

A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving
An introduction of Stewardship to the congregation

August 2017

The August issue of *Stewardship* is full of explanations of what Christian stewardship really is. Listen to one writer's thoughts: "Christian stewardship is the means by which we make the church and the Kingdom of God a joy rather than a burden." Another writer wrote the following: "Whenever we consider Christian stewardship as a response to God for the salvation we have through Christ's love and sacrifice we want to respond. Giving becomes not a duty but a joyful privilege." We should remember that stewardship is not always about money. Money is obviously important for the church and the Kingdom of God but offering our time, our talent, our labor, our thoughtfulness are also needed.

Some years ago the gifted painter, Norman Rockwell, painted a picture of a Cathedral with 19 people walking in front of it. What is unusual about the people is that every one of them was walking with their head bent down as though each one had a heavy burden and was without hope. But if each of those sad people had looked up toward the big door of the church they would have seen a sign of hope. The door was opened and a priest was standing there as if he could have offered hope for each of the people. There is one more sign of hope to be seen in that painting. A workman was standing on a ladder having just finished putting words on a sign. The sign read: "Lift up thine eyes." Lift up thine eyes. That sign offered hope. The clergyman offered hope. The church offered hope.

Prayer: Dear Lord, as you know, your world is full of wars and woes. Help us to be good servants bearing your words of love and wisdom to an aching world. **Amen**

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