

Those Multi-Use Frisbees

Two University of Southern California graduates – Richard Knerr and Arthur Melin – unhappy with their employment, began a company in 1948 in the Knerr family garage in South Pasadena. They called it Wham-O, and it took off.



Wham-O is known for creating and marketing many popular toys, including the Hula Hoop, the Frisbee, the Slip 'N Slide, the Super Ball, the Trac-Ball, Silly String, the Hacky Sack and the Boogie Board.

John Bowes, chairman of the parent company that now owns Wham-O, once participated in a charity event. He sent thousands of the Frisbees to an orphanage in Angola, Africa. He thought the children there would enjoy playing with them.

Several months later, a representative of Bowes' company visited the orphanage. One of the nuns thanked him for the wonderful "plates" that his company had sent them.

She told him the children were eating off the Frisbees, carrying water with them and even catching fish with them. When the representative explained how the Frisbees were intended to be used, the nun was even more delighted that the children would also be able to enjoy them as toys.



On one level, that story is rather amusing. On another, it is very sad.

There are people who would prize even our cast-off items, who would be grateful to eat what we throw away.

It's a reminder of how blessed we are as a nation and as families and individuals. Our homes are warm and comfortable with all the utilities, providing shelter from the elements. We have food on our tables, clothes to wear, schools for our children to attend, transportation systems to get us where we want to go, churches in which to worship, jobs that provide a living and health-care systems to provide a quality of life. The list goes on and on.

And because of our blessings, we have an obligation to help others – with our time, our talents, our resources.

The Bible is clear about that. In fact, the more we do for others, the more blessings we receive.

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you (Luke 6:38 ESV).