

Stewardship

Active generosity

stewardship.org.uk

Funding new churches

Key considerations for leaders

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&
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Why is money important in the Kingdom?

It's not just about resources. It's about the heart.

- 1. Active stewardship*
- 2. AAA for healthy churches*
- 3. Funding models*
- 4. A case study*



Section



*What is active Stewardship
and active generosity?*

Stewardship

A **biblical** world view of stewardship can be consciously defined as:

"Utilising and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."

Charles Bugg, "Stewardship" in Holman Bible Dictionary (Holman: Tennessee, 1991), 1303-1304

Active Stewardship



A three-way partnership

- *givers* (Generous and faithful stewards)
- *receivers* (Missional and faithful stewards)
- *provider* (God provides all – generosity personified)



Discipleship and money



Who is our teacher when it comes to money and mission?

- **Culture** (*family, business, consumer, regional or national cultures*)
- **Church** (*poverty*)
- **Scripture** (*faith in action*)



Spiritual battleground



Matthew 6: 24

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Luke 12: 15

Then he said to them,
“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Spiritual battleground



Matthew 6: 24 and Luke 12: 15

- **money is a rival god** (*Mammon*)
- **mammon** - Beware of 'stuff' (*possessions, fame, status, whatever is more important than Jesus*)
- **recognise the lure of money** (*remember those that have fallen!*)

Section



An introduction to AAA

AAA

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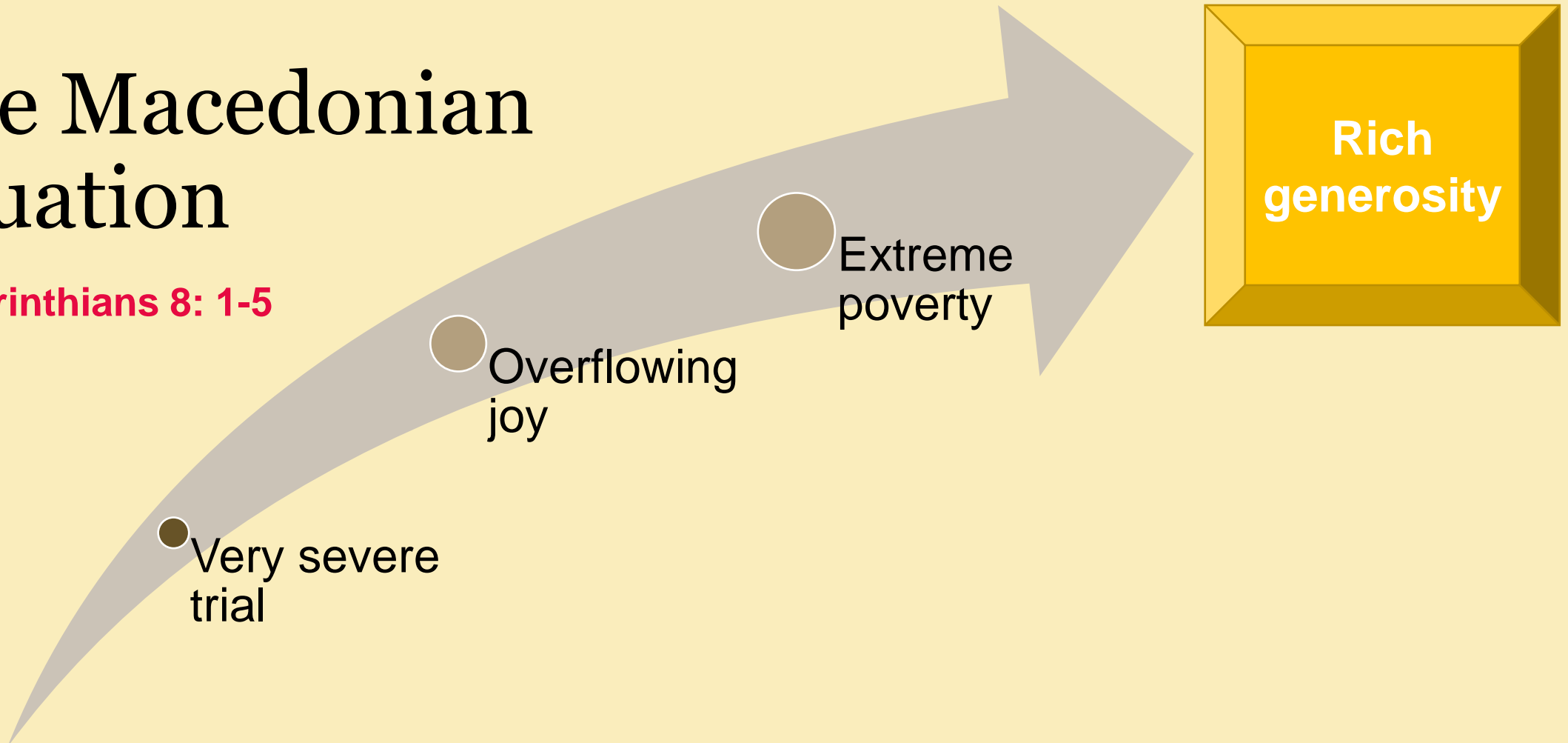
Stewarding His resources well, turning money into mission

- **Attitude**
- **Administration**
- **Accountability**



The Macedonian equation

2 Corinthians 8: 1-5



Attitude

2

2 Corinthians 8: 1-5 and 22-24

- v1-5: A different approach to money: the “Macedonian equation”
- v23: personal representatives 'of the church and an honour to Christ'
- V24: so 'the churches can see it'



Attitude sickness

2

Being culturally conditioned and not biblically conditioned with money

- leaders not seeing the transformational power of generosity
- don't make disciples in this area
- wrongly motivated and misunderstood
- existing to serve itself, its members or leaders – becomes isolated in the community
- members / supporters just won't want to give generously

Administration

2

2 Corinthians 8: 19 'to honour the Lord Himself'

- 'to administer in order to honour the Lord'
- serve the leadership and the mission
- good administration – without which things go wrong



Administration sickness

2

Failing to handle things in an efficient and safe way

- poor stewards of people's generosity
- mis-spent or misappropriated, and even fraud (it happens).
- members / supporters lose confidence
- Finance is a team game – don't rely on a single treasurer

Accountability

2

2 Corinthians 8: 20-22

- 'to avoid any criticism'
- 'to do what is right in the eyes not only of God but also of men'
- in the sight of God (the heart) – in the sight of others (reputation)

“We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.”

Accountability sickness

2

Little openness and transparency

- finances are handled by a single person
- financial information is not shared widely with others
- final decisions are taken behind closed doors, leading to suspicion
- we fail to do what is right in the eyes of man
- the unthinkable does happen

Section



Church Planting Funding models

Church plant models

3

Different models often require different or blended types of funding

- Mother / Daughter
- Dispersion
- Mission team (parachute)
- Pioneer
- Revitalisation
- Graft
- Resource church
- Multi-site
- Discipleship Making Movements
- Collaborative geographical – Birmingham 2020
- Multi-agency regional (Engage West Midlands)
- *Not an exhaustive list*

Funding models

3

One size doesn't fit all

- Full stipend / Employed (*part time also*)
- Bi-vocational (Tent-making)
- Anticipatory
- Pledges / fundraising
- Raising Personal support (MPD)
- Volunteer
- Co-vocational
- Business as Mission
- Living by faith (asking only God for finances)
- *Not an exhaustive list*

What is raising personal support?

One who raises support to enable ministry by establishing partnerships with people who help to support them

- Biblical
- Highly relational
- Prayer, encouragement and financial support
- [Individual Partner Account](#) & [Support Raising Training](#)
- Ministry Partner Development (MPD)



Why consider MPD model?

3

- Training for ministry or Christian work
- God calls individuals to serve in the body
- Newcastle United
- Collective involvement and support
- Money needs and heart issues



MPD benefits to church planters...

3

- increases ability to recruit more leaders, more quickly with less resources
- seamless launchpad from self funded training (theology etc) straight into funded ministry
- decreases central funding needs and fundraising burden
- replication is simple, scalable and sustainable
- release more people into ministry than just church leaders
this is for anyone in Christian ministry so get creative!



Ministry Partner Development (MPD)

3

Needs

When doing theological training, your immediate needs are not your only need.

- Personal living Costs
- Theology course fees

Your training is equipping you for future Christian work / ministry.

Catalyst

You become a living catalyst for generosity and an opportunity for people to be blessed by partnering with you. This is not just about money but Partnership in the gospel

Relationship

Talking about ministry and money is not easy but incredibly valuable. Developing long term relationships from training into ministry can form deep friendship, valuable prayer support and a faith based financial foundation

Ministry Impact

It's not only about the impact of your ministry. Partnership with others releases you to accomplish His plan by His grace. That's humbling and keeps you dependant on God

Scripture / Faith

Acts 20:35 is true
'It is more blessed [and brings greater joy] to give than to receive'
Biblical teaching to shape hearts and minds and culture is crucial

Partnership

One body, many parts.
Others can get involved in helping to fulfil the vision God has given you. This partnership gives them the opportunity to faithfully steward their resources and advancing God's Kingdom through you

Longevity

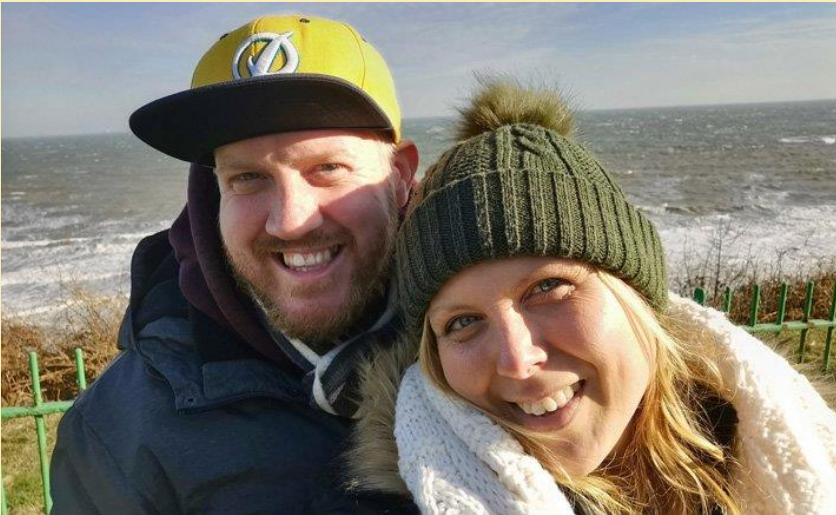
Your training equips you in or for ministry. Raising your own financial support relationally gives you the ability to spring into ministry with a support base already behind you, giving you confidence in God's provision and faith when it comes to money and finance

Section



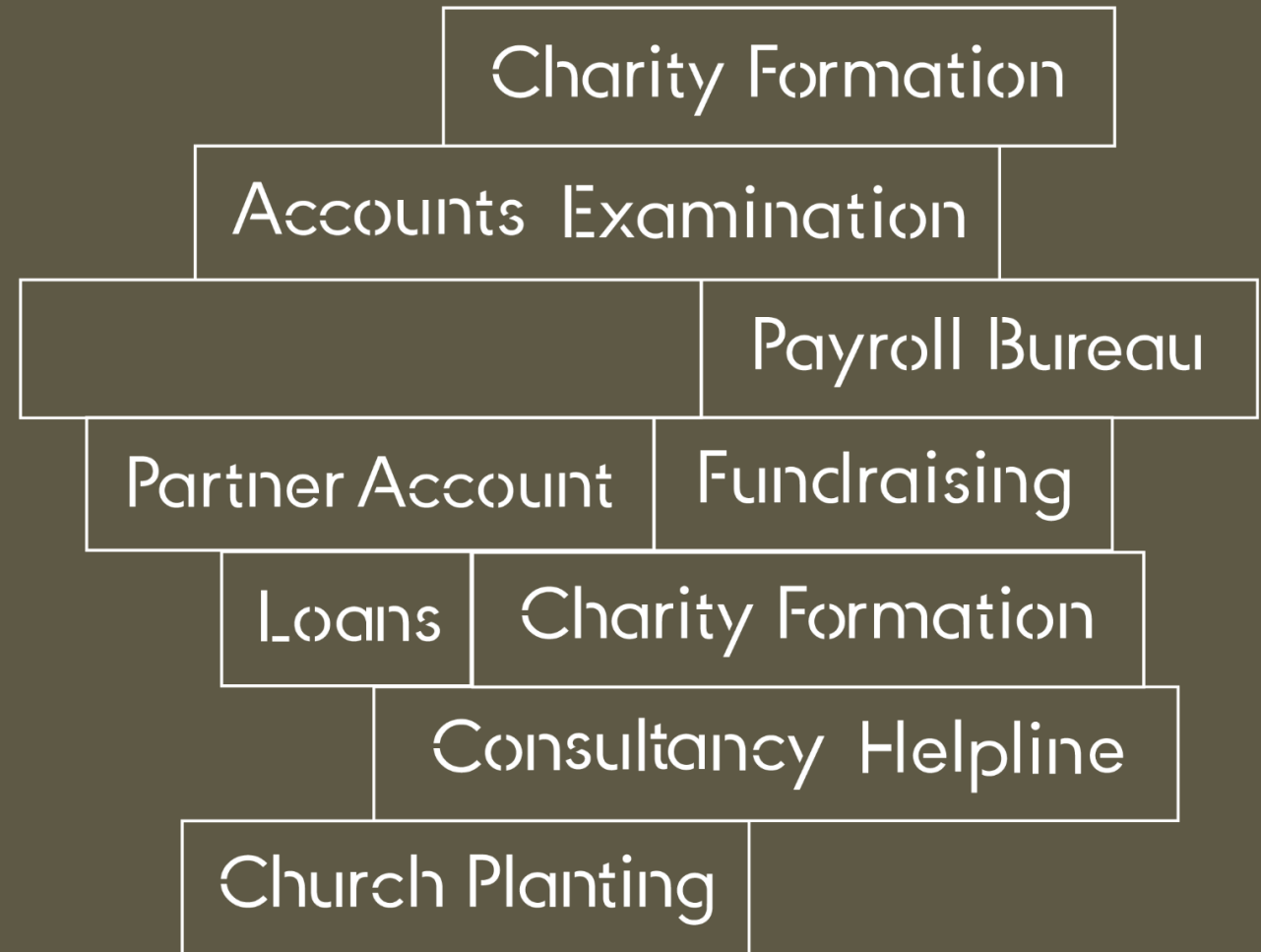
Case study

Altitude church Ben & Emma



CauseBuilder

Services for Churches and Charities

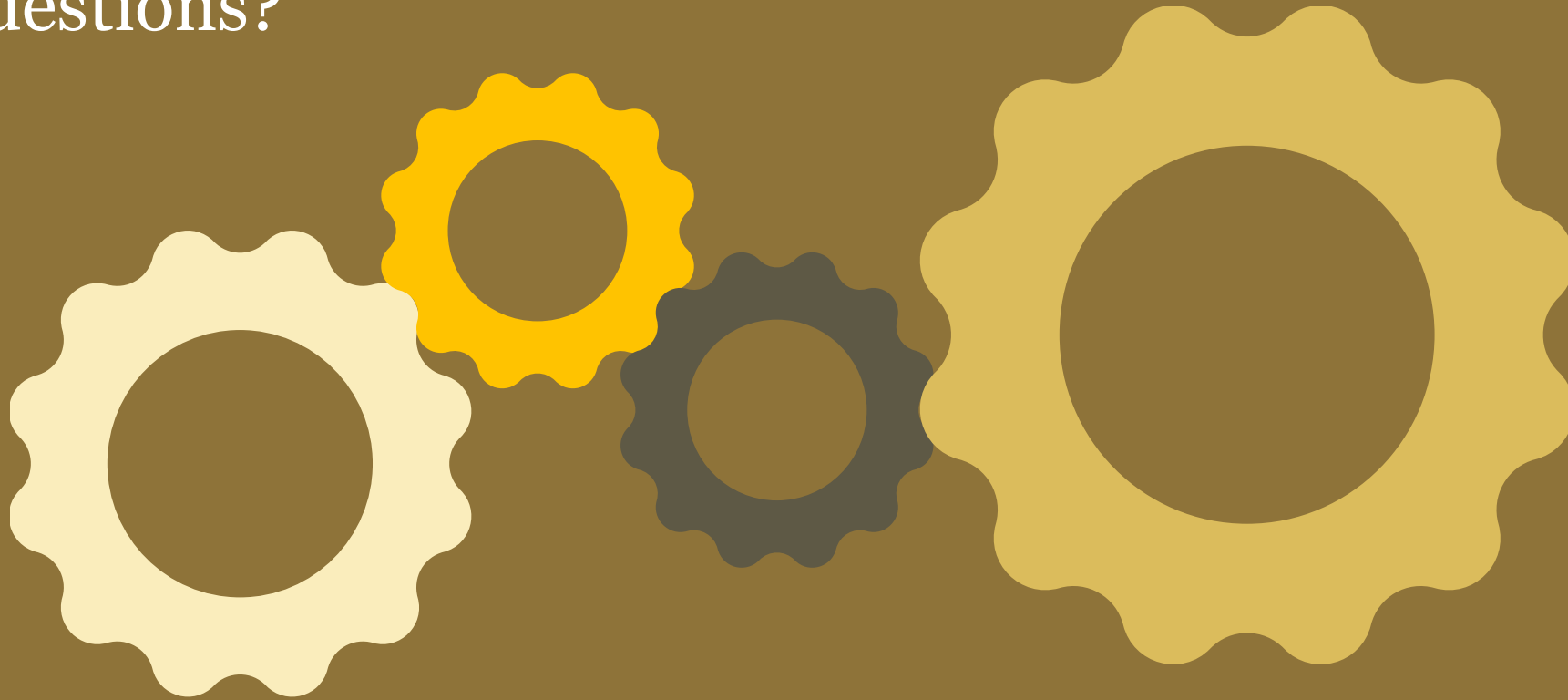


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Concluding thoughts...

- may these considerations be a provocation in your love for the Lord in the realm of money and resources
- God is after purity and righteousness in His Church and money is a litmus test
- well resourced, healthy organisations can respond from a place of strength to God's agenda
- applying biblical principles of stewardship can strengthen the church and unlock generosity by giving confidence to givers to be more generous.
- let us learn God's ways, ensuring we disciple people in money, generosity and stewardship to change the culture of money in the church and help to transform the resources flowing to God's mission

Your questions?



Resource page 1

[Simply Generous: Free e-book](#)

[Personal Support \(MPD\) – intro video series](#)

[AAA – Transforming the culture of money in the church](#)

[Registration of churches as charities](#)

[Thinking of starting a charity? A starter's guide](#)

[Stewardship Money Resources: A biblical perspective on budgeting](#)

[Stewardship YouTube](#)

Resource page 2

[Funding the family business \(MPD\)](#) – Myles Wilson

[If God will provide, why do we need to ask for money?](#) Rick Dunham

[The Shortfall](#) – Chris Wright, John Stott, James Cousins

[A spirituality of fundraising](#) – Henry Nouwen

[The generosity project](#) – Tony Payne

[What church leaders need to know about money](#) – Stephen Matthews (video)

Thank You