



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

5100 Poplar Ave. Suite 2412

Memphis, TN 38137

PHONE: 901.682.6201

FAX: 901.682.8098

WWW.HOPECCF.ORG

## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES NOW AVAILABLE

A charitable gift annuity (CGA), administered by Hope, enables you to make a substantial gift to your church, favorite ministry or to your donor advised fund at Hope and receive guaranteed income from those assets for yourself or a beneficiary that you name as long as you and/or the beneficiary lives.

This is one way to put your treasure where your heart is -- in your church or favorite ministry -- and still take care of your needs and those of your family. A CGA is a contract between you and Hope Christian Community Foundation, which guarantees a fixed amount of income for life. You can fund your annuity with cash or marketable securities.

### How It Works

- You receive an income tax deduction in the year that you establish the annuity for the gift portion of the contract
- You may witness the impact of your gift while you receive lifetime income
- You receive a guaranteed periodic income that is not affected by the fluctuations of the marketplace. A portion of your annuity income is tax free
- You are free from concern about money management and low interest rates

Features: The minimum amount required to establish a charitable gift annuity is \$25,000. The minimum age is 65. The annuity rate depends upon whether one or two people will receive lifetime income from the gift and the age of the recipient(s). You cannot add to a charitable gift annuity, but you can establish additional annuity agreements. One key feature of a Hope CGA directed to benefit your donor advised fund is the opportunity to donate to multiple organizations rather than just one.

An Example: Sara, age 75, has considerable savings. She seeks to increase her income, reduce taxes and do something substantial for her church's endowment program. After discussion with a representative of her church and her own financial advisor, she decides to make a cash gift of \$100,000. In exchange, she will receive \$5,800 per year. Her advantages are multiple: She guarantees income, generally larger than a savings account, for the rest of her life. She receives a one time tax deduction of the gift portion of the annuity. A significant portion of income is free from taxes. Her church will receive a significant gift.

To view more examples and learn more about charitable gift annuities from the Hope Christian Community Foundation please visit: <http://hopememphis.givingplan.net/> or call us at 901.682.6201.

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## WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO THIS WORD? BY JAY LINK

If you were to poll your congregation and ask them what the word stewardship means, I suspect that if your church is like most, the overwhelming majority of them would tell you it has something to do with money and giving. Part right and part wrong. And as my grandmother would tell me, "If something is partially wrong, it is all wrong.

Let me give you a few examples of how the word stewardship is being used in many churches. Church bulletins and newsletters often have a stewardship report. Of course, it always includes the amount of the offerings. Churches have fund-raisers

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## WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO THIS WORD?... (continued)

and capital campaigns, but often refer to them as stewardship campaigns. A stewardship campaign sounds much more spiritual, don't you think? We use the term "good stewards" to refer to people who are "good givers." We teach that tithing will make a person a good steward. Many larger churches now have stewardship pastors who are really financial pastors. I could go on, but I think you see my point.

Many churches use the word stewardship as if it is a synonym for giving. But let me suggest that stewardship is not a synonym for giving. It is actually an antonym (opposite meaning). Let me explain. Giving has to do with what we deploy. Stewardship has to do with what we retain. Stewardship is not about what we put in the offering when we go to church; it is about what we do with what is left in our check book after we have done our giving. Stewardship is about what we are keeping.

So, what exactly does the word stewardship mean? Let me explain stewardship as if it were a three legged stool and all three legs are essential for the stewardship stool to properly stand.

Leg #1: The first "leg" of this stool is the fact that God owns everything because He created everything. For example, King David tells us in Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it." I think that about covers everything we will ever get our hands on in this life.

Leg #2: The second "leg" of this stool is the fact that not only did God create us, but He also redeemed us from slavery to the prince of this world through the death of His son, Jesus Christ. Paul tells us in Titus 2:13b-14, "Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." We now belong to Him again. So, God actually owns us twice: Once because He made us and twice because He bought us back.

Leg #3: The final "leg," the one that enables the stool to stand, is the fact that we own nothing: We have been called by God to be stewards, to carry out His wishes for His property. So, Stewardship accurately defined is: (v) "to plan, to manage, to administer": (n) "a manager." The concept of stewardship repositions us from being the owner to being merely a manager of a very small portion of the Owner's vast material holdings. For many believers this idea is a revolutionary concept.

The radical, biblical concept of life stewardship is easy enough to understand intellectually, if and when we finally do hear it. It is, I will confess, exceedingly difficult to consistently apply and live out practically speaking. This "we are only the managers and not the owners" mindset forces us to ask one, critical question. And it demands that we ask it on a daily basis. The life-transforming question is this, "Lord, what do You want me to do with all that You have *entrusted to me*?"

It is no longer "How do I want to spend my day?" It is now, God, how do you want me to spend Your day?" It is no longer, "How do I want to spend my money?" It is now, "God, how do you want me to spend Your money?" Can you see how if this life stewardship message were to be powerfully, effectively and boldly communicated, it has the potential to radically change the culture of your entire church?



Stewardship has the power to transform. This one word STEWARDSHIP has the power to change everything.

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Read the full article and find more Stories of Hope online at [hopeccf.org](http://hopeccf.org).