The Witness of Wesley

John Wesley, Anglican cleric and Christian theologian who, along with his brother, Charles, is credited with founding the Methodist movement, lived from 1703 to 1791. In his lifetime, Britain experienced rapid urbanization and the beginnings of industrialization. This caused the collapse of rural economies and problems in city centers, such as overcrowding, disease, crime, unemployment, debt, substance abuse, and even insanity.

Meanwhile, a small upper class spent large sums to distance itself, literally and figuratively, from the growing problems. This top 5 percent of the population controlled nearly one-third of the national income.

Wesley, part of the lower middle class, interacted mostly with people who worked hard, owned little, and could never be certain of their financial future. But he eventually became so well known as a preacher that he earned £1,400 per year – equivalent to more than $160,000 today. Still, he chose to live simply but comfortably on just £30, while giving the rest away.

He donated nearly all of the £30,000 he earned in his lifetime. "If I leave behind me £10 … you and all mankind can bear witness against me that I have lived and died a thief and a robber," he said.

What an extraordinary example of benevolence – a story of a person willing to exercise responsible stewardship over what he had been given, personal abilities and time, as well as financial blessings!

And in the centers of Life Care and Century Park, and in the work of Life Care at Home, it is obvious that we are privileged to have associates who have similar commitment to the mission in which we are engaged. May God bless them one and all.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 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 (Matthew 6:19-21).

– Beecher Hunter