

# EDUCATION AND EVANGELISM

## Prioritized Through Estate Gifts...

### Every Household Receives a *Steps to Christ*

*by Caron Oswald\**

**T**hrough the years, the Mtn. View Central Church has received small gifts from various estates. “Usually the gifts

were between \$200-400,” reported Pastor Curtis Church. Then a \$50,000 bequest arrived. The donor’s request was that the funds be used for education and evangelism. The funds were placed in a special interest-bearing account while the church board made plans.

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The Net Evangelism Series was just beginning and the Mtn. View members wanted to offer these exciting meetings to their community friends and neighbors. The funds received from this bequest helped to purchase the needed equipment and so much more!

Their zip codes in the surrounding area included three cities: Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and Mtn. View.

The church asked: Why not send a special gift to each home along with the invitation brochure? *Steps to Christ* was selected. Just imagine—every household receiving a *Steps to Christ*!

But the story doesn't stop there - it keeps growing! A few years later, another bequest arrived for \$90,000 with the same

focused request – Use these funds for education and evangelism. These funds were combined with the remaining funds from the first bequest and a CD

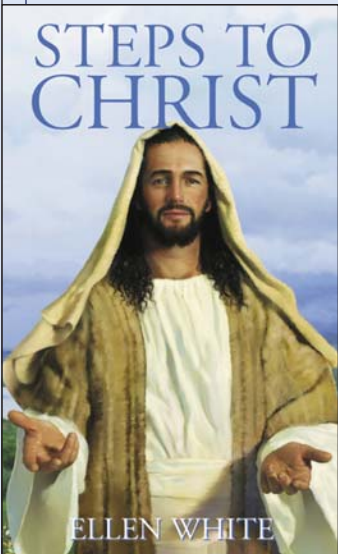
was purchased for \$110,000. The income from this CD is used for evangelism and to provide educational scholarships. Last year alone, 14 students received financial support for Adventist education.

“In this economic time we are in and the economic climate we Adventists understand will develop

before Jesus comes, more and more this must be an important source of funds for our churches,” said Pastor Curtis Church. “Remembering the local church in [their] estate planning is a significant part of future resources.”

And, as the Mtn. View church family can affirm, the funds arrive at just the right time! ☺

“JUST IMAGINE—  
EVERY HOUSEHOLD  
RECEIVING  
*STEPS TO CHRIST!*”



PLANNING FOR

## Gift Leads to Rededication

by Caron Oswald\*

“As we dedicate this building, we rededicate ourselves to our Lord and to the outreach of this community,” said Ed Evans as he opened the rededication service at the Exeter Church on

September 13, 2003. Evans spoke to a sanctuary filled with former and current members. Special guests for the occasion included four previous pastors.

It all started two years ago when a \$146,000 check arrived at the Exeter Church. The donor had become an Adventist as a young woman years before and was baptized in this church. Though she had moved to another town, married and lived a long, full life, the Exeter church family had stayed in her heart. In fact, some of the current members still remember her dedication for sharing her new faith with her community friends. Upon her death, her heirs received 50 percent of the estate.

The other 50 percent was divided in fourths with each beneficiary receiving \$146,000. (Two Adventist schools and It Is Written were also beneficiaries.)

The 38-year-old church facility was in des-

perate need of refurbishing. "We'd been talking about the need for sixteen years," said member Don Bowen. At a business meeting, the vote was overwhelmingly "Yes!" for the much needed interior facelift.

A building committee was quickly formed and work began.

In just six months, the sanctuary and foyer were completely renovated. Walls were removed and duct work relocated as new furnishings were installed. "It's come together well," said Joyce Marlin, project coordinator. "What is really exciting is that there was no dissension among us. The majority vote ruled. And the project is completely paid off!"

"The most important thing was to dedicate the members to God's service," said Bowen. "We want to be effective in God's service." ☺



THE  
Cycle  
Life

## Portfolio Diversification with a Gift Annuity

by H. Maynard Lowry \*\*

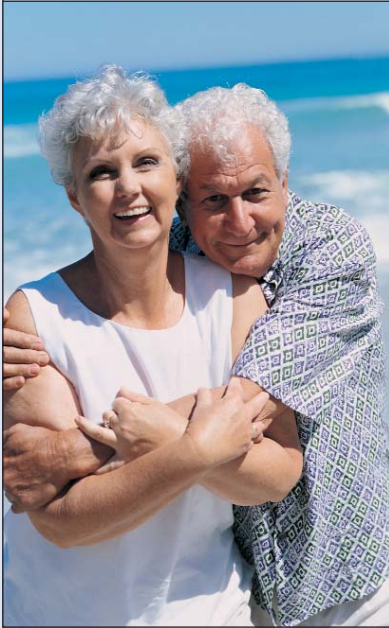
The economic climate of the past three years has made portfolio diversification converts and believers of most investors. Portfolio diversification smoothes out the ups and down of overall portfolio value in a fluctuating market.

Where increased income is a goal, charitable gift annuities can play an important role in diversification. When funded with stock that has increased in value, individuals can be assured of a

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 SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

steady income in exchange for assets that may now pay little or no income at all.



For those who have made an ultimate charitable designation for their alma mater or church in their will or trust, a gift annuity holds another opportunity. A charitable gift annuity produces a tax deduction at the time of the gift. Gifts passed at death by

will or trust would provide no such advantage.

Rates of return on gift annuities may be as great as 9.3 percent for the life of the donor and a spouse, or 11.3 percent for an individual. Rates never fluctuate and are guaranteed for life.

Finally, there is the satisfaction of knowing that you have made a gift that will help to accomplish good things. ☺

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- Please send me a confidential illustration of what a gift annuity can do for me.
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