

GENEROSITY TODAY

Helping Christians experience greater Kingdom impact through effective, purpose-filled generosity.

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The Surprising Active Ingredient for Christian Living

Ever wonder how sunscreen works? What makes scented, greasy lotion slathered onto skin able to fend off harmful UV rays?

The answer is simple: zinc oxide. This common, active ingredient for sunscreen is mixed into a lotion base to reflect and absorb ultraviolet radiation. Without it, you'd just smell like a coconut and get burnt like toast.

Believe it or not, there's an active ingredient for Christian living. Although it's not as high a priority today, for the early church it was indispensable.

What is it? Put simply, generosity!

If you're surprised, then consider how, from the earliest accounts of the church, believers lived in Spirit-drenched fellowship with each other within which "there were no needy persons among them." (Acts 4:34, NIV)

Later, when the church took up a collection for poor believers in Jerusalem, people started calling believers "Christians" (or "little Christs") for the first time. (Acts 11:26, NIV)

Then some fifty years after the first Pentecost, the Apostle John defined sacrificial love as generosity: "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" (1 John. 3:17, NIV)

Without generosity, the Christian witness is flat, flimsy and feeble. But when added to the base of Christ's love, generosity makes Christian living winsome and impactful.

And contrary to what many think, generosity's impact doesn't hinge on the amount given. So potent is it as an active ingredient, even small acts of generosity make a difference!

Where to begin?

It's not complicated — just start giving. Wherever generous Christian living is spread, the unmistakable glow of God's blessing and love in Christ results.

UNANIMOUSLY DIFFERENT

How the Stewards Fund Enables Randy and Martika to Support What's Most Important

Ask anyone who knows Randy and Martika, and you'll hear how different they are — in almost every way.

He's quiet. She's outspoken.

He keeps to himself.

She knows no strangers.

He's from Wisconsin.

She's from Virginia.



Randy and Martika

Martika's been on a wild professional journey driven by her passions. She's interned at the White House, served as a member of a governor's personal staff, lobbied for the Medical Society of Virginia and a Fortune 500 insurance company and served as an assistant attorney general. Today, she captures images of people and real estate from behind the lens of a camera.

Randy, president of Evenhouse & Co., has been an accountant his entire career because (he jokes), "the Iowa basic skills test said that's what I should be."

Dig a little deeper, however, and Randy and Martika's similarities and loving dependence on one another quickly become apparent.

Martika credits Randy's business acumen for the success and growth of Martika Photography, LLC, which they co-own.

"He does the books and helps me make day-to-day business decisions," she says. "Sometimes he helps me on shoots. I couldn't have built this business without him."

Randy and Martika also take great joy in supporting their local church and a variety of Christ-centered ministries together. They've co-taught Sunday school, he's served as church treasurer and they are active board members of Christian non-profits.

"Our faith is a pretty unifying thing," says Martika, "and in looking for a spouse, I knew giving and Kingdom work had to be important to him."

The Stewards Fund provides a simple, streamlined way for Randy and Martika to give to ministry whenever they see a need.

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UNANIMOUSLY DIFFERENT

Continued

And because they give appreciated stock, it also reduces their taxes – a tip Randy regularly shares with his own clients.

“I explain the tax benefits and that it’s easier to give this way,” says Randy. “You don’t have to use your monthly or weekly cash flow; you can plan a little bit easier. Once I get clients to try the Stewards Fund, they think it’s great.”

For all their differences, Randy and Martika are virtually identical in their life focus.

“When we get to Heaven, we’re going to realize those things we worried about down here are pretty trivial,” says Martika. “None of this matters compared to someone coming to the Kingdom. And all the stuff we cling to? Someday, it’s going to end up on the back of a donation truck or in a compactor. Only what’s done for Christ will last.”

“I don’t really want a legacy,” adds Randy. “That puts too much on me. I don’t care if my name is left anywhere. I just want to lift Jesus higher.”

“Our names are in the Lamb’s Book of Life,” concludes Martika. “That’s what’s most important.”

Ask a Planner



Answered by
Lindsay Canan, J.D.,
Director of Planning

Q: In light of the current market, should I still consider giving stock?

A: Absolutely! Giving appreciated stock, real estate or other non-cash assets remains one of the most cost-effective ways to support your church or other ministries, since you will receive a fair market value deduction at the time of your gift and avoid capital gains on the sale of appreciated assets.

Have Questions?

Schedule your complimentary, confidential conversation with a Barnabas Foundation planner by calling 888.448.3040 or email planning@BarnabasFoundation.org.

THE FINAL WORD

“Generosity that is both pervasive and lasting springs from hearts set ablaze by grace. This warmth kindles generous giving which has the power to open the doors on bigger barns and loosens the strings on knotted-up purses.”

— Unknown

GIFTS THAT REDUCE TAXES

Free Online Event!

Wednesday, November 9, 2022
11 a.m. (Central)

Discover popular ways to support Kingdom-building ministry and reduce your taxes!



Join Barnabas Foundation’s Lindsay Canan, J.D., for a free online event on November 9. Lindsay will provide you with practical tips for giving in ways that increase your impact while reducing your costs and headaches.

There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is required.

Learn more
and register



Can't make it to the event?

Video and audio recordings will be available at BarnabasFoundation.com/interactive

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Learn more at BarnabasFoundation.org or by calling 888.448.3040.

