

# GO BOLDLY

## Making an Over-and-Above Gift

Capital stewardship campaigns rely on church members making gifts “over and above” their current level of giving. The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where you set your heart on things above. Financial priorities then take shape from spiritual priorities.

One way of defining this is “Lifestyle Stewardship,” a term used to describe a level of giving that affects one’s living. The challenge of Lifestyle Stewardship is to find ways boldly and prayerfully to let your giving touch your living! Seven examples would be:

1. Plan Giving into Your Budget
2. Redirect Money Previously Used for Paid-Off Bills
3. Increase Giving with Increased Income
4. Sell Excess “Stuff”
5. Commit Unexpected Cash
6. Use Extra Time to Earn Donation Money
7. Donate Investment Gains

### A Final Word

Giving does not have to be in equal increments over the full term of the campaign. You might be able to give more in the beginning or end. As you think about your financial commitment to the campaign, think not of just your potential to give right now, but also of your potential to give in the future.

Finally, as you consider your financial commitment to the Lord’s work, you might want to consider estate planning. Many sincere, committed Christians have not made provision for God in their wills and estate planning. Now might be a good time to do that.

Having a conversation with a trained professional who understands estate planning will help establish a plan that prioritizes God with your possessions. King David declared,

“I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”

– 2 Samuel 24:24

David understood the gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the heart of the giver! This is the spirit of Lifestyle Stewardship: If it is for my God, my gift must have value and meaning to me.

Often, Lifestyle Stewardship means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another. The three keys to effectiveness in Lifestyle Stewardship are:

- Reassess lifestyle
- Rearrange priorities
- Reallocate resources

Many Christians have been amazed at their ability to give “over and above” to their church. The previous seven steps are offered to help you in this regard.

DONATE TO GO BOLDLY