



## Mortgage Liquidation: Giving Back to God

By Anne Latimer

*Everything we have is a gift from God. In gratitude for God's generosity, we dedicate a portion of these gifts—our time, talent, and money—to further God's Kingdom. Psalm 24:1*



“All of our gifts, all of our belongings, all of our money belong to God.” That’s the perspective on stewardship of Rev. Wilbert Mills and Sister Audrey Mills, relatively new TPCBC members, who also serve on the church Mortgage Liquidation Committee. “God gives to us and we are to be good stewards as to how to use it. The first step of good stewardship,” Sister Mills explained, “is for kingdom building and for the church to be a gracious-giving church.”

Guided by the biblical principles of stewardship, the Millses have successfully helped two southern churches liquidate their mortgages and enhance giving among their congregations. In 2012-2013, the couple spearheaded the Second Calvary Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, toward the retirement of \$450,000 mortgage debt in less than a year.

Because of their commitment and past achievement in developing a culture of faithful stewardship, Pastor Robinson invited the Millses to serve on and advise the TPCBC Mortgage Liquidation Committee. “We always have the Word to confirm what we are talking about regarding stewardship,” said the couple, who helped TPCBC launch its mortgage liquidation campaign this past January. Steeped in Scripture, the couple said the Bible teaches us in Deuteronomy 1:11 that God promises to multiply our blessings. “He certainly has done that for my life,” said Sis. Mills. “Your blessings come from giving,” said Rev. Mills, who was pastor of Warren Grove Mission Baptist Church in rural Edenton, North Carolina, for 33 years. “You have to be taught to give.”

Through the years, the Millses have been consistent and faithful tithers. When the time came for the couple to make a Faith Promise contribution above their tithes and offerings toward liquidation of the TPCBC mortgage, they prayerfully considered the amount to give. “We came up with a figure and it hurt us to give that amount, but we know you can’t be stingy with God,” said Rev. Mills, who has been retired for more than 30 years. “No one can beat God at giving,” he continued. “Retirement of the church mortgage is important. God wants all of us to be debt free at church and in our personal lives,” he said.

According to the Millses, our giving should be a manifestation of our faith and our belief that God will provide. Faith inspires us to give above the tithe. In addition, it is our attitude toward giving that impresses God, rather than the amount we give. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 11:25 that “A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”

Rev. Mills and Sis. Mills believe that “every Christian is a steward and every Christian has God to thank for everything he or she has. Faithful stewardship brings blessing for the giver and provides for the church. It is God’s plan. And it works.”