

EXPRESSING THE MISSION & VISION

# DIVIDENDS

OF CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES

*This Issue:*

**IT'S GOD'S BUSINESS:**  
THE 'MINISTRY' OF  
LLOYD COPENBARGER



## IT'S GOD'S BUSINESS

## THE 'MINISTRY' OF LLOYD COPENBARGER



*In addition to helping fellow Christians plan for the future, Lloyd Copenbarger is working to impact other areas of society. At left, he speaks at the dedication of the Eugene and Billie Yeager Center at California Baptist University. Above, he and his wife Laura are shown at the dedication with CBU President Dr. Ronald L. Ellis. The theme of the fund-raising campaign was "Opening Doors to the Future." In honor of the Copenbargers' generous support of California Baptist University, the Eugene and Billie Yeager Center also featured the opening of the Copenbarger Presidential Dining Room.*

**N**OT EVERY CHRISTIAN CAN BE the pastor of a church, the founder of a ministry, or the leader of a great evangelistic organization. In fact, many Christians labor each week in the secular workplace. But just because they aren't in "ministry" doesn't mean they can't impact the world for Christ.

During the past 20 years, Lloyd Copenbarger has used his law practice to impact God's Kingdom in a big way. His efforts have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars being set aside to further the Gospel throughout the world.

### MORE THAN A JOB

Lloyd sees his entry into the legal field as more than a general career decision. In his mind, it was a calling. "I got involved in law school because two professors, unbeknownst to each other, told me I should consider

becoming an attorney," he says. "I remembered the Scripture that says, 'In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.' And I thought, if two people see those qualities in me, I'd better pay attention."

After earning his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma, Lloyd entered the workplace.

He went on to serve as counsel to Dr. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

At the time, Dr. Bright was involved in a fund-raising campaign called "Here's Life," which encouraged Christians to give a billion dollars to God's Kingdom by the year 2000 in hopes of funding the Great Commission.

Lloyd was appointed to head Campus Crusade's Great Commission Foundation.

One focus of the Here's Life campaign was wealthy donors who could make substantial

gifts.

But Dr. Bright didn't want to overlook people in other income groups, who provided the main support for his organization.

To meet their needs, Lloyd helped to develop seminars that taught people how to use wills and trusts to continue their giving even after death.

The seminars were held primarily in churches closely affiliated with Campus Crusade.

### KEEPING A GOOD IDEA ALIVE

When Lloyd left Campus Crusade, the seminar program ceased to operate within the organization.

But people in the churches where he had presented the seminars asked him to continue the program. He agreed.

"The first church we worked with was a church of probably 600 members," Lloyd



*Lloyd Copenbarger (right) counsels a young couple. Estate planning is important for everyone, but especially for couples with young children. If both parents fail to make a will and then die in an accident, the state may place their children in the care of someone who does not hold the parents' religious beliefs. Based on his experience, Lloyd estimates that more than 70 percent of Christians do not have a will or trust.*

says, “and there was almost \$4 million in gifts to that church, to its mission program, and to organizations like Campus Crusade, Focus on the Family, and other ministries that I felt were God-ordained ministries.”

After presenting the seminar in other churches, Lloyd was astounded at the results.

“I had been very much impressed by the billion-dollar campaign and the goals that Dr. Bright had established,” he says. “So, I made a private vow. I pledged to the Lord that if He would give me the health and the strength and the opportunity, we would do seminars in churches any place we were given an opportunity—regardless of size, regardless of economic situation—until we had helped God’s people make gifts of a billion dollars to the Kingdom through wills and trusts.”

Lloyd believes his organization reached its \$1 billion goal about a year ago.

Afterward, he met with his son and other members of his law firm, Lloyd Copenbarger and Associates, headquartered in Newport Beach, California.

They determined to press on with Lloyd’s original vision, and they set the goal of helping Christians give another \$1 billion to God’s Kingdom.

The seminars presented by Lloyd’s firm include a video presentation that contains the basic information people need to ensure the security of their estate, to provide for their loved ones, and to give to the causes that are important to them.

Although Lloyd doesn’t solicit gifts to churches and ministries, he encourages people to consider making these gifts through

their wills and trusts.

As a result, they can continue their giving legacy, to the organizations of their choice, after they’ve gone home to be with the Lord.

But as successful as Lloyd has been, there’s a lot more to be done. Based on information from his estate planning work, he estimates that 70 percent or more of Christians have no will or trust. This is tragic for all families involved, but it’s especially tragic in cases involving young children. If both parents die, the children could end up in the care of a state-appointed guardian who does not share the parents’ religious beliefs.

#### **A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH CROWN**

One element of Crown’s *Adult Small Group Study* is that participants are encouraged to make a will.

Lloyd saw the results of this while working with a Bakersfield, California church that heavily promoted the Crown program. The church invited Lloyd to speak year after year, and during this time, he was able to observe the impact of the small group study on the congregation.

“We noticed a significant difference in the preparation and giving motivation of the people who had gone through Crown,” he says. “Then, several years ago, the Church on the Way, Jack Hayford’s church, asked us to come and do an estate planning seminar at the conclusion of their Crown programs. The results were off the chart. I had never dealt with a situation that was as productive, both from the standpoint of people being prepared and motivated to provide protec-

tion for their families and to provide for the Kingdom.”

Lloyd became acquainted with Jim Sullivan, who now serves as Crown’s Western area director.

Later, he had an opportunity to meet with Crown cofounders Howard Dayton and Larry Burkett—only a few months before Larry went home to be with the Lord.

For Lloyd, this was the second facet of a long association with Crown. During his time with Campus Crusade, he had become acquainted with Larry, who worked for Dr. Bright in the 1970s.

“I’ve been involved as a local booster and a financial booster of Crown,” Lloyd says. “I feel that is one of the more productive things I can do to support the Kingdom.”

Looking back on what God has already accomplished through his firm, Lloyd says he can’t take any credit for what’s been done.

“It was the Lord who gave me the vision,” he says, noting that unforeseen events, orchestrated by God, were what made the achievement of the \$1 billion goal possible. “This is the Lord’s ministry. I’ve just been privileged to have a little part in helping God’s people.” ■