

## July 2015 – (dot)Stewardship



### Caught Between the Money and the Mission

By Don Gardner

“It is so frustrating, because we are not able to spend the majority of our time doing missions. We are half-time missionaries, and half-time fund-raisers. We feel trapped. Before we came to Africa, we spent two years raising our support. We thought we had raised sufficient

support to last for four years. Our support is already rapidly declining. I think it’s “out of sight—out of mind.” Just two years into our assignment, we currently spend half our time writing letters and making phone calls (at \$5.00 per minute) to our friends and supporters in order to sustain our support base. We are forced to shift our focus from winning souls and mentoring leaders, to fund-raising just to survive. The stress siphons away all our energy. We have no idea how much longer we can stay on the mission field at this rate.” (Quoted from a former missionary with a well-known denomination.)

What do we want our Nazarene missionaries to focus on? The World Evangelism Fund offers funding to our missionaries so they can focus on the tasks we send them to do. Missionaries don’t need to spend as much time raising funds for their support. The World Evangelism Fund funds many missionaries’ salaries and provides an operational allocation that supports their travel, housing, utilities, and care while on the field. Giving to the World Evangelism Fund results in good stewardship of resources, especially the resources of missionaries’ time and energy.

The fund doesn’t cover the myriad projects that every missionary has underway. Mentoring vulnerable children, providing clean water, training pastors, Jesus Film showings, ministries to conflict-displaced people, and church construction and planting, all require additional funding. However, the World Evangelism Fund ensures that missionaries have a better ability to devote themselves to these projects.

The World Evangelism Fund is the foundational means of support for missionaries and the mission effort. Giving faithfully enables the Church of the Nazarene to take the gospel to the ends of the earth—literally.

Why does the Church of the Nazarene have a World Evangelism Fund? To enable our missionaries to focus entirely on carrying out the church’s mission: **To make Christ-like Disciples in the Nations.** It’s not cliché. It is our purpose and it is our mission. It is who we are as a holiness people.

The World Evangelism Fund works!

**Don Gardner serves the Church of the Nazarene as the Africa East Field Director**

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## **Giving it Away**

**By Dr. Howard Culbertson**

No one knows how much money Dr. Lyle Tullis gave away to students. I was his colleague for nearly a decade and I never ceased to be amazed at his generosity. He taught sociology; I taught missions. Our college has an aggressive program of providing cross-cultural experiences for students. Lots of students take advantage of

summer experiences overseas. Early on I discovered that no group left for overseas without some of its members receiving substantial financial help from Dr. Tullis.

It wasn't that he made a lot of money. For one thing, he taught at a church-run institution. There, his salary was half that which his counterparts earned in nearby tax-supported institutions. Other faculty occasionally grouched about comparatively low pay scale. Not Lyle Tullis. Occasionally a professor would leave our campus for a more lucrative position. A couple of them told me they did so because, with higher pay checks, "I can better provide for my family."

The size of Lyle Tullis' paycheck never seemed to be the most important thing to him. I realized that one day when I was thanking him for helping a student with mission trip costs. His eyes twinkled as he said to me, "Aw, I've got so much money I don't know what to do with it. So, I just give it away."

Most folks wouldn't have thought that way. Dr. Tullis drove one of the older cars on campus. It was certainly older than almost any of the students' cars. His home, while comfortable, was not fanciest of the faculty homes. But Lyle Tullis lived grandly with the feeling that he had so much money he needed to give it away.

He was one of the favorites on campus. A cynic might say that he bought that approval. But they would misunderstand. Lyle wanted to invest his life, all of it, in people. He'll never leave a large estate; but he will leave a legacy.

**Story by Dr. Howard Culbertson, Professor of Missions and World Evangelism, Southern Nazarene University**

**For more original content like this, [visit Dr. Culbertson's blog site.](#)**

## Quotes:

### John Wesley



*If those who “gain all they can” and “save all they can” will likewise “give all they can,” then the more they gain, the more they will grow in grace and the more treasure they will lay up in heaven.*