



True Riches eNewsletter

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

July 2007

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Hard Questions About Christian Legacy Foundation

Part 1 of 4

by Bob Collins, Executive Director

As I've talked with people over the past few years about our foundation, I have enjoyed and appreciated some of the hard questions asked by serious, thoughtful people. Over the next few months in this newsletter, I will be addressing these questions. Perhaps you have already thought of some of these questions. Perhaps to some you will say to yourself "Yes, what is the answer to that one?"

1. Aren't community foundations just trying to get their hands on other peoples' money?

We aren't.

The most basic service that community foundations offer is the donor-advised fund. It gives families and corporations the functionality of a private grant-making foundation with none of the hassles and at a fraction of the cost. Contributions are immediately tax-deductible, assets within the fund can be invested tax-free, and the donor can recommend grants to his/her church and favorite charities. The point is that the donor-advisor still directs the timing and the recipient of the grants.

Some community foundations focus on obtaining donations for funds over which they have grant-making authority. We don't do that, because we have faith that God already



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

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Tampa, Florida 33622-2774

Did you know you can
give ...

chose the right steward for those funds, the original donor. However, there may be an occasion in the future when a donor with no heirs gives CLF grant-making authority over their fund on a testamentary basis.

2. If I place my charitable money with CLF, won't they pester me to give?

We won't unless you want us to.

Many people with funds at CLF have specifically requested our help to be made aware of good giving opportunities. However, if you already have your favorite charities and do not want to be bothered, we will respect your wishes.

3. I support many charities, including the arts and medical causes. If I have a fund at CLF, must I only give to Christian charities?

No.

Grants can be made from your fund to any bona fide church or public charity, whether secular or religious, with one exception. Since our foundation has a Christian purpose, we cannot make grants to further causes that are antithetical to the Christian faith, for instance, to promote abortion. So if you want to make grants to organizations such as the art museum, your alma mater or cancer research, you certainly may!

4. Why should I give through CLF? Wouldn't it make more sense to give directly to my favorite charities?

There are several reasons why giving through a donor-advised fund adds value. Here are just a few:

- a. Tax efficiency - We encourage donors to contribute to their funds in a form that maximizes the tax efficiency of their giving. While giving cash to charity saves taxes by creating a tax deduction, there are techniques involving gifting assets or giving out of a business that can create more tax savings above and beyond the tax deduction.
- b. Timing - A donor-advised fund enables the uncoupling of the timing of the creation of the tax deduction (the contribution into the fund) from the timing of the need (the grant out of the fund). For example, a donor can make a contribution right at the end of the year for tax planning purposes, and then take his/her time to decide on the ultimate recipients. Likewise, a couple who is retiring and selling the family business can make a gift of an interest in the company prior to the sale (increasing the tax efficiency of the gift) that establishes a family foundation fund, out of which they can pursue a second "career" in philanthropy.

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c. Privacy and Anonymity - While private foundations are required to fully disclose all activities, and therefore are not very private, the activity within donor-advised funds is disclosed in aggregate with all the other funds within the foundation, so no one can tell whose activity is whose. In addition, we enable you to make anonymous grants from your fund.

d. Convenience - Those who have centralized all their giving through their donor-advised fund have found it to be quite convenient. They can access their fund anytime day or night through our web site, make grants, review activity, review investment performance, etc.

More questions and answers next month!

The Lost Are Pleading to Hear the Good News

Ministry Spotlight

by Carole Novak Pigeon

"When will you come to our village?" This is a common plea from desperate runners of remote mountain villages begging the local church to send a **"MAT"** team (evangelistic Ministry Action Team) to their people. The field is truly white with the harvest!

Action Evangelism (AE), a Tampa ministry, created these MAT teams to go in and identify indigenous people globally who are willing to lay down their lives for their nations. Our chief goal upon arrival is to plant churches and train pastors, therefore leveraging our time, money and energy spent in each area. We have an ambitious goal! The vision God has given us is to reach the unreached 2.3 billion souls with the Good News! By empowering these natives to reach their own nations, we are seeing miraculous results! Each MAT team averages 1,000 souls and plants 2 churches every month and has proven to be highly effective as well as cost efficient all over the world including in India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Nepal and other difficult to reach countries. The cost to reach an unsaved person with a MAT team worldwide? A miraculous 10 cents per profession of faith!

Jerry Brandt, founder of AE, recently went to Haiti with Pastor Don Beasley and a businessman to deliver equipment that will create two more MAT teams in Haiti and open a World Mission Training Center. This training center will raise up 100 pastors over the next 3-5 years in order to disciple the new Haitian converts. World Mission Training Center offers courses by the well-respected Beacon University Institute of Ministry International.

Our goal is not just to win souls but to train soul winners! If you want to join us in this "God sized" mission to

evangelize the world, either with your prayer support or financially, you can find out more information at www.ActionEvangelism.org.

Local Ministry Events

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

July 7 - Prayer & fasting meeting - [Action Evangelism](#)

July 15 - Sunday Gathering (Manila Team Returns) - The Underground Network

July 15 - 21 - Mission Trip to Mississippi - Hyde Park Presbyterian

Aug 12 - Prayer Gathering for the City - Tampa Underground Network

Aug 25 - Crown Financial Ministry's "Journey To True Financial Freedom" at Kathleen Baptist Church, Kathleen. 8:30 - 4:30. Call 863-858-3836 to register and cost is \$25pp.

Aug 26 - Rally Day at Hyde Park Presbyterian

Sept 8 - Small Group Leader Training at Starkey Road Baptist Church in Seminole, 8:30 - 3:00, Crown Financial Ministries. Call 727-596-6902 to register.

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.

Generosity and Joy

- from [Generous Giving](#)

Generosity and joy are so deeply connected that neither can be understood fully apart from the other- the two are inseparable. Jesus Christ endured the excruciating generosity of the cross "for the joy set before him" (Hebrews 12:2), so we see this connection is not only rooted throughout Scripture but also centered in the gospel itself. Moreover, throughout the Bible poverty is the primary context for generosity that brings joy. It is not just generosity in general that interests God, but generosity

that springs from godly hearts of compassion, especially for the poor (cf. 1 John 3:16-17). Without love or compassion for the needs of others, all the generosity in the world is no more than a useless activity that will bring us no lasting joy (1 Corinthians 13:3).

Joy Leads to Generosity (Especially to the Poor)

When God's people are filled with joy, generosity follows. To the Israelites about to enter the promised land, giving their firstfruits was a joyous response to God's generous provision. The law instructs them:

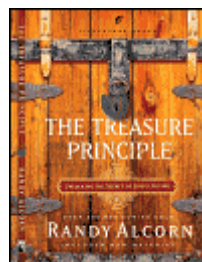
You shall declare before the LORD your God: "He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Place the basket before the LORD your God and bow down before him, and you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the LORD your God has given you. (Deuteronomy 26:5, 9-11)

Their gifts were to be shared with the Levites and aliens (those who were economically disadvantaged) as part of the national celebration (cf. Deuteronomy 14:23-26). Generosity is an essential expression of biblical joy. The joy that we find in material abundance finds its ultimate completion in compassionate acts of generosity toward others, especially the poor.

[Read the rest of the article here](#)

Recommended Reading

The Treasure Principle: Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving -
by Randy Alcorn



Flip-Flop Your Concept of Giving!
Bestselling author Randy Alcorn introduced readers to a revolution in material freedom and radical generosity with the release of the original *The Treasure Principle* in 2001. Now the revision to the compact, perennial bestseller includes a provocative new concluding chapter depicting God asking a believer questions about his stewardship over material resources. Readers are moved from the realms of thoughtful Bible exposition into the highly personal arena of everyday life. Because when Jesus told His followers to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven," He intended that they discover an astounding secret: how joyful giving brings God maximum glory and His children maximum pleasure.

Available through most online bookstores.

Laughter is Good Medicine

This story came across our desks recently and we got such a hearty laugh, we thought we would share it with you.

The Sermon Mom will never forget.. "Dear Lord," the minister began, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. "Without you, we are but dust." He would have continued but at that moment my very obedient daughter (who was listening!) leaned over to me and asked quite audibly in her shrill little girl voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"

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CLF IS Christian Estate Planning and Design

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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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