

Presbyterian FOUNDATION

BLESSING Hope Faith CULTURE Spiritual Disciplines  
 Literacy STEWARDSHIP GROWING Generous Disciples GENEROSITY  
 Joy CHURCH FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP Changing Landscape  
 TIME Offering Giving Service Abundance GIFT Vitality MINISTRY Money  
 Simplicity Love LIFESTYLE Talent RELATIONSHIPS MISSION

**Forming Generous Disciples**

Rev. David Loleng  
 Director, Church Financial Literacy & Leadership  
 2019 Stewardship Kaleidoscope

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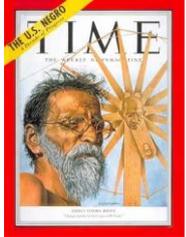
Largest Peaceful Transfer of Land

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**Vinoba Bhave**

- Walked 70,000 kilometers
- 5 million acres
- Largest peaceful transfer of land in human history
- Why did this happen?



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“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interest of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4 NRSV

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We Want Generosity For You,  
 Not From You

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**Shifts: Forming Generous Disciples**

Funds Development → People Development

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“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, ... but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

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## Spiritual Practices

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### Simplicity

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Culture of Consumption and Consumerism

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Our culture has convinced us that abundant life is about getting something more, better, newer, faster and sooner (We want it now and want to pay for it later). It is estimated that an average person in America is bombarded by over 4,000 advertisements each day. We hear a voice in our heads that convinces us that what we want is really what we need. This unbridled consumerism and acquiring has even spawned new vocabulary to describe it, words like *retail therapy* and *affluenza*. But this is not the same as the *abundant life* Jesus talks about (John 10:10).

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“The complexity of rushing to achieve and accumulate more and more threatens frequently to overwhelm us...Christian simplicity... brings sanity to our compulsive extravagance, and peace to our frantic spirit...It allows us to see material things for what they are – goods to enhance life, not to oppress life. People once again become more important than possessions...it is the Spiritual Discipline of simplicity that gives us...a strategy of action that can address poverty and hunger and many other social inequities.”

- Richard Foster, *Freedom of Simplicity*

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**Omer Principle: Exodus 16:16-18**

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**Spiritual Practices**

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**Margin**



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**Enemy of our Soul?**



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**Hurry**



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**Spiritual Practices**

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**Margin**




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Creating "margin" means uncluttering our schedules, our time, and our lives. When we have more "margin" in our lives, we can be more generous with our time and our talents. Creating margin affects positively our relationship with God and others, our health and our ability to join in Christ's mission in our communities and world.



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## Spiritual Practices

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Other Practices?

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## Shifts: Forming Generous Disciples

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Scarcity  Sufficiency

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## Scarcity

Our first waking thought of the day is "I didn't get enough sleep". Before we even sit up in bed, before our feet touch the floor, we're already inadequate, already behind, already losing, already lacking something. And by the time we go to bed at night our minds race with a litany of what we didn't get or get done that day."

- Lynn Twist

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## Scarcity

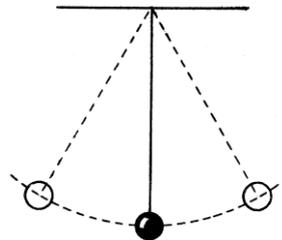
Three Toxic Myths:

1. There is not enough
2. More is Better
3. There is nothing I can do

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## Scarcity to Abundance

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## Sufficiency

"Sufficiency ...is not the same as abundance (abundance is more than we need - it is excess). Sufficiency is precise. It means that things are sufficient, exactly enough."

- Lynn Twist, *The Soul of Money*

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## Sufficiency

"There is a principle of sufficiency, and it is as follows: When you let go of trying to get more of what you don't really need, which is what we are all trying to get more of, it frees up immense energy to make a difference with what you have...to be known for what we **allocate** rather than what we **accumulate**."

- Lynn Twist, *The Soul of Money*



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## Sufficiency

Share something you are grateful for



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## Spiritual Practices

Gratefulness  
or  
"Great-fullness"



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## Shifts: Forming Generous Disciples

Consumer  Contributor



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## Julio Diaz



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## Putting Into Practice

Bless Three People



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## Prayer

I Know that I am cared for by an Abundant Provider.  
 I choose to be grateful and trusting.  
 I believe that I have enough and that what I need  
 will always be provided.  
 I choose to be content and generous.  
 I know that my choices matter for myself, for others  
 and for future generations.

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Creator, who made me to seek the greater good of your  
 Kingdom,  
 Guide me to use my time, talents and resources  
 to pursue what matters most.  
 Teach me to be free, to live without worry, fear or greed  
 in the freedom of your abundance.  
 Give me daily bread, as I share with those in need.  
 Thank you God for this precious gift of life!  
 Amen and amen.

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## Putting It All Together

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### Generous Lives Can Change the World

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