



© 2004 Art by Carl Meinke

**I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

—Psalm 145 NRSV

# The Evolution of a Steward

John can't remember any particular lessons about *giving* while he was growing up. He did attend some Sunday school classes where he learned about *the offering*.

It was later, when John began to date the woman who is now his wife, that he began to attend church regularly and to participate casually in the activities of the congregation. He says, "the idea of giving just evolved."

As an adult, he appreciates the relationship between the opportunities that were given him and how he is using them. He realizes that, through no worth of his own, he was raised by loving parents, born in North America with all its opportunities, and blessed with good health, intelligence and physical abilities. Using those blessings, John was able to get an education, work hard and learn the skills that form his lifestyle today.

Now he asks, "I was given all this. How do I give back?"

John says that he has come to believe that if you are financially blessed, it is not enough to just give money. It is also right to give of the skills and talents that lead to that financial success. So he also volunteers his time, offering to speak and to use his organizational skills.

---

*John Wolff is Stewardship Consultant for the Synod of British Columbia and a member of King of Life Lutheran in Coquitlam (where he has served for ten years on Church Council, seven as Chairperson.) He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Group Services Inc (ELCIC) in Winnipeg.*

