

Business People Who Gave Generously

Paul White

BTD Manufacturing, Inc., is a metal stamping and fabrication business established by Paul White and Earl Rasmussen. Their goal was to have a company that would always honor its greatest assets—its people. Along with that was a commitment to charitable giving. The BTD Manufacturing Foundation was started in 1988. The company’s goal is to share its profits with people in need. A few years ago, Paul White also established his own donor-advised family fund named the White Family Foundation. The family’s charitable interests are driven in large part by a belief that people of wealth are merely stewards of those dollars on behalf of God. He says, “God gave each of us specific gifts and talents. If we use these talents in earning dollars, then we need to share those dollars with others.”

Sir John Marks Templeton

Sir John Marks Templeton, a Rhodes scholar and Yale graduate, began to try his hand at the art of investment in the 1940s. He established his first mutual fund in 1954. Using this fund, he purchased international equities long before other American investors did. This first fund of his proved to be very successful. A typical investment of \$10,000 in 1954 would have grown, without additional contributions, to a whopping \$3 million by 1992. It was in 1992 that he sold his company for more than \$400 million.

Mr. Templeton today remains a faith-filled, religious, values-oriented Christian philanthropist. He has been known to pay professors if they would promote conservative values. He gives to universities to build character in the lives of young people. He funds researchers who will connect faith and science.

He launched the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1972. The first award went to Mother Teresa, some six years before she won the Nobel Peace Prize. Other winners include just as famous names such as Billy Graham and Chuck Colson. In 2003, Mr. Templeton launched the Templeton Honor Roll, which distinguished 126 universities, departments, professors, and textbooks that uphold conservative and traditional educational values.

Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie was one of the leading industrialists of America's nineteenth century. Building America's steel industry made him one of the greatest and richest entrepreneurs in history. But it was not always that way. He was born in Scotland in 1835 to the son of a weaver in a city that was the center of the linen industry. After the industrial revolution, steam-powered looms put thousands of craftsman out of work. This caused his entire family to go to work selling groceries and mending shoes. Fearing future economic survival, the family borrowed enough money to travel by ship to North America. They took up residence in Pittsburgh, the iron manufacturing center of the country.

Andrew's father found work in a cotton factory, and Andrew became a bobbin boy at a pay rate of \$1.20 per week. From that job he went on to become a messenger boy in the local telegraph office. Later he began working at the Pennsylvania Railroad as a private secretary and personal telegrapher for a salary of around thirty-five dollars a month. He once said, "I couldn't imagine what I could ever do with so much money." Excelling in his responsibilities, he soon became the superintendent of the Pittsburgh Division. During the Civil War he helped supervise military transportation for the North. After the war he worked for the Keystone Bridge Company replacing wooden bridges with iron ones. He began earning an annual income of fifty thousand dollars.

Over the ensuing years, Carnegie worked to convert iron to steel, using his own personal money and borrowing additional funds to build a new steel plant near Pittsburgh. His motto was, "Watch costs and the profits take care of themselves." By 1900 his plant produced more steel than all plants in Great Britain. Financier J. P. Morgan sought to take over the Carnegie Steel Company and did so at a cost of \$480 million, making Andrew Carnegie the richest man in the world.

In his book *The Gospel of Wealth*, Andrew Carnegie talked about how change came to this nation: "The poor enjoy what the rich could not before afford. What were the luxuries have become the necessities of life. The laborer has now more comforts than the farmer had a few generations ago. The farmer has more luxuries than the landlord had, and is more richly clad and better housed. The landlord has books and pictures rarer and

appointments more artistic than the king could then obtain.” He wrote this in 1889. I wonder what he would write today.

After spending a lifetime accumulating wealth and fortune, Carnegie’s later years were spent giving it away to institutions of science and education, charitable foundations, libraries, churches, and cultural institutions. By the time of his death, he had donated approximately \$350 million to various worthy causes. He often said, “The man who dies rich, dies disgraced.” He used his money to help others help themselves.

Myrna Rose Strand

Myrna Strand is a retired schoolteacher from Minneapolis who decided to give her estate to charitable causes. She says, “My estate will never be large enough to be able to build libraries, but it may be large enough to buy some books for a library.” As a young girl, she was taught and willingly placed coins in the Sunday school offering envelope each week. Throughout her life she has been generous with her money and her time, volunteering thousands of hours to church and other charities. She continues, “I have always wanted the balance of my estate to go to charities. I believe in the idea that when you come into the world you come in with nothing, and you have an obligation to give back. You can’t take it with you. I believe I should carefully manage the resources God has entrusted to me, to care for his world, his people, his creation and myself.”

Martha Berry

The Boys Industrial School was begun on land Martha Berry deeded for that purpose. As founder of the Lavender Mountain School in Georgia, she was an educator who began teaching poor children before public schools were common. With the use of Martha’s own personal money to fund teachers and the educational budget, the school grew quickly, and the quality of student education became well known, even to presidents. In future years, other schools were opened that accepted girls as well. The Berry Schools accomplished so much that Martha founded Berry College in 1926. Martha Berry shared her time, money, and life so that poor children could be educated. Her life was one of focus and attaining great goals. A devout Christian, she believed that prayer combined with personal sacrifice and generous giving could accomplish much.

Bill & Vonette Bright

Founders of Campus Crusade for Christ, a ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel with every person on the planet, Bill and Vonette Bright lived lives of service to Christ. After giving his heart to God, in 1951 Bill received a vision to begin evangelism on college campuses worldwide. Campus Crusade has grown to over twenty-six thousand full-time staff members and more than five hundred thousand volunteers. Campus Crusade is active in 191 countries. Today Campus Crusade is the largest evangelical organization in the U.S. The JESUS film was originated, distributed, and translated into eight hundred languages.

The prestigious Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion was awarded to the Brights in 1996. Instead of using the prize reward for personal enjoyment, they used the \$1.1 million dollars to promote the spiritual discipline of fasting. With a 2001 annual ministry budget of \$437 million, Bill and Vonette Brights' combined income in 2002 was \$50,570. Even though Bill Bright wrote more than sixty books, he gave all royalties to Campus Crusade. Additionally, he never accepted any speaking fees or honorariums. During his lifetime, he gave away millions of dollars of personal income so that the world could be reached for Christ.

William Colgate

William C. Colgate was born in 1783, the eldest of five brothers. He came to America at the age of twelve with his father. In 1849, at the age of sixteen, William left home carrying his meager possessions. Meeting an old canal boat captain, he told the old man how his father was too poor to support him anymore and that the only trade he was familiar with was that of making of soap and candles.

Kneeling, the old man prayed for the boy and then told him that someone would become the leading soap maker in New York, and it might as well be him. He urged William to give his heart to Christ. He instructed the young man on how to make a good quality of soap and give a full honest pound. He said that if he did so, he would become a prosperous and rich man.

Going into the city, William united with a church. He became employed in a business and soon became a partner and later sole owner of the business. Tithing on the very first

dollar he made, William continued to give to the Lord. He instructed his bookkeeper to open a separate account with the Lord's money. As the business prospered and grew, he soon began to tithe 20 percent, 30 percent, 50 percent, and finally gave all of his income to the Lord. Eventually he gave millions to the Lord's work around the world.

During his lifetime, William Colgate organized several Bible societies, including the American Bible Society in 1816. He also gave generously to a New York institution of higher learning later called Colgate University.

Henry P. Crowell

Founder of the Quaker Oats Company and one who packaged and branded oatmeal into a worldwide brand, Henry Crowell built the company into a \$250 million business. As a

Chicago businessman, it is said that over a period of forty years he gave away 70 percent of his earnings to church and charity. During his lifetime he led many business acquaintances to Christ.

Katharine Drexel

Saint Katharine Drexel was born in 1858 the daughter of wealthy railroad businesspeople. Katherine was the second daughter of Francis Anthony and Hannah

Langstroth Drexel. One month after her birth, Katherine's mother passed away. It is said that she was taught from a very early age to use her assets and benefit others in need. Growing up, she and her family shared their home with the poor several days a week. In 1891, Katherine founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and later founded many other ministries. Over the years she used her wealth to found and staff many schools for both African- and Native Americans, including Xavier University. Her older sister

Elizabeth founded a trade school for orphans in Pennsylvania. A younger sister founded a liberal arts and vocational school for poor blacks in Virginia. Over her lifetime, Katharine gave systemic aid to Indian missions, spending millions of her family fortune to help them. Donating over \$20 million of her own money she began black Catholic schools in thirteen states, forty mission centers, twenty-three rural schools, fifty Indian missions, and Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Jack Eckerd

The founder in 1952 of one of the largest drug store chains in the world, Jack Eckerd was a devout Christian who took his fortune and invested it in numerous charities. He funded a private college that later became known as Eckerd College. Eckerd Youth Alternatives, which he began as a network of wilderness camps for at-risk youth, now operates thirty-nine residential and community programs in seven states. More than sixty-five thousand youth have been through the program. Nearly \$65 million in funding each year comes from the Eckerd Foundation.

Francis of Assisi

St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan Order, was born in 1182 in Assisi in Umbria. His father was Pietro Bernardone, a rich cloth merchant. Born into Italian wealth, Francis found joy solely in seeking after God. Desiring to live a life of devotion without the hindrances of money, he gave it all away and spent his life befriending the poor and sick.

Selina Hastings

Countess of Huntingdon, born in 1707 of noble birth, Selina Hastings was an English religious leader and founder of a sect of Calvinistic Methodists. During her adult life, she worked closely with John Wesley and George Whitefield in the great revival. Using her wealth, she built sixty-four chapels in different areas of England and Wales, including Bath, Brighton, and London. She converted a mansion in South Wales into a theological seminary for young ministers.

Albert Hyde

Born in 1848, Albert Hyde became a banking clerk for several years. After that he devoted his time to the booming real estate market. When that bubble burst, he entered into a business partnership and created the Yucca Company, which later became the Mentholatum Company. This company manufactured and sold toilet soap. Its success depended heavily upon doctors, chemists, good salesmanship, word-of-mouth, and the favor of the druggists.

In search of new products to market and intrigued with the properties of menthol, Hyde developed a product known today as Mentholatum, known to cure many ills. The name of Mentholatum came to be linked solely with that of A. Hyde. Other products included flypaper, cough syrup, and silver polish.

Becoming a man of great wealth because of Mentholatum's success, Albert Hyde decided to give all his money away during his lifetime. He gave multiple millions to the YMCA. At one time, all of his profits from sales of his products in Japan were used to support missionary work there. When he died, Hyde had given millions to missions. At the time of his death in 1935, he had no accumulated wealth, thus fulfilling his lifetime wish.

Robert A. Laidlaw

Born in 1885 in Scotland, Robert Laidlaw became one of New Zealand's most successful businessmen. He was a self-made millionaire whose first business venture was a mail order company named Laidlaw Leeds. This business was consolidated with the Farmers Union Trading Company in 1918. In 1919 he bought his first twelve-store chain, and by 1933 there were some sixty branches—business was booming.

Early in his business life, Laidlaw began giving 10 percent of his income. He started tithing at the age of eighteen on his weekly salary of just three dollars. This 10 percent soon went to 15 percent, then to 20 percent, and later to 25 percent. At the age of twenty-five he wrote in his journal, "I have decided to change my earlier graduated scale, and start now giving fifty percent of all my earnings." For the next sixty years he did just that.

Laidlaw played a major role in establishing several Christian initiatives in New Zealand. After World War II, he retired from the activities of regular business and devoted his time largely to church involvement and Christian missionary work.

Robert G. LeTourneau

Born in 1888 to godly parents, accepting Christ as Savior at age sixteen, Robert

LeTourneau dedicated his business life to God at age thirty. He dropped out of school at age fourteen and went to work shoveling sand and dirt at an ironworks factory in Portland, Oregon. Working around men of the world, his heart became hardened toward God. Just before Christmas in 1904, the city of Portland had a gospel crusade, and LeTourneau decided to attend. After singing hymns and listening to sermons, he didn't feel any conviction leading to a quick response. That concerned him so much that he knew he needed to pray for salvation. After doing so, he became aware of a Divine Presence in his life.

LeTourneau was a designer and builder of earthmoving equipment. He pioneered the welding of various metals, built huge mobile offshore drilling platforms, and brought new technology to the earthmoving and material handling industry. During his lifetime his company designed and built some of the world's most massive machinery, including bridge-building equipment, drilling rigs, missile launchers, and earthmovers. He was an internationally recognized industrialist.

In his manufacturing plants, he employed three full-time chaplains. He traveled the world sharing the gospel with other businesspeople. He established missionary ministries in Liberia, West Africa, Peru, and other South American countries. He and his wife founded

LeTourneau University. He took no credit for personal success and wealth, but always gave credit to God, saying often, "I'm just a mechanic that God has blessed..."

For most of his successful life, he lived on 10 percent of his income and gave 90 percent to Christian work. "The question," he said, "is not how much of my money I give to God, but rather how much of God's money I keep for myself."

Jiang Minde

Born in a mountain village in 1946, Jiang Minde searched for God and found the Christian faith. In 1984 he began to produce a food for child nutrition called "Future." His annual production has reached eight thousand tons of rice noodles. Although a wealthy man, he chooses a simple lifestyle, living in an ordinary house. He states, "My money comes from God, it was given to me by God for safeguarding. Hence, I cannot spend it recklessly, but ought to help those in need. As long as I have enough to eat and for my

own needs, it is sufficient.” Yet when it come to meeting the many needs of those in poverty, Jiang Minde is very generous. Since 1985 he has given more than \$1.69 million to charity. Jiang says this; “With my work, I want to genuinely represent the Christian spirit of love to our neighbor.”

George Muller

Born in Prussia in 1805, the son of a revenue collector, George Muller spent childhood money foolishly, stole government money while his father was out, and wandered into great sin. At ten years of age, George was sent away by his father to a cathedral school to be trained in the ways of a Lutheran clergyman. During this time, he engaged in sinful practices: lying, cheating, gambling, gross immorality, often spending his evenings in the taverns, then wandering the streets during early morning hours after becoming intoxicated. This lifestyle led to imprisonment at the age of sixteen. After attending some

Christian Bible studies in a friend’s home, in time George sobered up, got married, and began to lead an exemplary life. Muller began preaching in various towns and cities, winning many to Christ. He eventually became co-pastor at Gideon and Bethesda Chapels in Bristol in 1832. The congregations grew, and at the time of his death, George had a congregation of about two thousand at Bethesda Chapel.

George Muller also started a very large orphanage. His efforts to operate an institution that cared for the daily needs of destitute children required great faith and trust in God as a daily provider. One night before going to bed, his staff informed him that there was absolutely no food in the building for the children’s breakfast in the morning. He told them to go ahead and set the table for the morning meal, and then he went to pray.

Early the next morning, there came a knock on the door. A local baker was awakened during the night with an overpowering feeling that he must get up and bake bread for the children. A few minutes later, another knock on the orphanage door. The local dairyman’s delivery cart had broken down in the neighborhood. Knowing that the milk would spoil before the cart could be repaired, he asked Muller if he would take the milk off his hands. Of course the children never went hungry...not even for a single day.

In addition to the orphanages, Muller started the Scripture Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad. Its purpose was to aid Christian schools, assist missionaries, and circulate the Scriptures. At the time of his death, 282,000 Bibles and 1,500,000 Testaments had been distributed, and 112,000,000 religious books, pamphlets, and tracts had been circulated. At the age of seventy, George Muller began a trek of evangelistic tours. Traveling over two hundred thousand miles around the world, he spoke to thousands of people. He continued traveling until the age of ninety.

A man who built great orphanages in England did so with a vision from God and fifty cents in his pocket. He never made his needs known to man, praying only to God. Over \$7 million was sent to him for ministry, including for the building and the maintaining of these orphan homes. At the time of Muller's death, these five immense homes housed more than two thousand orphans.

After spending his last seventeen years speaking to the nations, Muller died at the age of ninety-three, leaving an estate valued at less than one thousand dollars. Yet he had given the Institute almost a half-million dollars of personal honorariums he had received during his ministry.

Saint Nicholas

Nicholas, born in Patara, which is now Turkey, was the son of wealthy parents who raised him to be a devout Christian. Taking the words of Jesus literally when He told the rich young ruler to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas did just that. He took his entire inheritance and assisted the needy, the sick, and those who were suffering.

After dedicating his life to serving God, in time he was made the Bishop of Myra, becoming known as one who gave generously to people in need as well as for his love for children and his concern for sailors. He was persecuted for his faith by the Roman emperor Diocletian and was subsequently exiled and imprisoned. Upon release he attended the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325.

James Cash Penney

This man's name became associated with doing business according to the Golden Rule.

Born in 1875 to a poor farm family, James was a boy with plenty of self-discipline, self-reliance, and much personal character. Having to purchase his own clothing at the age of eight and needing a pair of shoes, James saved \$2.50 earned from running errands, selling junk, and performing any farm tasks available to him. He began to invest his earnings by buying and selling pigs, raising watermelons, and trading horses and very quickly learned the ways of an entrepreneur.

His post-high school career included clerking at a local dry goods store and investing in a butcher shop. Because he would not provide the chef of the local hotel with a weekly bottle of bourbon, he lost his biggest account, and the butcher business soon failed. After that he went to work for Golden Rule Stores and soon became a business partner in one of their new stores in Wyoming. Before opening the store, he studied the town and their needs and stocked the shelves with quality merchandise. It was an instant success. In subsequent years, James Cash Penney purchased all of the stores and opened more. In all of his stores he insisted on offering the lowest possible prices on the very best merchandise. At the end of 1912, he had opened thirty-four stores with sales in excess of \$2 million. In the 1920s, there were 197 J.C. Penney stores, with sales of nearly \$43 million. At age ninety, J.C. Penney maintained a full schedule of appointments and at age ninety-five still traveled to his forty-fifth-floor office and worked three days each week.

In 1911, Mr. Penney donated ten thousand dollars to the First Methodist Church in Salt Lake City. In 1923, he established a 120,000-acre experimental farming community in northern Florida. This was divided into small plots where industrious and moral but economically destitute farmers could live and work and rebuild their lives.

In 1925 he established the J.C. Penney Foundation, which funded such ministries as adoption agencies, homeless shelters, youth clubs, vocational libraries, family guidance centers, missionary projects, peace organizations, and health clinics. Next to this he established the Memorial Home Community, which is a sixty-acre residential community for retired ministers, lay church workers, missionaries, and their wives and families. In later years he donated to many other organizations, including the National 4-H clubs, Junior Achievement, and other community needs.

John D. Rockefeller

Born in 1839 in New York, John Rockefeller had a mother who was very religious and very disciplined. She taught him to work hard, save much, and become a generous giver to charities. By age twelve, he had saved fifty dollars working for neighbors and raising turkeys. At the age of sixteen, he became an assistant bookkeeper with a merchant and produce shipper. At the age of twenty, he went into business with a neighbor to form a company that traded in grain, hay, meats, and other goods. From there it was the oil refining business and then the creation of the Standard Oil Company of Ohio.

From the mid 1890s until his death in 1937, Mr. Rockefeller was consumed with philanthropic activity. His fortune had peaked in 1912 at nearly \$900 million. He began to give away hundreds of millions of dollars. Largely responsible for creating the University of Chicago, he pitched in a mere \$75 million in 1932. Also in the 1930s he set up the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and his gifts totaled \$50 million. He gave more than \$530 million to various educational, scientific, and religious institutions. This included gifts to Baptist institutions, the YMCA, the Anti-Saloon League, and colleges.

When asked about his giving, his response was, “Yes, I tithe, and I would like to tell you how it all came about. I had to begin work as a small boy to help support my mother. My first wages amounted to \$1.50 per week. The first week after I went to work, I took the \$1.50 home to my mother, and she held the money in her lap and explained to me that she would be happy if I would give a tenth of it to the Lord. I did, and from that week until this day I have tithed every dollar God has entrusted to me. And I want to say, if I had not tithed the first dollar I made I would not have tithed the first million dollars I made. Tell your readers to train the children to tithe, and they will grow up to be faithful stewards of the Lord.”

John D. Rockefeller once said, “Every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty.”

Stanley Tam

At the early age of twenty, Stanley Tam began a silver recovery business that built collectors into tanks that photographers, X-ray labs, and printers could use to retrieve the silver. It was 1936 and Tam was soon broke. He told the Lord that if He would take

the business and make it succeed, Tam would honor Him in every way He possible could.

Four years later, as the business grew, Tam decided he needed a senior partner. Going to a lawyer who thought he must be crazy, an agreement was finally drawn up with God as partner. He put into writing that 51 percent of the profits would go to missionary and church work. In the ensuing years, the business flourished. He soon began giving 60 percent of his income to missionary work. On January 15, 1955, he told God that he would turn the entire business over to Him and that he would no longer even be a stockholder in the company. Founding additional companies, Stanley Tam continued the giving. The United States Plastic Corporation, established more than fifty years ago by Mr. Tam in Lima, Ohio, was also placed under the ownership of God. Stanley Tam placed 100 percent of the stock ownership into a foundation whose purpose is to establish churches in Third World countries.