, and the value of your home. If you do not prepare an Estate Plan, the state has one prepared for you and will determine the guardianship of minor children and the recipients of your assets.

Is it Time to Update Your Will?

If you've had any significant changes in your life since you last made your Will, it may be time to review your Estate Plan. Once a person has gone through the process of completing their initial Estate Plan, they often have a lasting sense of completion. This feeling may lull them into a false sense of security even though their plan no longer really meets their objectives. There are a number of reasons why it may be important to revisit your existing Estate Plan.

"Some have been lulled into a false sense of security even though their Estate Plan no longer really meets their objectives."

- **Family.** Your family situation or the family situation of your beneficiaries may have changed. Perhaps you had small children when you first designed your plan. Now, they are grown and self-sufficient without a bequest from you. A death in your family may have occurred, changing your situation and your desires under your plan. More and more frequently Christian families are touched by divorce or problems with substance abuse. Any or all of these factors may necessitate a change in the beneficiaries or the persons chosen to carry out your Estate Plan after your death.
- **Finances.** Your financial situation may have changed (or is about to change). Perhaps you are contemplating selling a business or planning your retirement. It could be that through the Lord's blessing the size of your estate has increased significantly so that estate and gift tax consequences are now a concern. Maybe you are thinking of selling the farm or some other piece of real estate that has increased in value over time. The value of your retirement assets may have changed so that your existing beneficiary designations do not accomplish your goals.
- **Ministry.** You may feel motivated to have a greater and more lasting impact for God's kingdom by adjusting your plan to more fully include Christian ministries. Perhaps your Estate Plan omitted gifts to Christian causes altogether. This has resulted in an Estate Plan that does not fit your values and is not the legacy you wish to leave as your last statement concerning what you believe is most important. Maybe you have caught a vision for supporting a particular work or organization after your death. Literally, this could be "a gift that keeps on giving" after you are gone.

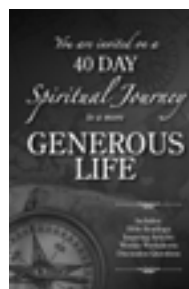
Is it time to review your Estate Plan? For a free, confidential appointment with the Barnabas Foundation estate planner for your area, contact us at (888) 448-3040 or info@barnabasfoundation.com. The planner will be happy to sit down in the convenience of your home or office and review whether changes are necessary. If so, we will help you structure a plan that truly accomplishes your goals and reflects your values.

Free Report: Top 10 Estate Planning Mistakes

For over 30 years, God has allowed Barnabas Foundation to serve more than 7,000 kingdom-minded people like you, resulting in nearly \$1 billion in completed Estate Plans. Along the way, we've encountered several misconceptions about estate planning. From that experience, we've compiled a list of the "Top 10 Estate Planning Mistakes or Misconceptions (and how to avoid them)" to help you as you consider how best to manage the resources God has entrusted to you. To request your copy of this FREE report, simply send an e-mail to ldyks@barnabasfoundation.com.

40-Day Spiritual Journey to a more Generous Life

by Pastor Brian Kluth



Pastor, Promise Keepers speaker, and former Christian Stewardship Association president Brian Kluth has produced a 40-day devotional that will "help you experience God in life-changing ways" as you encounter God's wisdom on finances. Pastor Kluth gives you daily Bible readings that will transform your attitudes and actions about giving. The material is enhanced with reflection questions and worksheets. Crown Financial Ministries president Howard Dayton called the book "a highly effective tool based on God's Word that will produce generous hearts and extraordinary giving."

To order and/or receive discount pricing for 13 or more books, go to <http://kluth.org/barnabas.htm>



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18601 North Creek Drive, Suite B
Tinley Park, IL 60477-6238
www.barnabasfoundation.com
(888) 448-3040