

# Partners IN PLANNING

Spring 2025

## Partner Podium

Q&A With John & Ready Bateman

**H**ow do you prioritize your charitable giving?

We want to make our commitment to our local church first. We go to Park Cities Presbyterian in Dallas, Texas, and we feel very strongly about supporting the church where we worship and its ministries, which are both local and global.



**John and Ready Bateman** have been members of Park Cities Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, since the church was formed in 1991. John is an elder and has chaired the world missions committee for many years. He currently serves on the committee for Mission to the World. He teaches young fathers each week and loves to disciple men over breakfast and lunch. Ready leads a small group in the young mothers' ministry, discipled women, and serves on the board of Council for Life, a Dallas pro-life group. They have also taught pre-school Sunday school together for many years. They have a passion for Christian hospitality in their home, for encouraging missionaries, and for giving to God's kingdom work. John and Ready have three adult children and three grandchildren with a fourth on the way. Ready is a former elementary school teacher and John serves as chief operating officer of a private equity firm.

Then we support quite a few individual missionaries that we know personally and that includes some RUF pastors as well as MTW missionaries and some non-MTW missionaries. We also prioritize parachurch ministries that focus on a global reach.

**You are both passionate about the Great Commission and about supporting ministries with a global reach. Has that been the case throughout your adult lives?**

It's been our focus and it's been a high priority for us. We've had the opportunity to support and also visit and be involved in missions overseas in several continents and a lot of countries—that's been a huge joy for us. Visiting and being involved in missions on a short-term basis in a wide variety of countries, being able to support ministries and missionaries, getting their reports and hearing more about what is happening in their field, and learning what the Lord is doing overseas has just continued to fuel the fire of our passion for making the Lord's name known and worshipped all over the world.

**When did you first learn about MTW's Partner Relations Department?**

I (John) have been heavily involved in our church's global missions ministries and have naturally gotten to know a lot of missionaries and become more aware of MTW.

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We went to the PCA Global Missions Conference in Greenville, South Carolina, in 2013. We were invited to a luncheon for Ambassadors and that's when we first heard about MTW's Ambassadors Program. We were immediately interested but at the time we were still raising kids at home and it wasn't really available for us to go to one of the Ambassadors Weekends for several years.

But during the Ambassadors luncheon we heard Bruce Owen's very scripturally based talk on giving and generosity and that was really helpful to me (Ready). You know, I'd heard scattered verses on giving, but just to have a presentation on that, and how to prioritize—that was really helpful to me.



### Was there something specific about MTW's Ambassadors Program that piqued your interest?

Yes! Ambassadors is very interesting. We get requests from missionaries and various ministries around the world for donations and we don't know everything about them we need to know. We're not able to spend the time fully vetting them. We love the Ambassadors structure where missionaries who are on the field know the needs of their community and are deeply involved in the lives of the national pastors and those who are in ministry there.

So we know that this money is going to be well invested. And then from that point, when missionaries make an application to Ambassadors, it goes through the country and then the international director level of prioritizing projects within their regions. Then the senior management of MTW makes the

decisions as to which projects get gifts and that's just huge to us to know that the people who are on the ground, as well as at the management levels of MTW, are able to vet and prioritize those projects. So we're delighted to give to a fund where we know for sure that money is really going toward that project.

### Has MTW helped you understand the benefits of giving to global missions and specifically giving non-cash assets?

Over the years, we've made a high priority of giving to current needs. We just felt like we'd like to be engaged in the needs and support the needs right now and in the coming years.

We've been in a situation lately where a part of my (John) compensation is in publicly traded stock of other companies and that's allowed us to give that stock where we don't have to pay taxes by selling the stock. We can just give the full value of the stock and MTW benefits from the full value of it. But we don't have to pay taxes on the unrealized gains on that stock.

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The other thing that I wanted to mention is that we had a liquidity event with one of our personal investments that resulted in a lot of taxable income. So we set up a donor advised fund through MTW last year that allowed us to donate more than we would ordinarily in a year. This helped us from a tax perspective, but it also allowed us the opportunity to say, "OK, now we have this money in this DAF and we don't have to decide immediately where it all goes." However, our desire is that the funds are not going to stay in the DAF for many, many years. We're hopeful that we'll be able to give all that money away in the next couple of years.

### Can you speak to your experience working with MTW and donating stock?

They make it very easy. The DAF assets are managed by a third-party investment company called Cornerstone Management. Because of my (John) role as the chairman

of the CMTW finance committee I know Cornerstone well and I'm just terrifically impressed. I'm in the investment management business so I kind of know how to judge another investment manager. They're flat good. It's a joy to know that our DAF as well as MTW's other assets are very professionally managed. There is also no fee which is amazing as a lot of financial institutions charge a pretty hefty fee to manage a DAF.

### Can you explain your philosophy of biblical stewardship?

**John:** God's Word says that the Lord owns the cattle on a thousand hills which means He owns everything and He just allows us to use it. But He also calls us to be good stewards of it. If He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and He's given us a little farm and He puts a few cows in our piece of property and tells us to move one of His cows to somebody else's field—well, they're His cows. He can do what He wants to with His cows. They're not my cows. It's a huge joy and freeing to know that this money is His. He does allow us to use it, but He also calls us to be good stewards of it so that when He says, "Now I'd like for you to put X amount in somebody else's account," it's His money. We're delighted to obey Him.

**Ready:** I jotted down a couple of Scriptures that I like. "God loves a cheerful giver" and the word "cheerful" is the same root word for "hilarious" and I just love that. He loves us to give hilariously and with great joy and we have really experienced that. When we're able to give to these Ambassadors projects and then at the next Ambassadors Weekend see the missionary in person or on a screen presenting that project and how it's ministering to others—it just brings us great joy.

1 Timothy 6:18-19, "They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the

future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life." And then Matthew 6:20, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moths and rust destroy, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there, your heart will be also."

There's a lot competing for our heart in this world and it's easy to put your treasure in something that literally can be taken away or destroyed in a day by moth, rust, fire, thieves, or whatever. But to lay up treasures in heaven! We pray everything we give to is directly going to making disciples of Christ, growing His Church or reaching the unreached.

### How has your support of MTW and global missions increased your understanding of God and His kingdom?

It has given us an enhanced view of the Great Commission that we're called to make disciples. John Piper has a great quote that we have three choices in missions—go, send, or disobey. We've always loved that. We are called to be a goer or a sender and our church teaches that well. We love that idea that you don't have to go to a war zone in Ukraine to be a missionary, you don't have to go to a closed country but you can send those who are going and actually called to do so. We can make disciples here in Dallas over breakfast, but we can also make disciples in the four corners of the world or by donating toward those who are going there.

### What excites you about MTW's vision and mission?

We love that MTW focuses on the capital "C" Church. MTW's focus is on the Church as God's agent on earth to take the gospel to the world and we love that. ■

## Advantages of Giving Non-Cash Assets

Many donors have recognized the wisdom and advantages of giving non-cash assets to support Mission to the World and other charitable causes they care about. Here are three non-cash assets you can give that can reduce your taxes and help you reach your stewardship goals.

### 1. Gifts of stock:

Donating appreciated stock is a tax-savvy way to maximize your charitable giving. By giving the stock, you avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated portion and receive a charitable tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock.

### 2. Gifts of real estate:

If you have real estate that you are no longer using and/or looking to sell, you may consider using this asset to make a charitable gift. The benefits of giving real estate to Mission to the World include an immediate charitable income tax deduction for the appraised fair market value of the property, bypassing capital gains tax, escaping the hassle of selling the property, and removing the property from your estate for probate and estate tax purposes.

### 3. Qualified charitable distribution:

After reaching the age of 70½, you can make a direct-to-charity transfer from an IRA, known as a qualified charitable distribution. You can increase your generosity and eliminate the tax implications up to \$100,000 (adjusted for inflation) per year. The QCD can be used to meet your required minimum distributions if you do not need the income this year.

The QCD must be made directly to ministry. It is not included in your taxable income and is not subject to deduction limitations on other charitable gifts you make. You also have a one-time opportunity to make a QCD of up to \$50,000 to fund a charitable gift annuity.

If you would like to learn more about advantages and strategies for giving non-cash assets or how Mission to the World's Center for Estate and Gift Planning can help you reach your giving goals, call Beth Billingsley at 678-823-0028 or email her at [beth.billingsley@mtw.org](mailto:beth.billingsley@mtw.org). Design your legacy today. ■

# Glorifying God Through Generosity

By Dr. Paul Kooistra

*“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”*

2 Corinthians 9:10–11

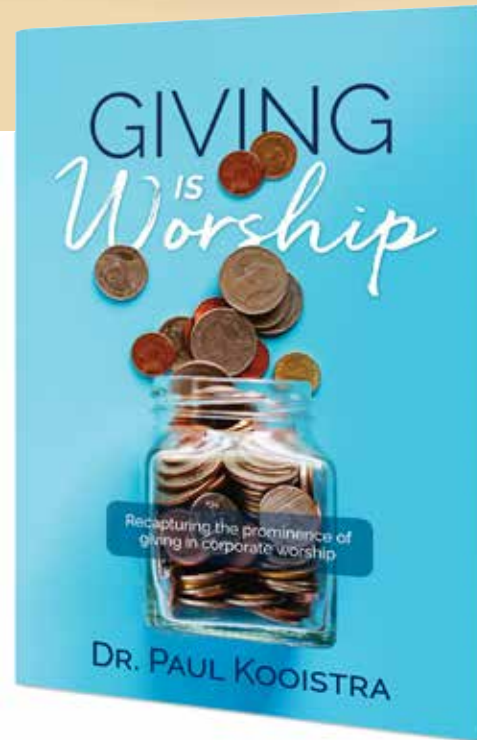


Our God is a God of multiplication. We see that principle throughout His creation, don't we? A farmer plants his seed expecting a crop—something for his livelihood, as well as more seed for replanting. But where does the seed come from? It comes from God.

Everything we have is a gift from Him: life and health, friends and family, education and opportunity, church and community, and, most of all, salvation and abundant life in Christ. God glorifies Himself—and reminds us over and over that we are to glorify Him with every gift He gives.

Naturally, whatever financial resources we have, large or small, are gifts from Him. They are not first and foremost for our own pleasure and consumption, but to glorify our Maker. We need to thoughtfully consider how to please Him as we provide for our families, as we save for the future, as we look out for the good of others, and most especially as we invest in the work of God's kingdom.

We should never discount the fact that giving is an act of worship for His glory. We don't often think of giving in this light, but these verses clearly suggest that the very reason God gives us our resources is to enable us to bless others. Do you often consider this? God has given you much so that you can give much.



As you give in worship, think of your benevolent Father who has adopted you into His family through Jesus Christ. Generous giving is inherent in the Christian's DNA. Like Father, like son—and like daughter. Let your giving in worship open your heart to your great God.

*Dr. Kooistra is a former coordinator of MTW and author of several devotionals. This is an excerpt from his book “Giving is Worship.” If you would like us to send you a free copy, let us know on the enclosed response card or email Beth Billingsley at [beth.billingsley@mtw.org](mailto:beth.billingsley@mtw.org). ■*

We trust you have found this issue of **Partners in Planning** to be helpful. We look forward to answering any questions you may have about the information shared here.

Please take time now to complete the response card to receive information on our estate design and gift planning services. We are here to help you in any way we can.

Please write or call our office to let us know how we can be of assistance.

For will and estate planning purposes, our legal name and address are:

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