



## True Riches eNewsletter

March 2008

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

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### Duty and Privilege...Why Do We Give?

excerpt from the book *God At Work, Living Every Day With Purpose* by Ken Costa

Giving belongs not to the suburbs of Christianity but to the very centre of our spiritual lives. Giving is spirituality made real. Few people naturally give away their hard earned money - it is the example of God's grace that gives us both the desire and the ability to be generous. Sometimes it is not a straight choice between keeping our money for ourselves or giving it away. Our investment decisions can take into account not just our own return, but additional factors such as giving a friend a business opportunity or a place to live.

One of the ways in which we get distracted from giving is when our fear of financial insecurity overwhelms a God-given desire to be generous. This is a straightforward challenge to all of us. Will we live by faith, or by fear? Giving is not simply a financial transaction. It is essentially an act of trust in an economic order that goes against the grain of the modern world view. There is a struggle for supremacy between these two polarities. We clearly need to be wise and not headstrong. Not every need can be satisfied by us. We therefore need to be judicious in striking a balance between known commitments and the desire for spontaneous giving.

When the psalmist says he will honour God 'above all gods' (Psalm 96:4), he is not merely stating the obvious but making it plain that there is a competitive struggle for ascendancy in our lives that goes on between the true God and the various pretenders - money, security, fulfillment. He



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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.

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has made a deliberate choice and has chosen the living God. We too make choices that are neither easy nor painless.

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Generous regular giving is one of the ways in which we underline to the spiritual powers that attempt to draw us away from God that we trust in him and his control of all our resources. It is a venture of faith and therefore will be subject to attack: money can become an obstacle or a gateway to God's blessing. Giving is one of the great privileges we have and a practical way of responding to God's love. When we get our giving right the wonderful promise of God is this: 'Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams' (Malachi 3: 10, The Message)

Read the rest of the excerpt where Ken talks about how giving is a Celebration, how it gives us Freedom and how it is an Investment by [clicking here](#).

## Giving Stories....

The generosity of the donors at Christian Legacy Foundation has blessed many ministries over the years. We would like to share a few of the most recent blessings:

**Mission of Hope (MOH)** - this ministry was started 10 years ago to take Christmas to needy children in the hills of east Tennessee. It has blossomed into a full time ministry but a nomadic one. MOH has had to move several times in the last 10 years but thanks to a few recent generous contributions, they now have a completely [mortgage free](#) 20,000 square foot warehouse to call home.



Visit their ministry at [MissionOfHope.org](http://MissionOfHope.org).

**Missionaries Alex & Julie Paniagua** - This young couple recently became directors for OM Costa Rica and [AidsLink](#) Latin America. They take their ministry into the poorest areas of Costa Rica ministering to HIV positive people, provide food and other goods for families, and evangelize. A CLF donor blessed them with a small reliable SUV in December that will allow them to continue traveling to all these remote areas.



Visit their ministry at [www.omcostarica.org](http://www.omcostarica.org) or for information in English, click [here](#).

## Local Ministry Events

Christian Legacy Foundation is now exclusively using the community calendar of [FaithTampaBay.com](http://FaithTampaBay.com), because of the strategic relationship between the two ministries.

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

## Recommended Reading

### **More Than A Carpenter**

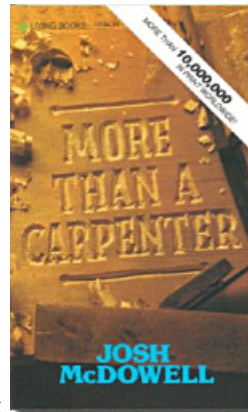
by Josh McDowell

Josh McDowell thought Christians must be "out of their minds". He put them down. He argued against their faith.

But eventually he saw that his arguments wouldn't stand up. Jesus Christ really was God in human flesh. Josh became a speaker on college and university campuses, challenging those who were just as skeptical as he had been.

In *More Than a Carpenter* Josh focuses upon the person who changed his life -- Jesus Christ. It is a hardheaded book for people who are skeptical about Jesus' deity, his resurrection, his claims on their lives.

You can find this book at most online bookstores.



## A Laugh A Day...

A young man and a priest are golfing together. At a short par-3 the priest asks, "What are you going to use on this hole my son?" The young man says, "An 8-iron, father. How about you?" The priest says, "I'm going to hit a soft seven and pray." The young man hits his 8-iron and puts the ball on the green. The priest tops his 7-iron and

dribbles the ball out a few yards. The young man says, "I don't know about you father, but in my church when we pray, we keep our head down."

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