

GENEROSITY TODAY

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

2020, ISSUE 4

What Worship Looks Like

“So Moses said to Aaron, ‘Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the Lord to be kept for generations to come.’” (Exodus 16:33, NIV)

Worship is about what’s in your heart; but don’t forget about what’s in your hands.

Exodus 16 tells about the hands of the Israelites in the wilderness. They only needed a couple of quarts of manna per day, per family, but these hands gathered double — and even triple — that amount.

Moses and Aaron connected the dots between these hands and their worship. The hearts of hoarders were not set to worship God. In fact, they were far from it.

So how can our hands help us clarify our worship?

First, remember worship is always happening, every single day. It’s why Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21, NIV)

For some of the Israelites, the treasure was manna. More manna meant more living, so they piled up as many fistfuls as they could. It didn’t matter that God had provided the manna in the first place. They held on to whatever they thought could preserve their security and health.

As a reminder of worship properly placed, God instructed Moses to place two quarts of manna alongside the law in the tabernacle. As the Israelites took possession of Canaan — a land flowing with milk and honey — they would regularly link God’s presence (the tabernacle) to His provision (daily bread and the law).

For us, this link is made through Jesus Christ, God’s perfect provision for His people. In His name, our worship is the culmination of what Jesus promised: “Yet a time is coming... when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth...” (John 4:23, NIV)

So what’s found in your hands when times are desperate? To whom or what are they clutching when you’re alone and afraid? To what do you reach for assurance that you’re going to be okay?

Your answers reveal your true worship.

THE BUSINESS OF FAMILY

A Family Commitment to Generosity

For John M. Vander Haag, family is business, and business is family.

“It’s who we are,” says John. “You just don’t get away from it.”

John is the third-generation leader of Vander Haag’s, Inc., a family-owned truck parts business that his grandfather founded in 1939. Following the Korean War, John’s dad continued to grow the business alongside his wife, Ruth, and their three children. Today, John M. is president of the company that has eight locations and provides meaningful employment to more than 300 families.

“I remember riding with mom to work when my siblings and I spent summers there,” says John. “Not all days were roses – but I think the business connected our family in a very unique way.”

John recalls the emphasis his dad has always placed on hard work, excellence and honoring God with their business.

“From an early age, we knew our business was God’s,” says John. “We are God’s conduit to our customers and employees. Dad also made it clear that any blessings we receive from the business require us to respond.”

For years, John C. Jr. and Ruth have partnered with Barnabas Foundation to support Kingdom causes, giving from their business and other property, as well as through their estate. Now

“From an early age, we knew our business was God’s.”

The Vander Haags are actively working with Barnabas Foundation to establish a comprehensive plan that achieves their personal and charitable goals.



John and Amy Vander Haag

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GIVING FROM YOUR BUSINESS

Gifts That Reduce Taxes

Giving business interests, land, equipment or other commercial property is a wonderful way to reduce your taxes and support your favorite Kingdom-building ministries.

- **Tax-Wise.** Receive a fair market value deduction at the time of your gift and avoid tax liability on the sale of appreciated assets.
- **Eliminate Hassles.** Give property you no longer need or care to manage.
- **Capacity to Give.** Give from your excess resources without restricting cash flow.
- **Estate Planning.** Eliminate potential taxes or complications for your heirs by giving complex or burdensome assets to charity now.

Learn more by emailing Barnabas Foundation at info@BarnabasFoundation.com or call 888.448.3040.

Ask a Planner



Answered by Steve Baker, J.D.,
Estate Planner

Q: What's my deadline for year-end giving to my church and other ministries?

A: If you want to claim credit on this year's taxes, the specifics vary according to what you plan to give:

Gifts of cash or checks must be delivered in person or mailed in an envelope postmarked no later than December 31.

Gifts of non-cash assets (such as stock, real estate, business interests and commodities) must be transferred by Decemeber 31.

If you write a check from your IRA account, that check must be received AND PROCESSED by December 31 in order to count as a gift for 2020. It is NOT enough that personal IRA checks are postmarked, or even hand-delivered, by December 31. Alert your church or other favorite ministries when writing IRA checks to ensure your gifts are processed immediately.

Remember, December is incredibly busy — not only for you, but also for the post office, financial advisors and especially ministries. Minimize your stress by creating an extra margin for your gifts to be given, received and processed in time.

Have Questions?

Barnabas Foundation will answer your questions and help you make tax-wise gifts — now and the whole year through. Call 888.448.3040 or email info@BarnabasFoundation.com

THE FINAL WORD

"The biggest challenge the church will face is not a matter of doctrine. The biggest challenge for the church is a matter most practical: How will we handle our wealth?"

—Robert C. Heerspink, author of "First Fruits: a stewardship guide for church leaders"

THE BUSINESS OF FAMILY

Continued

"Barnabas Foundation has helped us support our favorite ministries in tax-wise ways, and also helps us think about the needs of our family and the future of our business," says John. "We keep asking questions and having conversations. It's not a once-and-done sort of deal. This is a process."

John is guided by family values that have stood the test of time.

"It all goes back to what my parents taught me. Why am I in this position today with the business we have?" he asks. "It's not so that I can make a bigger salary. What God has given is not ours; it's His. Giving is an act of gratitude."

"You can't out-give the Lord," he continues, repeating a phrase he's often heard from his father. "The more you give, the more He gives you. That's been the story of our family."



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Learn more at BarnabasFoundation.com or by calling 888.448.3040.



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