

# Stewardship Forum

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## Stewardship Tools for Leaders : Sermon Library

**Title: The Grace of Giving**

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### **1. Good stewardship of money, the gospel and relationships are parts of a proven strategy for church growth (see Acts 4:41-47)**

0. The church grows warmer through fellowship (building good relationship with both believers and non-believers who come for fellowship).
0. The church grows deeper through discipleship (teaching God's word and counsel to all believers based on father-son relationship).
0. The church grows closer through worship (building our intimacy with God and with others, as we grow up more and more into the image of Christ).
0. The church grows stronger through prayer (building a house of prayer for all nations among the believers who trust in God's love and care to meet our needs).
0. The church grows stronger through ministry (equipping and releasing the saints for ministry that is better, greater and more effective than leaders do by themselves).
0. The church grows bigger through lifestyle evangelism (sharing Christ and the gospel of Christ in lives, words, works and signs wherever we are).
0. The church grows richer through the grace of giving (keeping a healthy, humble and grateful attitude toward God by not putting our hope in our wealth, which is uncertain, but by putting our hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment).

### **2. To excel in the grace of giving is a part of Christian excellence (see 2 Cor. 8:7)**

- God wants us to excel in faith (completely trusting in what Jesus has done for us and in what he can do through us).
- God wants us to excel in speech (speaking to one another that we can grow only in the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ).
- God wants us to excel in knowledge (knowing Jesus personally as our Lord and Savior).

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- God wants us to excel in complete earnestness (spending our time and energy enthusiastically in Bible study, discipleship, fellowship, worship, prayer, service, witnessing and work).
- God wants us to excel in our love for God's ministers (praying for them constantly and supporting them in any possible way by any possible means).
- God wants us to excel in the grace of giving (knowing and believing that the Lord is able to provide all our need so that in all things at all time, having all that we need, we will have plenty left over to share with others. **(2 Cor. 9:8)**).

### 3. My understanding on the grace of giving

- Giving to the Lord for the sake of the gospel is not a loss, but a hundredfold gain in this present age and the age to come **(Mark 10: 27-30)**.
- Giving to the Lord for the sake of the gospel is to be credited to your own account **(Phil. 4:14-19)**.
- Giving to the Lord for the sake of the gospel is to sow of seed of opportunities so that God will produce a great harvest of generosity in us **(2 Cor. 9:10-11)**.
- Giving to the Lord for the sake of the gospel is to store up our treasure as a good foundation for the future **(1 Tim. 6:17-19)**.

### 4. My personal experience in the grace of giving

- As an underground church leader in Phnom Penh during 1979-1985, I utilized my time, money, gift and talent to write, translate and record songs for the house of God.
  - 300 songs were written and translated
  - 3 albums were recorded and sent to FEBC radio in Manila for broadcasting.
- As a refugee in Site 2 Camp, Thailand during 1985-1993, I utilized my time, money, gift and talent to preach the gospel, make disciples, plant churches, translate the Bible and record songs of praise and worship.
  - 50 church leaders were trained and equipped for ministry
  - 15 churches were planted
  - A Hope English School was established at each church. Over 1,000 students were trained at those English schools.
  - 11 more albums were recorded and released
  - The picture Bible was translated and published in Khmer language

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- Back in Cambodia, as a returnee and local church leader.
  - I started School of Practical Ministry Cambodia (SPMC) in Phnom Penh In 1994 to train 200 church leaders and pastors every year. So far church leaders and pastors from 13 out of 25 ethnic groups in Cambodia have been trained at this school of ministry.
  - I started Encouragement Resources Ministry (ERM) in Phnom Penh in 1994 to develop a media ministry:
    0. Dramatized New Testament is recorded on tapes for the Bible Society of Cambodia
      - Five Minute Daily Readings of Psalms, Proverbs, Genesis are recorded on tapes for the Bible Society in Cambodia to broadcast
      - Super-book Videos are translated and dubbed in to Khmer language
      - 300 more songs of praise and worship are written and translated
      - 10 Church Planters' Manuals are written and translated
  - I started Living Hope in Christ Church (LHCC) in Phnom Penh in 1995. So far this church has 23 daughter churches all over Cambodia.
  - I started Church Planters' Institute (CPI) in Phnom Phnom Penh in 1998. So far 130 church planters are trained, equipped and released for ministry. Now 100 of them are pastors of their respectively planted church.

### Conclusion:

As senior pastor of Living Hope in Christ Church, chairman of the Bible Society in Cambodia, national director of Ambassadors for Christ Cambodia, and national coordinator of Cambodia Prayer Network, I am still learning to wisely utilize my time, money, gift and talent to meet, teach, train, mentor, listen to, speak to and preach to a lot of people as well as to spend quality time with my wife, children and grandchildren. My heart's desire is to bear much lasting fruit to glorify the Father.

### As for me and my house - we will serve the Lord. (Josh. 24:15)

**About the Author:** Pastor Barnabas Mam is a key Christian leader in Cambodia. He addressed the M:Power 2003 conference and delivered a very moving presentation on stewardship.

To purchase the tape of Pastor Barnabas' address please visit <http://www.reelife.org.uk>