

GENEROSITY TODAY

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

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How Doing Nothing Can Say Everything

Some people gain notoriety for what they *didn't* do. For instance, Pythagoras didn't discover the Pythagorean Theorem. People had been using it for at least a thousand years before he was even born. Pythagoras just named it!

Then there's the third steward from Jesus' parable of the bags of gold. Remember him? While the first and second stewards turned profits from the gold entrusted to them, the third steward *didn't* grow the value of his money. Instead, he buried it.

But things didn't go nearly as well for the third steward as he had hoped. Instead of receiving accolades, his gold was taken from him, and he was sent away from service.

Why were his two co-workers so successful at turning profits, while he tanked? What was their "secret sauce"?

Stewards #1 and #2 didn't have insider investment information. Nor were they any savvier than the third steward when it came to making a profit.

Instead, both stewards understood their task was about their relationship with their manager – not the gold. Each received a different amount of gold and each produced a different return on investment. But the manager had exactly the same words for both of them: "Well done, good and faithful steward! Come and share your master's happiness!" (Mt. 25:23, NIV)

By doing nothing, the third steward made it clear he gave no consideration to his manager. Burying the gold was the safest course of action for him – and that's all that mattered.

The uncomfortable truth is this: when it comes to your relationship with God, what you do or don't do with your wealth speaks volumes about its priority for you.

The options are surprisingly simple. You can either give what you have for Kingdom gain. Or you can bury it.

GOD'S PROPERTY AND PURPOSES

Turning Problems into Opportunity Through a Life Income Gift

"We were led by the Lord to do this." That's the only way John and Monika can explain why they set up a life income gift through Barnabas Foundation.

Nearly 40 years ago, they purchased three acres of property in McMinnville, Oregon. They intended to build a house there, but never did. "We remained in our own home for a good 32 years," explains John. "Then, later, we built a house on a local golf course."

The property remained undeveloped for decades but continued to grow in value. After numerous offers, John and Monika finally decided to sell.

"But all we could think of was: 'Do you want Uncle Sam to take care of your money, or do you want to be involved?'" recalls John.

"When you look at the capital gains on selling this property," John explains, "we were looking at more than 30 percent federal and state tax combined. What a waste!"

"A great burden was lifted. We don't have to worry about it anymore."

They called Barnabas Foundation for help. Together, they identified a solution that not only achieved John and Monika's income and charitable goals, but also helped

them realize significant tax benefits.

John and Monika used the property to fund a life income gift. This provides them with income for their lifetimes, after which the remainder will be donated to ministries they've designated.

"Barnabas Foundation makes this easy," John comments. "We don't have to take care of the details. It's planned wisely. We have great confidence in Barnabas Foundation."

John and Monika view this life income gift as a significant blessing.



John and Monika L.

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GOD'S PROPERTY AND PURPOSES

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"A great burden was lifted," reflects John. "We didn't have to worry about that property anymore. We've never regretted doing it. It was a godsend, obviously."

More than anything else, John and Monika marvel at how God provided this property to advance the Kingdom.

"We bought the property for our own purpose," reflects John. "But it's out of our domain now. That's a comfortable feeling since we know it's dedicated to organizations that honor the Lord. It's beautiful!"

Ask a Planner



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

Q: What kinds of gifts can I give in exchange for life-income payments?

A: There are a variety of gifts you can give in exchange for payments for life – everything from cash, appreciated stock and real estate, farm machinery that is paid for and depreciated, and commodities such as grains, fruits or even livestock.

Have Questions?

If you have an asset you might like to contribute for a gift that pays you income for life, contact us at 888.448.3040 or email info@BarnabasFoundation.com. We would be happy to provide you with a personalized proposal illustrating the tax benefits and your payment stream.

THE FINAL WORD

"We are surrounded by God's benefits. The best use of these benefits is an unceasing expression of gratitude."

—John Calvin

GIFTS THAT PAY INCOME

Smart and Effective Giving

May 25, 11 a.m. (Central)

Wish you could give more to your church and other favorite charities but are worried about having enough income?

Join Barnabas Foundation's Executive Director James Bakke, J.D., as he discusses how lifetime giving options can benefit your favorite Kingdom causes while caring for the needs of you and your loved ones.

Learn more and register:
BarnabasFoundation.com/Interactive

Can't make it to the event?
Visit the link above to access video and audio recordings.



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