



The Orchard Foundation

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

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Worth the Climb

Almost every summer for the last nine years, I have joined the men from my church for a backpacking trip into the Rocky Mountains. We hike to a lake to camp for the weekend which usually entails climbing 1000 feet or more over a three to four mile mountain trail. My backpack normally weighs about 40 pounds and, as I have gotten older, this part has become more and more difficult for me. Once we get there, however, and the pack is removed, the joy of accomplishing the hike makes it worth the pain. Despite my anticipation of the discomfort, I would never have the pleasure of seeing the beauty of the Rockies with its roaring waterfalls, pristine lakes, beautiful wild flowers and variety of wildlife if I were sitting comfortably at home on my couch.



In some ways, the effort to plan for the future by making sure our earthly belongings are effectively used for both our family and the Kingdom can also seem daunting and somewhat painful. It might be easier to ignore this task, but in the long run, the accomplishment far outweighs the discomfort and can actually be a source of joy and fulfillment. This is certainly what I experience when I trudge into our campsite after a difficult climb. I would encourage you to read and meditate on David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:10-17, "We give you thanks, and praise your glorious name ... Everything comes from you, and we have given only what comes from your hand ... all these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you." These verses truly represent the heart of David who desired to glorify and honor God with all he had as his legacy.

You too can leave a lasting legacy with whatever you have - be it small like the widow's mite or large like King David - for it is not a matter of size but a matter of the heart and your willingness to praise God with your resources.

Many of you who receive our newsletter have already taken the steps to honor the Lord with your legacy and we at Orchard find great delight in serving you and your generous hearts. May you be blessed and full of joy knowing you have accomplished the climb.



Many Blessings,

Timothy W. Cummings, J.D., C.M.A., C.C.N.L.
VP/COO/CFO

Capital Market News

Second Quarter Update: Stocks continued upward trends during the second quarter of 2017 even amidst valuation concerns, low inflation, pending interest rate increases and ongoing policy uncertainty in the U.S. Global equity performance also continues to pick up with growth stocks, led by technology, outperforming value investments. As you are probably aware, the Fed did finally raise the interest rate on June 14. Bond yields moved lower, however, the U.S. bond market also responded with gains of 1.5 percent, with U.S. Treasury notes and bonds increasing 1.2 percent and U.S. Corporates up 2.4 percent. Focus on bonds now turns to balancing the health of the yield curve so that rates increase the longer funds are invested.



The S&P 500 increased 3.1 percent during the quarter and 9.3 percent year-to-date. Also for the quarter, the DJIA increased 4.0 percent and the Nasdaq Composite was up 4.2 percent with increases of 9.4 percent and 14.7 percent year-to-date, respectively. The MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) was up 4.3 percent for the quarter and 11.5 percent year-to-date.

After significant review and evaluation of our investment models, Orchard decided to make a change in how we invest in equities in order to drive performance. Effective June 1, 2017, the equity portion for all offered models will be the same. This means every model is invested in the same mix of equity investments. The overall risk tolerance continues to be managed by limiting the percentage of an account that is invested in equities. This change simply means that your account will benefit from the best equity performance our team of experts can deliver.

Planning Your Summer Vacation?

Are you headed to the beach, the mountains, or perhaps a foreign country for your summer vacation? Will you be flying, driving, or cruising to your destination? When we make vacation plans, it's common to think about things like:

- What happens if the Lord calls me home while I'm traveling?
- Is my will in good order?
- Did I properly plan for my loved ones so they will be well taken care of if something happens to me?

The good news is... you're not alone. This is a normal thought process and attorneys receive a lot of calls in the late spring and early summer to draft wills for people leaving on vacation.

Unfortunately, when most people draft their wills, they often fail to realize that writing their will should be a scriptural and prayerful process before it becomes a legal

process. Often, we simply visit an attorney and have a legal document written without taking into consideration that God is the owner of all we have, and we are just His stewards. This means our will is the legal document that transfers stewardship of everything God has entrusted us. So, we should seek the Lord and consider His Word when writing our will.

If you would like help thinking through your will and estate plan from a biblical perspective, Orchard is here to help! Contact Guy Burgo, Orchard's Director of Estate and Gift Design Services at (719) 268-7208 or BurgoG@theorchard.org



Statement

- Those of you who receive statements by mail, they are enclosed.
- Donors who receive their statements online may go to our website: www.theorchard.org.
- Those with donor advised funds can access statements on your DonorFirst™ Web page at <https://orchard.donorfirst.org> and click on the name of your fund on the left side of the screen.

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