



True Riches eNewsletter

October 2008

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

In This Issue

[Generosity in Tough Economic Times](#)

[Gibbs Wilson Honored](#)

[Stranded.....](#)

[Local Ministry Events](#)

[A Laugh A Day...](#)



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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(813) 567-1499

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144 & 145\)](#)

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Generosity in Tough Economic Times

Thanks to our sister foundation in Ft. Lauderdale, CCFSF, excerpted from Dunham+Company, Giving USA and the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University sources.

Christians Historically Remain Steadfast In Their Giving

The growing concerns over the economic slowdown and stock market turmoil have caught the attention of donors and the ministries who depend on donors' contributions for their livelihood. While we are in many ways in uncharted waters, some historical perspective is key to understanding how tough economic times may - or may not - significantly impact charitable giving.

Over the last 37 years, there have been 11 recessionary years. The most significant of those years for charitable giving were 1973-75, three successive years of declines in giving. However, historically, giving to religious causes is less impacted during recessionary times than giving to non-profits overall. In fact, from 1973-75, while giving decreased to religious causes in the first of those three years, giving to religious causes actually increased in 1974 and held close to steady in 1975. In only five out of the 11 recessionary years since 1970 has giving to religious causes decreased, perhaps based on a lifestyle of stewardship rather than just philanthropic motivations. In other words, people of faith are motivated to give for a higher purpose and have made that a part of their lifestyle. The annual Giving USA report has shown repeatedly that people of faith are more likely to give to charities of all types. In fact, they are six times more likely

to give than their secular counterparts.

Blessedly, history shows that the typical Christian donor will not pull back significantly in her/his support. We know that CLF donors remain committed to their giving; year to date 2008, our donors have contributed \$2.9 million into their Giving Funds, and recommended grants totaling over \$3 million. We recognize that we are in the midst of unprecedented economic turmoil; however, we believe in times such as this that CLF's expertise in sophisticated charitable gift and estate planning is exceedingly important.

We have an extensive network of resources that are available to our donors, to help them find innovative ways to give not only cash gifts, but also non-cash assets such as real estate, marketable securities, business interests, valuable collections and so much more.

As we move through this period of volatility and economic uncertainty, let's continue to trust God to provide for and through His people.

Please visit www.clfinc.org to learn more about the variety of techniques that CLF offers to facilitate Smart Christian Giving. Contact our office at 813.567.1499 for a personal, private conversation about how CLF can help you fulfill your passion for giving, even in today's tough economy, and at a time when raising the tide of generosity throughout Tampa Bay is more important than ever.

Gibbs Wilson honored as 2008 Outstanding Leader of the Year

Congratulations to Gibbs Wilson and Alpha Omega Title for winning the [Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's 2008 Outstanding Leader of the Year Award!](#) The award was based on the following criteria:

1. Adversities (the company's history and how it faced adversities)
2. Impact on the workplace culture (inspired teamwork)
3. Leadership (demonstrated leadership skills)
4. Professional achievement (special awards, certificates and achievements)
5. Community Involvement (community service, involvement, leadership and activities)

Gibbs has served on our board for several years, currently as Chairman. We all know he is a gifted leader and we are glad the Chamber has seen fit to honor him with this prestigious award.

Congratulations Gibbs and AOT!

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Stranded on a rooftop with 25 orphans

Hurricanes conjure up images of devastation and suffering in the mind of anybody who has had to deal with one. Emory & Mary Wilson, faithful missionaries in Gonaives, Haiti, have experienced the worst of the the worst in the 2008 hurricanes. Hurricanes Ike & Gustav, coupled with tropical storms Fay and Hanna, have left this region of Haiti completely devastated. But Emory & Mary? They are just thankful to God that they, and their 24 orphans made it out alive. They were trapped in the second floor of a building for nearly a week due to the flooding. The raging river that swelled around them peaked at 12 feet and the current was running at times as fast as 30 knots. Their fellow missionaries, Genada & Rose were trapped on a roof top in the thunderstorms, rain and wind, day and night with 25 children for nearly a week! While Emory and Mary were able to ration a small supply of canned goods with their children, Genada, Rose and their 25 children had only water mixed with flour to consume for almost a week. (Read the entire account by [clicking here.](#))



CLF has a donor that wants to make a difference in the lives of these children and missionaries and he's asking for help. Dominic is spearheading a project to distribute 60 tons of beans to the churches in Gonaives, Haiti, providing 500,000 meals to a group of people that were living in abject poverty and severely malnourished even before the recent storms.

Dominic needs to raise \$50,000 to fully fund this urgent relief effort. If you would like to help, you can donate via check or credit card online by visiting: <http://www.clfinc.org/web/28/haitifund.asp>.

Why support this ministry opportunity as opposed to others? And isn't the UN sending in beans? The reality is that much of the aid being sent in by the UN winds up on the street for sale and not in the hands of the people who need it. Dominic is personally managing this project and has a trustworthy team in Haiti that can be counted on to distribute the beans through the local churches directly to the people in need.

100% of all donations will go directly to fund this project with ZERO overhead costs being deducted.

A hurricane hitting the United States is always devastating, but for the most part, we file an insurance claim, call a clean up crew, and ask the government to help with rebuilding. The Haitians don't have these support systems. Will you help?

If you would like to speak to Dominic directly about this

project you may reach him at 813.417.5824.

Local Ministry Events

Christian Legacy Foundation is now exclusively using the community calendar of FaithTampaBay.com, because of the strategic relationship between the two ministries.

October 14 - CLF Board of Ambassadors Meeting

October 23-25 - Generous Giving National Conference
- Washington, DC [Event details](#)

Watch for details on some fantastic events coming in 2009!

January 31 - [Super Bowl Breakfast](#)

February - CLF Foundation Training

March - Compassion Awards

April - Generous Giving National Conference in Arizona

If your ministry event isn't listed, please go to www.FaithTampaBay.com and sign up with them or let us know by emailing Angie at angie@clfinc.org. We'd like to include all our ministry partners' events.

A Laugh A Day...

Free Will?

A young couple came into the church office to fill out a pre-marriage questionnaire form. The young man, who had never talked to a pastor before, was quite nervous and the pastor tried to put him at ease.

When they came to the question, "Are you entering this marriage of your own free will?" there was a long pause.

Finally, the girl looked over at the apprehensive young man and said, "Put down yes."



From Crosswalk.com's daily, "You Make Me Laugh" e-newsletter.

email: clf@clfinc.org

phone: (813) 567-1499

web: <http://www.clfinc.org>

CLF IS Christian Estate Planning and Design

Did you know 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 a powerful and flexible part of your estate plan by downloading [Testamentary Giving](#) from our website.

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