

The Rockefeller Vision

The Rockefeller Foundation was chartered on this day in 1913 to "promote the wellbeing of mankind throughout the world." John D. Rockefeller was at one time the world's richest person, having made a fortune in the oil business. He felt a strong sense of stewardship about his financial empire and became famous for his philanthropy.

Rockefeller provided an initial endowment of \$100 million for the foundation, and later increased it to more than \$183 million. By the end of 2001, the endowment was estimated to be \$3.1 billion. Today, the Rockefeller Foundation describes its mission as "a commitment to enrich and sustain the lives and livelihoods of poor and excluded people throughout the world."

Godly people share their resources with those in need. When they do, God promises that He will remember their generosity forever and give them honor (Psalm 112:9). The Apostle Paul urges us to reflect on some of Jesus' words: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Our natural tendency is to accumulate wealth for our own selfish uses. Receiving is a lot of enjoyment, but generous people discover the greater joy in giving to others. I see that happiness and contentment in the faces of our associates in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home.

We don't have to be rich to be charitable, just attentive to the needs of those God has placed in our path. He doesn't consider the amount as much as the spirit of our giving. In return for our obedience, He honors us for sharing what He gave us in the first place, and we gain the lasting pleasure that comes from meeting others' needs.

With such a great deal, we can all feel like the richest people on earth.

--Beecher Hunter