



## True Riches eNewsletter

"So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?" Luke 16:11

May 2007

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### **Saving New Orleans with Faith?**

#### **Faith-based organizations surpass government efforts**

*Thursday, Mar. 22, 2007 By JOHN J. DI IULIO JR.*

As news stories, government reports and academic studies have confirmed, religious organizations were among the few "first responders" to respond well in the days after the storms hit. Since then, national religious nonprofits have led the region's recovery efforts.

When the levees broke in New Orleans, the Rev. Jerry Kramer scrambled to get his family out alive. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed their tiny house, but within days, Kramer, pastor of the Free Church of the Annunciation, was wading through the filthy floodwaters to help others. Before rebuilding his own home, Kramer helped rebuild homes and find shelter for many others. His congregation took out a million-dollar mortgage to turn the church and several surrounding properties into what they call Resurrection House, which includes a dormitory for volunteers who do construction work or reach out to the needy in the adjoining Broadmoor neighborhood.

As news stories, government reports and academic studies have confirmed, religious organizations were among the few "first responders" to respond well in the days after the storms hit. Since then, whether measured by volunteers mobilized, dollars donated, houses rebuilt or people counseled and consoled, national religious nonprofits like the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Jewish federations,



#### ***Helping People Achieve Lives of Stewardship Excellence Before God***

The Christian Legacy Foundation (CLF) exists to enable faithful stewards to give wisely to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

CLF is the Tampa Bay area affiliate of the National Christian Foundation.

Open your Giving Fund today, or learn more about our innovative giving solutions, tools and resources at [www.clfinc.org](http://www.clfinc.org)

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Suite 504  
PO Box 22774  
Tampa, Florida 33622-2774

**Did you know you can give ...**

Lutheran Social Services and Habitat for Humanity; parent denominational bodies ranging from United Methodists to Southern Baptists; and local churches, synagogues and mosques have led the region's recovery efforts.

[Read the rest of the article](#)

## Noncash Donations

*by Crown Financial Ministries. 04-06- 2007*

**The motive for giving must be to honor the Lord and to further His kingdom.**

One of the most effective ways to give to the Lord is to give to a church or ministry something of appreciated value (an asset that was bought at a low price that is now worth much more).

Christians who plan to give noncash gifts to a church or to a Christian organization should look for something that can potentially grow in value (such as stocks, bonds, jewelry, coins, real estate). The tax benefits can be great, since contributors won't be taxed the same amount that they would if they had sold the item and then given the amount for which it was sold.

In addition, they can write off the entire amount against their income tax, just as if they had given cash, and they can avoid capital gains taxes that would have been paid if the item or property had been sold.

One caution is to be certain that the item(s) given is of real value to the recipient; avoid giving useless, worn out, or junk gifts.

Also don't ever give to God just to get a tax deduction. "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21).

[Read the rest of this article](#)

## Local Ministry Events

**May 3** - [National Day of Prayer](#)

**May 4** - [First Ladies' Prayer Brunch of Tampa Bay](#)

**May 17** - VIP Book Release Party for "Lord Heal Me" - Operation Light Force [More Info](#)

**May 26** - Compassion Ministry Fair - Christ aCross America [Click here for information](#)

**May 31** - Hassle Free Backpack Program begins -

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Join

Somebody Cares Tampa Bay [www.sctb.org](http://www.sctb.org)

**June 1** - "[Virtuoso](#)" Affirmation Ballet Company

**June 23** - CareFest Benefit Concert - [Somebody Cares Tampa Bay](#)

**June-July** - Christ aCross America [53 day 3600 mile bike ride](#)

**Sept 22** - [CareFest](#) - Somebody Cares Tampa Bay

**October 13** - [Raise the Roof](#) - Somebody Cares Tampa Bay

**Nov 8 - 10** - "An Act for Humanity" starring Charles "Roc" Dutton to benefit Abe Brown Ministries (save the date!)  
[More info](#)

If your ministry event isn't listed, let us know by [emailing Angie](#). We'd like to include all our ministry partners' events.

### **Give Tomorrow, Benefit Today**

Looking for a creative way to balance your giving with your income or estate needs? If so, consider opening a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) with the Christian Legacy Foundation.

A Charitable Remainder Trust is a giving tool that allows you to transfer appreciated assets into the trust, avoid taxes on the sale of the assets, and receive an immediate income tax deduction. CLF then liquidates these assets for you, and the assets can be reinvested to produce income that goes to you or others designated by you for a specified period of time.

At the end of the trust period, the remainder balance goes to your favorite charities. Your CLF Giving Fund can be named as the trust's charitable beneficiary - thus, giving you the flexibility of changing charitable recipients as often as you need to.

When it comes to determining how much income from your trust goes to you or people you designate, you have two choices:

- 1) You can lock in the amount of annual payments from the trust. This is called a "charitable remainder annuity trust." The amount that you lock in can be based on dollars or a fixed percentage of the fair market value of the trust when you open it. However, keep in mind that if you elect to open a charitable remainder annuity trust, you do not have the option of adding to the trust.

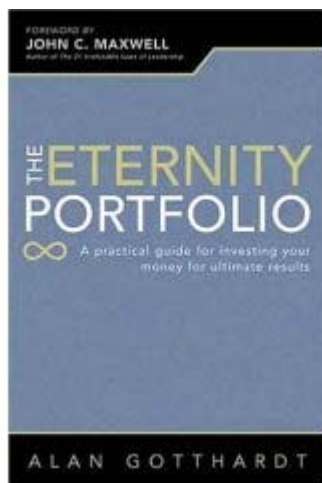
2) You may elect to have the amount of annual payments vary each year by creating a "charitable remainder unitrust." In this case, income paid by the trust to you or your designees is a fixed percentage of the principal of the trust - but that principal is re-valued each year based on market conditions. You may, however, add to the trust over time.

Either way, you establish the trust, take an immediate tax deduction (in most cases), set the terms for your payments, and then give the remainder of the trust to your favorite charities after your trust period is up.

[Read a case study ...](#)

### Recommended Reading

All too often, Christians give out of guilt or legalism instead of joy and purpose. Even those who have a biblical perspective on giving rarely have a strategic plan for carrying out their beliefs. In *The Eternity Portfolio*, respected CPA and financial advisor Alan Gotthardt combines biblical teaching with modern investment-portfolio theory and offers fresh, practical how-tos for strategic, satisfying giving. A motivating and practical book from Generous Giving.



*Contact us to receive this book for only a \$10 donation.*

*Also available through most online bookstores.*

email: [clf@clfinc.org](mailto:clf@clfinc.org)  
phone: (813) 567-1499  
web: <http://www.clfinc.org>

**CLF IS Christian  
Estate Planning  
and Design**

Did you know you that CLF has developed a uniquely Christian approach to estate planning and estate design? If you would like to hear our ideas or if you would like a free second opinion on your current estate plan, please contact us. You may find a new, creative way to support your church and favorite ministries!

Find out how a Giving Fund can be powerful and flexible part of your estate plan by downloading [Testamentary Giving](#) from our website.

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