



# STEWARDSHIP

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## Humble Generosity

Nicholas Winton was a stockbroker who lived in Great Britain during World War II. As a child of German Jews, he was keenly aware and highly critical of the Nazi party and their treatment of Jews.

In 1938, Winton visited his friend in Czechoslovakia. While there, he toured several refugee camps and was appalled to find them filled to capacity. As a result of this trip, Winton organized a rescue operation for children in danger from the German dismantling of Czechoslovakia. He set up a center in his hotel in Prague, where he accepted applications from parents eager to help their children escape the Nazis.

Winton later returned to London to organize the operation from Great Britain. The British government required a 50-pound guarantee per child and required that each child have housing arranged before they could be transported to

Great Britain, so Winton went to work. He raised money. He found foster homes. He secured transportation. He did what needed to be done to rescue as many children as he could.

After the war, his rescue efforts remained virtually unknown. He didn't brag about his efforts or attempt to bring attention to his accomplishments. He simply did what he thought was right at the time and left it at that.

In 1988, Winton's wife, Grete, discovered a scrapbook from 1939 among her husband's belongings. When she opened the book and flipped through the pages, she found photos of the children Winton saved, as well as a list of names. All in all, Winton had saved at least 669 children from certain death in German concentration camps.

Nearly fifty years after his life-saving efforts, the world discovered the great generosity of Nicholas Winton. He had dedicated countless hours and funds to rescue those children, and accomplished it all with an impressive level of anonymity. For Winton, it was never about the notoriety. It was only about saving lives. Even after he was recognized for his efforts, Winton never seemed comfortable receiving attention for his generosity. He truly possessed a humble and generous heart.

In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus addresses this issue among the believers of his day. It had become standard practice for many of the religious elite to be obvious about their giving. Their motive in giving was to be "honored by others." But Jesus teaches against this, saying, "Your giving [should] be in secret."

Truly generous giving is a humbling experience, not a prideful one. This is not to say that givers should not be honored or praised for their generosity. It's never a bad idea to recognize a giver. But true generosity does not give for the sake of receiving praise. It is a pleasant side effect, not the giver's primary motivation.

Winton was proud of his accomplishment. The fact that he kept a scrapbook with photos and names of every child he rescued indicates that he understood the enormity of his endeavor. But the realization that he saved so many lives was its own reward. Had his scrapbook never been found and his great work never been recognized, he would not have regretted his choice. He gave in a spirit of humility. Knowing that he saved the lives of 669 children was the only reward he needed.



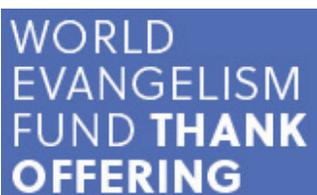
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*Developing Holy Generosity in a Modern Church*

### School of Stewardship Events and Webinars

Whether through a local event or a webinar, Stewardship Ministries is pleased to host workshops that promote education on finances and the Funding the Mission plan. Topics include church accounting, fraud, charitable receipting, and many more. If you would like to see a webinar hosted on your district, please ask your district office to contact [Stewardship Ministries](#) for more information. The webinars are open to anyone to view online in the [Media Library](#). For more information, visit [School of Stewardship](#) on the web. All seminars and webinars count toward lifelong learning hours at [learning.nazarene.org](http://learning.nazarene.org).

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Anne Frank

*"No one has ever become poor by giving."*