WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?  p. 4
FULL-CIRCLE BLESSING  p. 7
GOD IS SOMETHING ELSE  p. 5
Stewardship. For some the word generates negative thoughts and feelings. But for followers of Jesus, it is an exciting adventure. “Try it. Put Me to the test,” the Lord says about returning a faithful tithe and giving generously. “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in!” (Mal 3:10, NLT).

Christian stewardship involves more than finances—it addresses the use of our time, our talents, and our treasures. When we put God first, honoring Him in all we do, we will discover that life is an exciting adventure.

I am writing from a hotel room in Bucharest, Romania, where I am currently preaching a series of sermons at Invingatori Church. It’s a major time commitment—a total of 20 days away from home. “Is that good stewardship?” you might ask. “Shouldn’t you be at your office in Silver Spring, Maryland, providing leadership for Hope Channel, Inc. and the affiliates around the world?” I’ve thought about the question during my time here in Bucharest. Here’s my answer: the mission of Hope Channel is to offer God’s good news for a better life today and for eternity. Sometimes we need to be on the front line and watch God work in miraculous ways!

This past weekend several precious individuals made decisions to prepare for baptism. One couple had been attending church for several months, but this was an opportunity to seal their growing commitment to Jesus and His truth. A teenage girl whose father is a pastor also made her decision to surrender fully to Jesus. I’m sure her parents have prayed for her all her life!

Just this past week I received a report from Pastor Mark Finley* who is preaching in one of the major cities of Bulgaria. His meetings are being broadcast on Hope Channel Bulgaria to more than 1,600 locations around the country. His report included this picture of himself with brothers who watched the sermons from their home. Both have decided to surrender their lives to Jesus as their Savior and Lord, and be baptized!

During my time here, I have visited the Romanian Hope Channel affiliate, Speranţa TV. God is doing amazing things through this media ministry. Speranţa TV is one of 28 must-carry television channels in the country. This means all the cable networks in the country include Hope Channel programming! The financial challenges are great, but God is working in miraculous ways. Last year a Romanian businessman stepped out on an exciting adventure with God by giving 50,000 Euros to support the life-changing ministry of Speranţa TV. And this year? For 2017, the same businessman has pledged 300,000 Euros. His exciting journey with God continues and lives are being changed for today and for eternity.

My friends, Christian stewardship—committing our time, talents, and treasures wholly to God—is not a burden or a painful obligation. It’s an exciting adventure. Try it. Put God to the test!

With thanks and prayers,

Derek Morris
President, Hope Channel, Inc.

*Pastor Mark Finley has two shows on Hope Channel: Ancient Discoveries and Mark Finley Presents.
What Viewers Are Saying

My daughter is going through a terrible divorce, and I have been feeling very angry at her abusive husband. When you shared 1 Peter 2:23 on your show, the Lord convicted my heart that I have to stop reviling my son-in-law and stop calling him terrible names. Jesus did not return angry words to those who taunted Him.

—Kathy

Where else could I find comfort, real talk, and stories … when all around is lies and suspicious news?! I am always longing for spiritual nurture so I enjoy Hope Channel.

—Luzy

Because of Hope Channel I’m understanding God’s Word and His Love.

—Samuel

I love Cross Connection. You guys bring out the Word in ways I never realized. I never miss an episode.

—Jessica

You have greatly touched my heart and returned me to the glory of the gospel of my Lord Jesus Christ.

—Sihael

With your programs I’ve been able to put my faith back on track. I pray that Christ’s character will be more and more revealed in my life.

—Michael

I thought it was impossible to live the life Christ wants us to, but watching your shows has caused a change in me. I also strive to preach the gospel by my way of living. I am not perfect, though. I am still a work in progress.

—Beryl

My daughter is going through a terrible divorce, and I have been feeling very angry at her abusive husband. When you shared 1 Peter 2:23 on your show, the Lord convicted my heart that I have to stop reviling my son-in-law and stop calling him terrible names. Jesus did not return angry words to those who taunted Him.

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—Beryl
Moses is about to embark upon the greatest challenge of his life (Exod 3–4). After 40 years of exile from Egypt, God is calling him out of the land of Midian. Moses offers God every excuse to not accept the task: “But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’” (Exod 4:1). God’s response to Moses is important for anyone being called to serve Him. The Lord asks, “What is that in your hand?” (Exod 4:2). Of course, God knows Moses has a staff in his hand. In this dramatic scene that involves a snake and a bout of leprosy, God uses what Moses already has—a staff, a mere walking stick—to illustrate that when God calls you to serve, He empowers you and your talent to accomplish the task.

As it was with Moses, it is today. When God calls us to serve Him, He asks: What's in your hand?

As Christians, we are privileged to partner with God. Partnership with God gives us astounding access to the power of the One who calls and sends us. “As the will of man cooperates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings.”* When we surrender to God and acknowledge His calling, we become disciples and stewards. Successful stewards rely totally on God's power and not their own. This is the Principle of Dependence.

Stewardship is not about the use of money or finances. It’s about conversion and revival. God’s stewards acknowledge that God is the owner of everything. “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers” (Ps 24:1–2). C. S. Lewis puts it this way: “Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.” This is the Principle of Ownership.

Successful daily living requires that we manage ourselves, our time, our health habits, our family, the spiritual gifts given to the church through us, our living and sharing the gospel, our financial resources, our attitude of service above self, etc. “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Phil 4:8). We are called as God’s stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything He owns as His stewards, we are responsible for managing His holdings according to His desires and purposes. This is the Principle of Responsibility.

A steward is one who manages the possessions of another. We are all stewards of the resources, abilities, and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care. While God has entrusted us the care of His creation, we are not to rule over it as we see fit. Instead we are called to exercise our dominion under the watchful eye of the Creator, managing His creation in accordance with the principles He has established. Like the servants in the parable of the talents (Matt 25:14–30), we will be called to give an account of how we have managed what the Master gave us—including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority. This is the Principle of Accountability.

Like Moses, we are asked the question: What’s in your hand? We are called to be faithful stewards to the One who made us, called us, and walks with us. 🕊

Gaspar Colón is associate pastor of nurture and discipleship at Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church, Silver Spring, MD.

It was Friday evening in a small town about 18 miles west of Atlanta, Georgia. June was restless. After putting her dinner dishes away, she sighed and went to the living room of her apartment. She shut the blinds as the sun sunk behind the horizon.

June turned a small lamp on, sat in an easy chair, and grabbed her Bible from the end table. She wanted to be prepared for a Bible study the next day. Her worn hands expertly leafed through the Bible as she looked up several verses. Then June sighed again and closed the Bible. She reached for the remote, turned on the television, and flipped through channels.

June wished she could watch Charles Stanley, a Baptist preacher whose TV show she enjoyed, but she now had DirecTV and Stanley was not on DirecTV. Longing for religious programming, she decided to check the news on channel 360. Before she could enter the numbers, June heard a voice say, “Go to channel 368.”

June shrugged it off. She’d never heard of those numbers before, nor did she know what those numbers meant. “That’s not a channel I have, she thought. “What’s that all about?”

She heard the voice again: “Go to channel 368! 3-6-8.” After hearing this message a second time, June could not ignore it. She punched the numbers in: 3-6-8. Amazed, she stared at the screen as the interactive Bible study program Hope Sabbath School appeared!

Smiling, June thought, God, you lead me right to this station. You are something else.

As she watched, June grew more excited. She quickly retrieved a pen and paper, opened her Bible, and started to take notes. A lifetime of attending Sunday School had prepared her well. She quickly wrote down thoughts and verses—all the while thanking God. June had been praying about finding a religious program to watch. Shaking her head as the program drew to a close she thought, God, You are something else. You gave me everything; this is a miracle only You could perform.

June was a member of a local Baptist church and attended church regularly on Sundays. Several years ago when a friend invited her to attend a Bible study class on Saturday at a Seventh-day Adventist Church, June began a practice of attending her friend’s church on Saturdays for Bible studies and her church on Sunday for a full church service! She felt doubly blessed every weekend! And now she was thrilled to join yet another Bible study on television on Friday nights.

The next morning, as usual, she joined her friends in the Adventist Church for a Bible study. She happily shared her story of having found a third Bible study group.

When June tuned to channel 368 the following Friday, she saw the Hope Channel phone number flash across the screen. With no hesitation, June dialed the number to request a program schedule. During the conversation, June shook her head in disbelief when she learned that her new favorite channel was from the Seventh-day Adventist Church—the church she had been attending for so many years! June eagerly gave the operator her mailing address. A few days later she received the schedule and studied it, looking for Hope Sabbath School and other programs of interest.

June continues to regularly watch Hope Channel and worships with two church communities every weekend. And with everyone she meets, she shares her story of how God led her to Hope Channel.
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

A HOPE CHANNEL TOUR WITH PASTOR MARK FINLEY

JUNE 11–20, 2018

Join Mark and Teenie Finley on a journey of a lifetime!

Trace the footsteps of Paul through Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. Relive the experiences of the early church as they shared the gospel message. Even stand in the same marketplace in Corinth where Paul boldly debated with Greek philosophers.

The group will be small, so begin making plans now! Reserve your spot with a refundable deposit of $100 at hopetv.org/greece2018.

Accommodations and meals for this 10-day tour start at $3,000 per person based on double occupancy; airfare not included.
One of the best parts of my job is visiting Hope Channel viewers and donors around the country. I love meeting new people, learning why Hope Channel is important to them, and sharing with them some of the new and exciting things happening in our global television ministry.

I also get to thank donors for partnering with Hope Channel through their charitable gifts. Many of them often say, “It’s not necessary for you to come and thank us.” But as an organization we place a lot of value in expressing our appreciation to those who help provide life-changing television to our viewers.

As I visit with donors, I find that there are two main motivations behind their giving. For some, Hope Channel is one of the ways they share the gospel with a hurting world. They give because they receive a blessing by sharing Jesus with our viewers, and they want Hope Channel to expand its reach.

Others give because they, as viewers of Hope Channel, have experienced spiritual growth. They give because they receive a blessing from the programs they watch on Hope Channel and are grateful for the encouragement they find.

This creates what I like to call a full-circle blessing: donors who are grateful that they can bless Hope Channel viewers, who then want to become donors because they are grateful for the life-changing experience Hope Channel has given them.

Recently I was sharing with one of our producers a story from a visit with a donor. He appreciated knowing his work blesses viewers and encourages them to give back so Hope Channel can produce more programs. He and others on our team are glad to be partnering with viewers and donors to create programs that inspire people to live healthier, more Christ-centered lives.

Many of the donors I meet don’t fully comprehend the impact of their giving. Several tell me they feel bad they can’t give more. What they don’t realize is that when their gifts are added to those of others, it is strengthened and multiplied. Just like the story of the widow’s mite, when we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and give from our heart, God will bless whatever amount we give.

In Acts 20:35 we are reminded that Jesus said, “It is better to give than to receive.” Many of our donors have come to understand this important truth and are enjoying the blessings of giving back to God. If you have not yet become a Hope Channel donor, I encourage you to prayerfully consider becoming one.

This month we are launching a new automatic monthly giving program. When you become a Sustaining Partner, you can automate a monthly gift that helps Hope Channel with programming and distribution initiatives. This enables you to give a manageable amount each month that can add up to a significant gift over the course of the year.

Meeting and talking with our donors and viewers truly is one of the things I love most about my job! Their passion for Hope Channel inspires me and the rest of the Hope Channel team as we reach people for Christ. Thank you for being part of this full-circle blessing for others all around the world.

If you would like to share your story about why you give or how God has blessed you by being part of Hope Channel’s global media ministry, please email me at chris.lebrun@hopetv.org.

Chris LeBrun is director of fundraising at Hope Channel, Inc.
We walk through life ignoring the major choice we face in each activity of every day: Whom will we serve? Which god will we follow? Though Scripture describes this confrontation in only a few places, each generation faces the same decision.

The confrontation on the mountain top was between 850 false prophets and one prophet of God. The issue was worship—which god will the people serve (1 Kgs 18:21)? The challenge seemed so simple; the decision so easy. Yet it was a battle of life and death. The result was a revival that changed the direction of a nation.

We face a similar confrontation. Jesus puts it this way: No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money (Matt 6:24). In each activity, every day, Christ calls us to choose the god we will serve. And at every moment the choice is one of life or death.

The call to choose is bold and clear in most of life’s activities. However, when the situation is tied to our heart, the call is faint. Our personal finances is one such area: money and the heart are so codependent that the battle becomes fierce and Christ’s call seems but a whisper.

Pursuing the Creator

Why is money such an issue for God? Why does He refer to money or material possessions in more than 2,200 biblical verses? Why can the way we deal with money compete with God? We cannot be God’s stewards and serve both God and money. Stewardship is a lifestyle lived within the lordship of Jesus Christ—discipleship. And how we integrate God into the material side of life is financial discipleship.

It is really a matter of whom (or what) we follow and depend on. If God is really the owner, then to choose or focus on material things means to turn our back on the Creator. When we pursue the created instead of the Creator, we create our own materialistic god. We focus on material things for many reasons: planning for the future, providing for our families, achieving success, gaining independence, becoming wealthy, and even providing for the church. As innocuous and even necessary as many of these reasons may appear, they actually deny God’s role in our lives. Thus, a focus on the material becomes essentially self-centered, building a reliance on ourselves and effectively making us our own gods.

Focusing on Self

When money takes priority in our lives, we begin to build confidence in our own ability to provide for our needs, thereby effectively removing God from His position as owner and provider. We lose faith in Him when we place our faith in ourselves.

Paul wrote to young Timothy: “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs” (1 Tim 6:10). Paul realized clearly how the love of money as a self-centered lifestyle can produce great evil in our lives. This clearly takes the place of God’s invitation to love Him with all our hearts (Deut 6:5; Mk 12:30).

We cannot simply ignore the issue of finances. After all, money is an integral part of life; it can challenge daily living in many different ways. Therefore, it is important to focus on how we can integrate our relationship with God into the way we deal with money.
Making God First

When dealing with the critical area of material possessions, we must realize that stewardship is really a lifestyle lived within the lordship of Jesus Christ. Within this stewardship lifestyle exists financial discipleship—the actions and attitudes that integrate God into the material side of life. Tithes and offerings are an important part of that financial discipleship.

Financial discipleship means making God primary in managing our finances. It means surrendering ownership to God and inviting Him to be intimately involved in each decision. It means taking God at His word and trusting Him to provide while applying His principles to the material side of life.

Giving Him the Glory

The first step in financial discipleship is spiritual discipleship. We cannot make God lord of our material goods unless we first accept Him as lord of our lives. This starts with accepting the gift of the Cross, accepting the Savior who loves us and died for us. And we cannot expect to continue with God as lord of our lives if we do not allow Him to be lord of our material blessings.

When we accept Jesus as our personal Savior, He invites us to make Him first in our lives: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt 6:33). Recognizing God as owner, we acknowledge that He provides for all our needs, and that He trusts us to manage what really belongs to Him. This means we have to surrender control to Him.

To integrate Christ into the financial side of our lives, we must prioritize life around God, we must learn to manage material things to His glory. One of the ways to do this is to recognize money as an indicator of where our hearts are. Our checkbooks are a reflection of our discipleship.

Taking it to the Lord

Thus it is important that we worship God in the way we deal with our money. This means we put Him first in our decisions about money. For example, our tithes and offerings are part of worship that remind us that God is owner. Similarly, it is just as important to make every financial decision an act of worship. We must bring God into every decision-making process, asking Him to guide us in applying scriptural principles to how we use our money.

We cannot allow wrong motives to determine how we use our money, or even how we determine what to give as tithe or offerings. Greed, recognition or reward cannot help us in our worship. Motives can interfere with worship, making it self-centered. Only the Holy Spirit can be an effective guide to our decisions.

Financial discipleship is really just an extension of our relationship with God as lord into the management of our physical or material blessings. Financial discipleship opens the gates of opportunities to glorify God in daily life! It is a way to exalt Him in our own hearts, before the world.

Reprint from Dynamic Steward, Jul–Sept 2000, vol. 4, no. 3. Benjamin Maxson currently pastors the Paradise Seventh-day Adventist Church, Paradise, California.
In 2007 Hope Channel launched Project Hope, a creative new production model. This project grew out of a need for local, contextualized programs in Hope Channel’s growing global network. Based on a simple plan and the resources of volunteers, the model has been a success and a blessing to this media ministry.

Here’s how it works: When a new Hope Channel affiliate is to be established, production experts from around the network volunteer their time to travel to the new affiliate and train the local team in all production aspects. During this training period, everyone—experts and novices, international team members and local ones—create an inventory of programs to jumpstart the new affiliate’s broadcast. The amazing team spirit and shared passion at these Project Hope events often result in hundreds of new programs in less than a month. At the end of a Project Hope, the new channel has a bank of programs featuring sermons, health, music, and topics of local interest.

The first Project Hope was in Lusaka, Zambia and the most recent one was in Japan this year. Some of the other areas where Project Hope has served as a catalyst for new channel development are the Philippines, Fiji, Australia, Bulgaria, Middle East, South Africa, Papua New Guinea, and Jamaica.

There have been many challenges with Project Hope—bringing equipment into the country, dealing with unreliable power supply, keeping to a tight production schedule, navigating sensitive cultural dynamics, etc.—but God has always seen us through.

New studio and offices for Hope Channel Southeast Asia.

January 25, 2017 Hope Channel Southeast Asia announced its plans to build its new studio and offices at a groundbreaking ceremony that gave God the glory and thanked the supporters who made this possible. The building will be built on the campus of Asia-Pacific International University (Thailand) where Hope Channel will be an integral part of the university’s media ministry. The new building is expected to be completed by May 2018.
New Shows

Cliff
He's back with a fresh new season of his unique style of theological and philosophical discussion. Using everything from Brahms's Second Symphony, the Galileo heresy trial, Einsteins' brain, and even the nature of mathematics, Cliff Goldstein will get you thinking about what you believe and why you believe it.

Loma Linda University Church
Located right next door to San Bernardino—a community considered to have some of the greatest challenges in the United States—Pastor Randy Roberts' faith community answers the call of discipleship. Listen to him preach, enjoy the music, and you just might find yourself on a life-changing journey.

Mark Finley Presents
Discover Revelation from a new perspective. In this five-part series Pastor Mark Finley focuses on Christ's triumphant victory over the forces of evil. You will be filled with hope as you are reminded of how Jesus wins and Satan loses again and again.

Reimagining God
God. The very word evokes the best and worst of feelings. What kind of God do you believe in? Or maybe you don't believe—which begs the question, What kind of God do you not believe in? In this 11-episode series Ty Gibson paints an astonishingly desirable picture of God that you will find irresistible.
The Viewer Services Department plays a vital role at Hope Channel. We are the first people viewers meet through a phone call, an email, or a letter. I am honored and blessed to talk to and pray with people every day. As I look back over my life, I see how the Lord prepared and led me to Hope Channel.

I was working in the human resources department of a large for-profit organization. Part of my responsibility was to facilitate orientation sessions for new employees. This gave me a lot of experience interacting with people of all ages and education levels. I learned the art of listening and effective communication.

My life changed when a co-worker introduced me to biblical truths about health. I was soon hungry for more spiritual truths and began a personal relationship with Jesus that has continued to grow deeper and stronger. Now, in my everyday activities as coordinator at Viewer Services, I seek to find ways to befriend others and share my faith.

Both my skills at interpersonal relationships and my growing faith help me when answering phones at Hope Channel. Many who call are just discovering or rediscovering their relationship with God, and I feel I can relate to them. I know how exciting that can be! I especially enjoy praying with viewers—that their walk with God become stronger as they learn more about the great truths of the Bible.

Several callers have limited incomes, yet they faithfully donate towards Hope Channel’s mission to share Jesus with the world. I admire their commitment to mission and remind them that their sacrifice gives others the opportunity to learn about the gospel message.

I praise God for our viewers. Hope Channel exists for them! I encourage all our viewers to write or call us with their feedback. We love to hear from them and I personally receive a blessing from each message.

I look forward to when we will all be in heaven and finally see and meet everyone who has been touched by the message of God’s love on Hope Channel.

Carmen praises God for second chances and new beginnings. She recently married her best friend Josh in a private ceremony in Delaware. Carmen and her three sons from her previous marriage look forward to building a new life with Josh filled with love for one another and for the Lord.
1. The Exploding Middle East, an Ancient King’s Dream, and the Future

2. Jesus, Jerusalem, and Startling End-time Predictions

3. The Child Born in the Middle East Who Will Change the World

4. Good God! Bad World! Why?

5. All Eyes on the Temple: Will Jerusalem’s Temple be Rebuilt?

6. The Roman Empire, the United States, and a Crumbling Society

7. The Fatal Attraction of the Cults

8. Hope Beyond Tomorrow

9. The Rumble of a Crumbling World: A Message of Hope for Our Time

10. The Almost Forgotten Day: An Ancient Relic from Eden Gives Hope for Our Day

11. When Paganism and Christianity Shake Hands

12. Revelation’s Battle of Armageddon and the Seven Last Plagues

13. How to Bury the Past: The Secret of a Whole New Life

14. Satan’s Final Deception: The Mystery of Death Revealed

15. Why So Many Denominations?

16. The Mark of the Beast and the Mysterious Number 666

17. People of Destiny

18. The Mystery of Spiritual Babylon Revealed

19. Revelation’s Glorious Climax

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Valid through June 19, 2017
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<th>Program Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>12am</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>Amazing Discoveries with Mark Finley</td>
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<td>1:00am</td>
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<td>Daily Hope</td>
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<td>Life and Teachings of Jesus</td>
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**Note:** The program guide includes a variety of religious and educational programs, with hosts and producers listed for each segment. The schedule covers a range of topics, including biblical teachings, health, and lifestyle improvement.
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**Additional Programs:**
- **French Programs**
- **Ministry in Motion**
- **Daytime**
- **Bible Classes**
- **Church Programs**
- **Hope Channel Store**

**Contact Information:**
- **Email:** hopetv.org
- **Phone:**hopetv.org
A Charitable Gift Annuity
to help you and your children … and Hope Channel

Jim was a hard-working farmer and a careful saver. But for many years he watched the rate of return on his bank CDs plummet. He needed a better return to provide an income for his four children after his demise.

One day he saw me on Hope Channel talking about the benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). Jim called me because the CGA would do exactly what he wanted.

A CGA is a contract in which you exchange a gift of cash or securities for a generous, fixed income each year of your life (or the lives of two people). A CGA is an extraordinary way to support Hope Channel’s successful global ministry, while increasing your income and slicing your tax bill—all in one transaction.

I helped Jim set up five CGAs. Based on his age at the time, his CGA paid him 8.8 percent. The other four paid an average of 5.7 percent—first to Jim, then to his children—a much better income than the matured CD he used to fund the annuities. He was also pleased that a generous portion of his pay out was income tax free.

Jim, and ultimately his children, received fixed payments from the CGAs that were significantly more than he was receiving from his bank CD. Jim was pleased that the CGAs provided more income for himself, an income for his children … and a generous gift for Hope Channel.

Dr. Albert Navarro
Director, Planned Giving
Phone: 888-339-7526 or 480-252-0844
Email: aln@hopetv.org

Call 888-4-HOPE-TV or email info@hopetv.org