



*Synergism
for a
Lifestyle
of Change*

*"I will pull
down my
barns and
build larger
ones..."*

Luke 12:18

*"...So that by
always having
enough of
everything,
you may share
abundantly in
every good
work."*

2 Corinthians 9:8



STEWARDS FOR **NEW** LIFE



BUILDING BIGGER BARNs

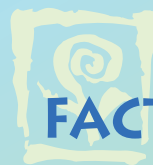
by Dan Taylor

In northern Mexico members of an American Baptist work group gathered with members of the community to dedicate three new homes (approximately 500 sq. ft. each). One of the Mexican men gave thanks to God and the work team by saying, "I never thought I would ever live in a mansion."

In Medina, WA, a suburb of Seattle, home to a number of billionaires, the size of new homes is being limited to 13,500 sq. ft. Size restrictions are also being considered in other cities.

In the few miles I travel to my home from work I pass homes that are both humble and palatial. It all causes me to wonder how we wisely use and share the abundance that God provides.

Our culture is one of acquisitiveness. Just read and listen to the media that encourages us to build "McMansions." Me, mine, and more is a contemporary litany. In scripture, Jesus demonstrated a four-part litany of stewardship and sharing when he took, blessed, broke, and gave.



FACTS OF LIFE

- Americans have become the most housed people in the history of humanity.
- Between 1950 and 1998, while family size and time spent at home shrank, the average new house size more than doubled to 2,100 sq. ft.
- U.S. homes are four times the size of the world average, with half as many people in them.
- In 1952, the average size home was about 360 sq. ft. per person and is now approximately 800 sq. ft. per person.

FOR MORE

INFORMATION

- Contact your pastor or regional minister of mission support for whole life stewardship information.
- **The Not So Big House**, by Sarah Susanka, Taunton Press, CT, 1998. www.notsobighouse.com.
- Hands-on mission with Habitat for Humanity: www.habitat.org
- **The Tiny Book of Tiny Houses**, Lester Walker, Overlook Press, NY, 1993.
- **God and Your Stuff, The Vital Link Between Your Possessions and Your Soul**, Wesley K. Wilmer, Nav Press, 2002.



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

If it is true that God has provided for us in abundance and we do have more than we really need, how can we make a difference?

- If one is blessed to have a large home or extra land, don't feel guilty about it, use it. Small groups and Bible studies can be welcomed along with overnight guests. Extra land can be used for outdoor church gatherings and special events.
- If a church has a large building with unused space, a new ethnic church can be started utilizing some of that space.
- If a church has an accumulated building fund with no current plan to build, the money could be used for new church planting, church buildings in other countries, or building new homes in the community through Habitat for Humanity projects.



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