



Smarter Ways to Give Giving Alternatives in Uncertain Times

The unprecedented financial turmoil of the last six months has resulted in reduced giving in a time when demand for charitable services is increasing. Hope wants to make sure you (like Shel Silverstein's [The Giving Tree](#)) consider giving alternatives in such times:

Non-cash gift options. Consider this: non-cash assets represent 90% of America's wealth. While giving **appreciated stock** is the most common giving alternative, the stock market has erased approximately ten years of capital appreciation over the past six months. Consider giving stock purchased twenty or thirty years ago. This can eliminate significant capital gains taxes and a charitable deduction at current market value.

Real estate and intangible personal property such as copyrights, royalties, patents, personal service contracts, installment obligations, life insurance and annuity contracts, business and partnership interests. **Tangible personal property** such as vehicles, boats, RVs, timeshares, jewelry, collectibles and business inventories and equipment. We have

developed partnerships to help dispose of these items which sometimes can be difficult.

Giving for Income. This is giving which provides a certainty of return income. A **Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)** and creating a **Bridge to Retirement** are two such vehicles to insuring giving with a return of income.

A CRT provides income for life and can be funded with non cash appreciated gifts such as collectibles to save capital gains taxes (which are 28% for collectibles). Or create a bridge to retirement – a CRT with a specified term such as 10 years. A 10 year CRT with a 10% payout can return your entire donation and still leave value for your donor advised fund or the charity of your choice. Provide for others such as parents living expenses or children's educational expenses with a CRT. Create or rebuild a retirement plan with charitable gift annuities or CRTs.

Temporary Giving. Just as you would with a loan, temporary giving allows for you to give and then to get

back over time. A **Charitable Lead Trust (CLT)** is an excellent option to consider.

A CLT provides income to your donor advised fund or charity of your choice for a specified term. At the end of the term, the balance reverts to your children or grandchildren. A CLT can substantially reduce estate taxes while preserving the estate. **Provide an interest free loan** up to \$250,000 per charity. This also will allow you to avoid imputed interest. **Use funds from an IRA** for charitable gifts and pay no taxes. This applies to donors specifically over the age of 59.5

Other options to consider when giving is to **use proceeds from cashing in your U.S. Savings Bonds** for charitable gifts and pay no taxes. **Life Estate Agreement** – Donate your residence to charity, retain use for life and receive tax deduction now. If you haven't already **include a charitable bequest in your will** to your donor advised fund or charity of your choice.

Please contact Hope to talk more about how to give smarter during these opportune times.

NEWSLETTER
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Hope Christian Community Foundation exists to serve donors and ministries in order to facilitate the building of God's kingdom in our community and throughout the world.

The Rebirth of Crown Ministries in Memphis

In 2001, Travis and Carol Moody had over \$100,000 in unsecured debt and a mortgage on a home that they could not afford to live in, to maintain, or to even sell. That same year, they took a Crown Financial Ministries small group class at a local Church to learn Biblical principles for getting out of debt.

The Moodys aggressively applied principles learned through Crown. By the end of 2004, God had eliminated all of their debt except their mortgage. Meanwhile, they started teaching Crown Financial Ministries small groups and became Money Map Coaches, counseling others who were in debt. In 2006, Travis wrote *Financial Breakthrough, God's Plan for Getting Out of Debt* to share their personal story of being delivered from what seemed to be an unwinnable battle with debt. During the process of writing *Financial Breakthrough*, he realized God was calling him into ministry full-time to teach financial stewardship.

Travis, a native Memphian with degrees from Hamilton High School, Georgia Tech and an MBA from Duke, and his family moved back to Memphis in the spring of 2008 and he currently works full time for Crown Ministries.

When you talk to Travis about financial freedom, he is quick to point that it is not only "freedom from" debt, but also "freedom to" what God has called us towards. For him it was freedom to serve Christ through Crown, for others it might be freedom to overseas missions, loving your family, or even freedom to simply be able to give generously.

The Moodys' vision is to see the Mid-South financial free. Crown's specific goal for Memphis is to teach Biblical stewardship principles to 100,000 people by the end of 2013. Based on surveys conducted of graduates of Crown Bible studies, it is expected that an additional \$70 million per year will be given to the cause of Christ in the Mid-South as a direct result of this teaching focus.

According to *The New York Times* Memphians are among the worst in the country when it comes to managing money. Memphis has over 240 pay-day loan type companies. This is almost twice the average of similar sized cities. In 2001, *The New York Times* ran an article that labeled Memphis as the "bankruptcy capital of the nation." Recent reports show that 1 out of every 31 homes foreclosed in Memphis in 2008.

Crown's Mid-South activities are threefold. First the plan will include outreach training to the poor and financially illiterate. Crown will target many of the traditional more financial struggling communities such as Orange Mound, Binghampton, and Frasier.

The second stage of attack will be to help train pastors and church leaders through Vision events. These events would be localized in scope to explain and encourage the use of resources (e.g. financial Bible studies for all ages, financial seminars, workshops, and Pastor's support material) at their respective churches. Presentation by local Crown staff as well as testimonies of local pastors will be an integral part of the program.

Lastly Crown will use Money Map Coaching. As people are exposed to training, many will recognize the need for one-on-one training and accountability as they begin the process of making difficult financial decisions. Money Map Coaches are volunteers trained to provide support and guidance while helping people change spending habits.

We at the Hope Christian Community Foundation believe that the implementation of this plan will result in lives being transformed as Jesus Christ replaces money as the Lord of their lives, generosity becomes an objective of every believer, and overall financial integrity is enhanced and embraced throughout the community of Christians and non-Christians alike.

To get involved about Crown Financial Ministries please contact Travis Moody at 901-832-8340 or via email at tmoody@crown.org or contact Hope to find more information.

Debt Among Christians and Americans

Overspending: 40% of church members say they overspend monthly; also, 40% of church members pay more than \$2,000 a year in interest, not including their mortgage.

Incomes Up, Giving Down: Incomes have gone up 9-10 times in the last 20 years while giving has gone down about 50%.

Debt versus Income: "More than a third (36%) of those who owe more than \$10,000 on their credit cards have household incomes under \$50,000."

Rising Debt: Nearly 50% of Americans spend more than they earn.

Giving Not a Priority: Christians worldwide had personal income totaling more than \$16 trillion in 2007 but gave only 2%, or \$370 billion, to Christian causes.

Trouble in Good Times: About 80 million families in the United States would say that they are in financial trouble, after 50 years of almost unparalleled prosperity.

Debt: 33% of U.S. born-again Christians say it is impossible for them to get ahead in life because of the financial debt they have incurred.



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