

GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM



Stewardship with Crickets

The other day my son Michael and I were standing in the checkout line at a pet shop. As I was waiting for the clerk to complete my transaction I noticed an Asian lady behind me in line who had a plastic bag full of live crickets and a small container of worms. She was dumping out coins to pay for her purchase.

“Who are you feeding?” I asked, thinking that perhaps she owned an iguana. “Oh no,” she replied, looking a bit taken back. In broken English she said something to the effect of, “I’m releasing these for Buddha.” Well, that was a first for me. “Oh, okay,” I said, trying to sound nonchalant.

That got me thinking. I had just witnessed an act of stewardship. Here was a very sincere lady pouring out her coins for a cause she believed in. I took some time to search the internet on Buddhism and learned that animal release is a somewhat customary ritual that many Buddhist perform to show compassion for living things, which is foundational for Buddhism. Buddhists believe, of course, in reincarnation, and by releasing living creatures you may

be freeing a former or future relative. Many Buddhists believe that animal release also gives you good “karma.” In short, it is a compassionate, meritorious act done to *hopefully* increase your chances of a better future.

How beautiful, yet sad. A kind hearted act of stewardship, but based on a sad misunderstanding of eternity.

Isn't it wonderful that we can live as stewards for Jesus Christ, who, in the most sacrificial act of stewardship in the universe, left the pristine purity of heaven to come to this sinful orb, to live, suffer and die, to offer you and me eternity as a precious, blood-bought gift. When I give to Him, (time, talents, treasure) it's not to gain merit or salvation, but in grateful thanksgiving, because I AM saved by His merit. I'm responding to His love, secure in His love. Generous living for a generous Savior. *It's all of me, in response to all of Him.* (Gary Moyer, Carolina Conference executive secretary)

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