



GENEREROUS LIVING

Faithful Joyful Giving

Flexibility, Creativity and Integrity: Winning Combination for Chartered Accountant

Winston Ling knows his numbers. He's a chartered accountant and a chartered financial analyst. He spent the first 10 years of his career as an investment banker before moving into health care and insurance companies. Now he serves as an administrator and finance officer at Tyndale University College and Seminary, a Christian liberal arts university in Toronto, where he's been for the last 14 years.



As a member of the Toronto Chinese Presbyterian Church, he's not your typical Mennonite Foundation of Canada client. About 10 years ago at a gift planning workshop, he came across MFC and was impressed. "I met people at the Foundation who were creative and who listened to the ideas I had. We worked together and made one of their tools a little better than it was. For me, it was win-win."

He and his family first used the Foundation when his parents were getting older. He found working with MFC consultants on estate and gift planning to be very helpful.

The flexibility and creativity of the planning tools drew Winston's attention. "I was able to make gifts at the time that was most advantageous to me from a tax point of view and from a cash flow point of view. That makes it easier for me to give gifts to the institutions I want—and to stagger the amount because I didn't want to give all the money at once."

Says Winston, "I love MFC's integrity, especially in their investment policies. That's very important. And quite often when you use an institution to do your gift planning, they take a lot out of you. But I don't see that at all at the Foundation. They basically cover their costs. They aren't there to make themselves rich. They are there to serve people—both the donor and the people receiving the gifts."

It's a kingdom work, I see that.

Winston was also attracted by MFC's reputation. "The Foundation has tremendous support from its constituency. Mennonites have a solid reputation and for them to be sponsoring this organization gave me confidence. That's the most important part—the reputation of the institution."

"I recommend the Foundation to friends and other family members. It's a kingdom work, I see that. If we can get more money to the institutions that deserve it, I'm all for that."

Spiritual Health Impacts Giving



Giving is an indication of spiritual maturity. That is the conclusion drawn by Barnabas Foundation researcher, Dr. Rodger Rice, from the results of over 4,000 responses to surveys of 25 individual churches. The survey measured the spiritual health and maturity of respondents, based upon the

evaluation of a variety of factors such as participation in Sunday worship service, private prayer and devotions, volunteer service, etc.

Dr. Rice's research showed that the most spiritually healthy people gave an average of 13 per cent of their incomes to charitable causes in the previous year. The least spiritually healthy people contributed an average of only two per cent. A finding of particular interest is that those whose lifestyles reflect spiritual disciplines are more generous, regardless of age.

From Barnabasfoundation.com

Time to Plan Your Giving?

by Mike Strathdee



Spring is a time for planning for many of us—what to plant in the summer, where to go on vacation, how to spend this year’s tax refund. Is planning your giving for the year on your “to-do” list? If you are in leadership, are you encouraging members of your congregation or supporters of your ministry to estimate their giving for the seasons ahead?

People who plan their giving donate significantly more to charity than people who don’t, some studies have suggested. Respondents to a Decima Research survey who planned their giving in advance donated over 2.5 times as much as those who waited until they were asked to give. Just under one in three Canadians plans their donations, the study found.

For Christians, giving regularly, out of our first and best, or first-fruits rather than leftovers, is a matter of obedience to Scripture and an act of worship. It’s also an expression of trust. One business man told me that since his income is irregular and can be uncertain, he struggled with giving a set amount on a regular basis. But he didn’t agonize over putting business expenses on a line of credit, and then paying that off once he got paid. Now he gives regularly and happily. Churches that consistently ask their members to plan their giving have greater success in meeting their financial goals.

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Offering people a way to make electronic fund transfers makes it simpler for them to maintain a consistent giving pattern. There are many creative solutions to the challenge of the offering plate. MFC consultants are available to work with your congregation in developing covenants or pledges around giving—and can suggest ideas for developing new spiritual disciplines involving EFTs.

Nuts and Bolts: Tax Relief Potential

by Erwin Warkentin



I have friends who tell me that generosity is not to be measured by how much of a tax deduction I get for making a gift. That is true, of course: generosity is demonstrated in many different ways. Even giving away (some of) your hard-earned money should not be limited to charities. By giving directly to the needy, or supporting a cause which does not have a charitable registration number, your actions also reflect your values and identify you as a generous person.

But our government tells us that if we monetarily support certain organizations which it recognizes as being charitable, then we face a lower income tax bill. Many registered charities use this as incentive for getting your donation, and rightly so. You need to be extremely cautious, however, when you run across a charity that promises to double, triple or better your donation, so if you give one dollar, your donation receipt will be a multiple of that. Naturally your taxes shrink proportionately ... until Canada Revenue Agency catches up with you and your gift is denied altogether—and you face the possibility of additional fines.

MFC recognizes the value of maximizing the tax savings resulting from charitable donations. Our consultants can help you to plan your charitable donations in ways that save your tax dollars and allow you to legally increase your generosity.

Moreover, planning your charitable giving over a course of several years or over your lifetime can result in even more tax savings. Many of us have a financial plan for accumulating wealth, but few consider charitable gifting as

Call MFC today and ask a consultant to help you plan your giving.

part of that plan. Why not call MFC today and ask a consultant to help you plan your giving in a tax-efficient manner that allows you to be even more generous!

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