

ABWE™ Dimensions

Financial Planning for Christians

GIVE NOW, NOT LATER, CHRIST MIGHT COME ANY DAY

The following letter was sent to ABWE in recent months. It was a blessing to read of the man's commitment to giving. Permission was given to reprint this letter. We trust it will be of encouragement to you in your giving.

"Dear Friends in Christ,

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses all lived more than 100 years. In my family, on my father's side, his father lived to be 89. His mother lived past 96. My father lived to be about 69. On my mother's side, her mother and father lived to be 74. My mother lived to be a few days short of 95. My older sister lived to be 44. My younger sister died at age 78 and my brother lived to be 72. I am 84 and still going.

The Lord Jesus commanded the Apostles in Acts 1:8, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When is He coming? We do not know, but today is most important. There are, as I understand, some 2,250 languages of people who cannot hear the Gospel because no one else knows their language to translate it into so they can hear, read and learn the most important thing for them. When "He", Christ, comes, it will be too late.

God put the burden on my heart years ago to get the message out. He did not allow me to go in person, but through giving and helping to send others, get the message spread.

Years ago, I heard R. G. Le Tourneau tell how God led him to tithe. He had only \$10; He gave \$1. God blessed him in his business. Le Tourneau increased his giving to 25 percent. God did not stop blessing; God kept increasing his income until Le Tourneau was giving 75 percent. When I actually heard him, he was giving 90 percent of his income and a few years later I heard him again and it was 95 percent. He supported more than 125 missionaries and who knows what else.

As most people think, "I must store up for old age, or for my kids." Since I was four and a half years old, when my father left my mother, the Lord has cared for me. At the age of 15, I had to start supporting myself. God provided and still does.

I first tithed, and then gave above to missions. As time went on, I increased the mission giving. God increased my income. I don't keep building up savings for my family or a large savings account. The Lord will take care of that.

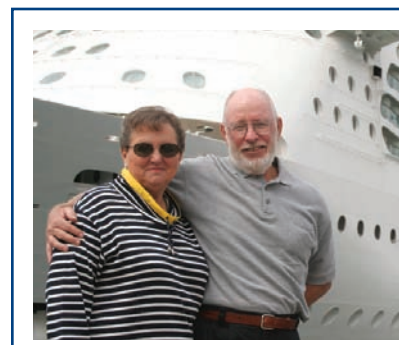
Those who have not heard about Jesus and salvation are not going to be saved and will spend eternity in the lake of fire.

If we can get the message out, they can make a choice. My choice is "give now, not later." Christ might come any day.

God bless you all,
Alex Poteat"

Medical Coverage Outside the US

Generally, Medicare does not provide coverage outside the United States. If you need medical care in Mexico or Canada however, it will be covered. This occurs if you are travelling in the US and the nearest hospital is in Canada or Mexico.



If you are on a cruise, the cruise line doctor's treatment of you will make you eligible, if the ship is no more than six hours from a US Port. For more detailed information, contact Medicare directly at 800-633-4227, www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/11037.pdf. You may want to consider one of the Medicare Medi-Gap plans (C through J) provided by private insurance companies.

Paying Unnecessary Sales Tax

When you get your bill for work done on your car, make sure the sales tax is applied only to the parts and not the parts and labor. In some states, labor is not taxable. Ask for a bill that separates the labor from the parts. Check your state's sales tax application on the internet.

A Doctor's Check-up

If you would like to know more about a doctor (M.D. or Doctor of Osteopathy), look at vitals.com. Approximately 720,000 licensed and practicing doctors are listed. Why look? Details can be seen about the doctor's accreditation, bedside manner, specialty, years in practice and other helpful information. Many of the profiles show patient ratings on the doctor's promptness, diagnostic accuracy and other helpful information. You can request an e-mail alert for any significant changes in your doctor's information.



Changing Your Income Tax Withholding

Consult your 2008 tax return. You may want to consider changing your withholding. Instead of getting a large refund, take home more money each month. File a new W-4 form with your employer and adjust the number of allowances that you claim. Consult the tax withholding calculator kiplinger.com/tools/withholding. Discuss this with your accountant.

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Department of Planned Giving Ministries
 Association of Baptists for World Evangelism Inc.,
 P.O. Box 8585, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585
 (717) 774-7000 FAX: (717) 774-1919
 Website: www.abwe.org

ABWE Canadian Office:
 980 Adelaide Street South, Suite 34
 London, ON N6E 1R3, CANADA
 E-mail: office@abwecanada.org
 Phone 1-519-690-1009

INCOME FROM YOUR HOME

Many seniors reach the place in life when they no longer want the responsibility of maintaining their home. At the same time, they would like to have additional income. ABWE offers a wonderful arrangement in these cases. If the home is given to the mission, the senior(s) are paid lifetime income (for married couples it would pay for two lifetimes). This is accomplished by the use of a Charitable Remainder Trust.

Take the example of Mrs. Lillian Brown, age 80. Mr. & Mrs. Brown bought their house many years ago for \$75,000. Mrs. Brown continued to live in the home for five years after Mr. Brown died. The value of her home had risen to over \$600,000, even though home prices had dropped in her neighborhood due to the economy. The increase in value was above the amount allowed before taxation of Capital Gains. By making a gift of the house to ABWE, she benefited as follows:

1. No Capital Gains Tax was paid.
2. Mrs. Brown receives a lifetime income.
3. Mrs. Brown was able to apply the Charitable Deduction against her income taxes.
4. She moved to an apartment and was then free of home maintenance and taxes and all the extra attention her house required. Her additional income and the money saved by moving covered her rental costs with money left over.
5. At Mrs. Brown's death, world missions through ABWE will be helped.

Note: Aside from a personal residence, other appreciated real estate or stocks can be used.

Should you consider this wonderful arrangement?

Need Additional Income?

CONSIDER AN ABWE GIFT ANNUITY.

WHY?

- Guaranteed lifetime income that can begin now or can be deferred.
- Federal Income Tax can be lowered with the charitable deduction.
- Only pay tax on part of the income you receive.
- World missions and ABWE benefit.

GUARANTEED LIFE-TIME ANNUITY RATES

Age 65	5.3%
Age 70	5.7%
Age 75	6.3%
Age 80	7.1%
Age 85	8.1%

Note – Not available in all States. Annuity Rates will be adjusted for two lives.

PAYING TOO MUCH PROPERTY TAX?

With the drop in home values, many assessments have not been adjusted. It is estimated that as many as 60 percent of properties are worth less than their current assessments. Check with your local tax assessor's office for statistics on your home. Look at the taxes for similar neighboring homes. If you are paying significantly more, you can request a reduction if your home's market value has declined. If a tax bill arrives before any adjustment, pay it in full in order to avoid a tax lien on your home.

Need Eye Glasses?



If you don't care about designer frames you can buy some back-up eye glasses for around \$8 for prescription glasses. Look at Zenni Optical www.ZenniOptical.com. You can make a selection from hundreds of frames. Look also at www.eyebuydirect.com. You will need to obtain an eye prescription from your ophthalmologist before placing your order.

DRUG COSTS

There is a great variance in the cost of drugs not covered by insurance. Do some comparison by looking at Destination RX www.drx.com. This will show you the best prices in your area. Good prices can be found at Wal-Mart, Target and Sam's Club. They now offer 90 day supplies on more than 1,000 generic brands.

MONEY \$AVERS\$

BOTTLED WATER

A considerable amount of money is being spent out of the family budget for this item. Buy a filter for your faucet and a filtered container for your refrigerator. You will get back the cost for these items by filtering your own water.

CUSTOMER REWARDS

At every opportunity, sign up for customer rewards programs for groceries, pharmacies, office supplies, etc. Your annual savings could be hundreds of dollars.

BROWN BAG LUNCHES

It is nice to get out of the workplace for a lunch hour, but eating out can add up. Packing your own lunch can be done for a lesser amount of money. In nice weather find a nice place to eat outside of your workplace.

GROCERY SHOPPING

Go with a prepared list. It allows you to maintain control and you are not as likely to end up buying things you don't need. If you use a basket instead of a cart, it will curb the purchase of unnecessary items. Studies have also shown that shopping in a bad mood provides a willingness to buy more than necessary.

DO IT YOURSELF

There are many things you can do around your home that will save you \$70 to \$80 an hour labor costs by repair people you bring into your home. Buy a "Do-It-Yourself" book for step-by-step instructions. This can be a big savings over a period of time. **Caution:** Don't tackle the impossible. Sometimes you have to call in the experts and pay the price.

NEGOTIATE

Any new item you are considering. **Examples:** When buying a new cell phone, ask for a waiver of the activation fee. Ask for a lower interest rate on your credit cards. Ask for the same promo rates as for a new customer on your cable service. Negotiate lower rates on car repairs, new appliances, and furniture. You will never get it if you don't ask.

USE CASH

According to research, you will spend up to 20 percent less when you are using cash opposed to a credit card.

AIR CONDITIONING

Install a solar attic fan and pump out that hot air in a home. It will lower your monthly electric bills in the summer.

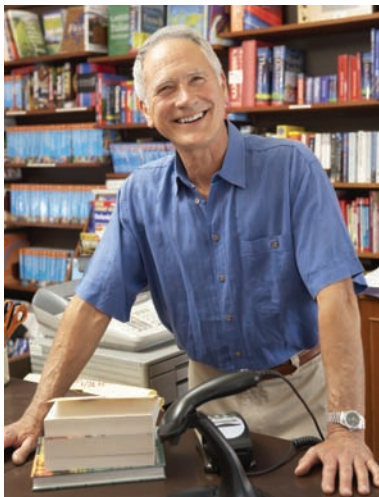
LIGHT BULBS

Although fluorescent bulbs cost more, they use 75 percent less energy and can last 10 times as long as an incandescent bulb.



Retired and Wanting Employment

Where do you begin? A good way to start is to register with a temp service. This can in time lead to a permanent job. This would be the time to re-do your resume. List past accomplishments and your skills. Scan your local newspapers then look at web sites that will list your resume. The site will also show potential employers. A big decision would be if you would be willing to move. Older workers have a lot to offer and many employers value their maturity and experience.



Things To Know?

MILITARY BENEFITS

Those military personnel who served at least 90 days since September 11, 2001 are eligible for certain education benefits. Call 888-442-4551 or contact www.gibill.va.gov for additional information.

VERY HIGH INTEREST RATES AT BANKS WILL END

In 2010, no bank will be allowed to offer rates more than three quarter of a percentage point higher than the national average as computed by the F.D.I.C. This will help to prevent weak banks from attracting deposits by offering unusually high interest rates.

SELLING OLD BOOKS

Contact cash4books.net and give them the ISBN numbers shown on the back cover or on the copyright page. They will make you an offer. If you want to sell, you can print out a prepaid mailing label, package the books and send. A check will be sent within three business days after receiving your books.

PICKING A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN

Choosing a Part D Plan can be confusing with all of the complicated private plans. It has been recommended that it would be wise to pick a plan that will best cover the prescription drugs that you are taking. When you have differences in coverage, it means differences in costs. The result can add up to hundreds of dollars a month. Use the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan finder at Medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227. This will enable you to estimate the cost of each plan based on your current drug needs. You could also contact your state's Health Insurance Assistance Program for assistance in making your choice of plans. Consult the Eldercare Locator (800-677-1116, www.eldercare.gov).

ABWE Financial Planning for Christians Dimensions

Would You Help Us?

It has been our privilege and joy to have provided *Dimensions* Newsletter for 31 years. With every issue we have been encouraged by your repeated expressions of thanks for the help that this service offers. Although *Dimensions* has been a free publication in the past we are experiencing rising production and mailing costs. If you are able, would you consider making a gift of at least \$5 to help offset these expenses? Thank you and God bless you for whatever you can do.

Spencer Jackson, Editor

SENIORS WHO ARE MOVING

Moving at any age can be a daunting task. Moving when you are a senior can be even more challenging if you have emotional and physical limitations. There are organizations that specialize in assisting older people when they have to move. They can do several tasks for you. They can help you:

- Decide what to sell, give away, throw out and what to take with you.
- Get estimates from moving companies.
- Oversee the movers.
- Supervise the packing and unpacking in addition to many other services.

You would typically pay by the hour. For more information contact the National Association of Senior Move Managers (877-606-2766, www.nasmm.org).



The Lighter Side Of Wisdom

“Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.”—Church bulletin board

“Save Time...See it my way”—Quote

On the back of a biker's vest, “If you can read this, my wife fell off.”

“For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.”—Church bulletin

“Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married October 24th.

So ends a friendship that began in their school days.”—Church bulletin

INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

- Giving Appreciated Assets for An Income
- The Living Revocable Trust
- Answers to Your Questions About Wills
- Using a Gift Annuity for giving an inheritance
- My birth date: ____ / ____ / ____
- Child's birth date: ____ / ____ / ____
- Child's birth date: ____ / ____ / ____
- Child's birth date: ____ / ____ / ____
- Child's birth date: ____ / ____ / ____
- Other _____
- A Gift Annuity illustration for supplemental income (interest rates are determined by age/ages)
- My birth date: ____ / ____ / ____
- My spouse's birth date: ____ / ____ / ____
- I would like to retire: _____ (year)
- I am currently retired _____
- I thought you'd like to know I have made ABWE part of my final giving plans.

Name (Mr./Mrs./Miss) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

- This is a new address, my old address label is attached.

Rising Credit Card Costs

The top eight credit card companies, which serve 80 percent of credit card balances, have raised their interest rates up to 10 percent. Some have increased their penalty rates to 3 percent of their balances. In addition, some have shortened their grace periods. What to do: Carefully read the current terms of your credit card and all mailings from credit card companies. Most importantly, pay your card bill in full and on time.

Old US Savings Bonds

Do you own some? They may not be earning any interest. More than 40 million of these bonds have matured and are no longer growing in value. Most of these would be Series E and H Bonds. For bonds issued before 1974, fill out Form 1048, which is available on a web site or through local financial institutions. You can also write to the Bureau of Public Debt, Box 7012, Parkersburg, West Virginia 26106-7012. For bonds issued after 1974, go to www.treasurydirect.gov and use the treasury hunt database.



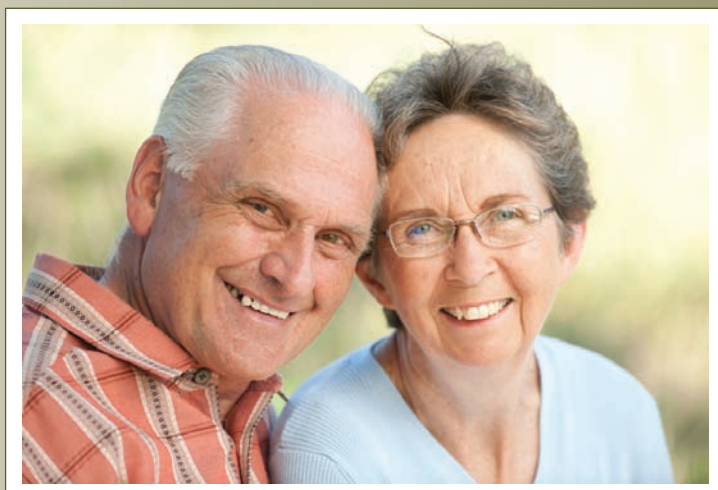
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***INFORMATION
REQUEST
FORM***



Higher Postage Costs

It is quite possible that the cost of a first class postage stamp in 2010 will be fifty cents. Think about buying “Forever Stamps” at the current rates. This will save you some money if you normally do a lot of mailing.



Mortgage Shopping

Beware of warning signs when shopping for a mortgage.

- **Pre-payment Penalties** that charge you a fee if the mortgage is paid off too quickly.
- **Balloon Payments** that require large amounts to be repaid in a short period of time.
- **Taxes and Insurance** that are omitted in order to make your payments look low.
- **Excessive Points** – You should not normally be charged for more than one point or 1 percent of the loan.

Take the time to shop for a mortgage and make careful comparisons.



Where to Live in My Later Years



When most individuals reach their post retirement years, the decision has to be made as to where they are going to live in their later years. The options are usually to downsize, move to a Retirement Community, live with their children, or just stay in their residence of many years. This is commonly referred to as “aging in place”. If staying in your home is the decision you make, there are certain things that may have to be altered in your home to accommodate your changing physical needs.

THE KITCHEN: Consider lowering cabinets that make it easier to reach dishes and groceries

LAUNDRY: Move the washer and dryer to the main floor.

MASTER BEDROOM: Make sure it is on the main floor.

BATHROOM: Install safety bars and a non-slippery floor.

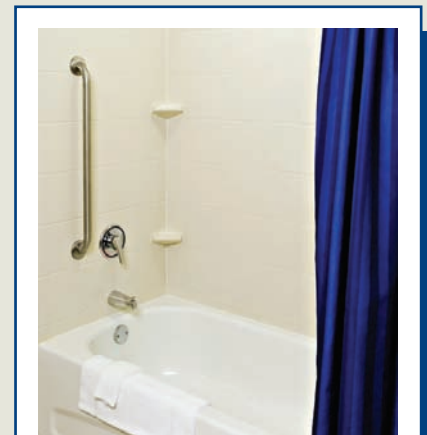
DOORWAYS: Need to be wide enough to accommodate a wheel chair, if needed.

RAMPS: At some point this would be needed at the front entrance and possibly the rear entrance as well.

When the time comes you can no longer take care of yourself, you will need to consider hiring in-home personal care; moving to assisted living in a professional facility; or moving in with a child.

A SAFER HOME FOR THE ELDERLY

- **Entrances** – Use level handles. At the main entrance provide a shelf to hold items while unlocking the door.
- **Lighting** – Use higher wattage bulbs, night-lights in hallways and bathrooms.
- **Bathrooms** – Add grab bars, hand-held showers, raised toilet seats.
- **Hallways** – Keep them clear of objects.
- **Steps** – Railings on both sides, keep steps free of objects.



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Remembering ABWE in your will spells...

- B – **B**elieving in “Go ye into all the world”
- E – **E**ternal results
- Q – “**Q**uietly” providing for missions
- U – **U**niversal benefits
- E – **E**xercising my ability to give
- S – **S**tewardship in action
- T – “**T**imely” giving



**Have You Remembered ABWE
in Your Will or Final Plans?**