

# Creative Giving

When most Christians give their tithe, they automatically think of weekly gifts of cash or check dropped into the offering plate. They give as they earn. A very large percentage of Church giving is done that way. It's a scriptural pattern. It is a habit to be cultivated and practiced on a regular basis. This column not only seeks to promote regular weekly giving, but also seeks to explore other ways to give.

For instance, you may want to look at property or assets other than cash that have outlived their original purpose, such as a life insurance policy. Many of us remember when parents purchased a life policy on their children which would require premiums for twenty years. The purpose was to provide some funds for a burial in the event of the child's premature death. Many of these old policies have been paid up long ago but are still in force and have significant cash value. Their original purpose no longer exists.

Another example might be a situation in which a father purchased life insurance to provide for the educational needs of his children in case of his premature death. The children are now grown and educated. Another example is the husband who purchased a life insurance policy to provide benefits for his spouse who is now deceased. Policies in these and other situations where the original purpose no longer exists, can be gifts to the Lord and to the work of His kingdom.

Should your life insurance no longer serve its original purpose, here are steps to follow to make a gift of it to the Church:

To make an outright gift of a policy and its current cash value, notify your agent or the insurance company of your intention and request forms to execute this transaction. When the transaction is complete, give the physical policy to the financial secretary of the Church.

In another situation, you retain ownership of your policy and simply name the Church as beneficiary. The Church benefits at your death. To make this change, request forms as in example above.

Last but not least, notify all parties of your actions.

The chief motive behind such a gift of life insurance is to further the cause of God's kingdom. But a secondary benefit accrues in the form of a valuable property but its value can be wasted due to negligence. Consider a prayerful review of your insurance and seek God's direction in managing this asset for His glory.

Note: If you would like information from a life insurance professional in our

Church, contact Regine Johnson in the Church office and she will refer you.