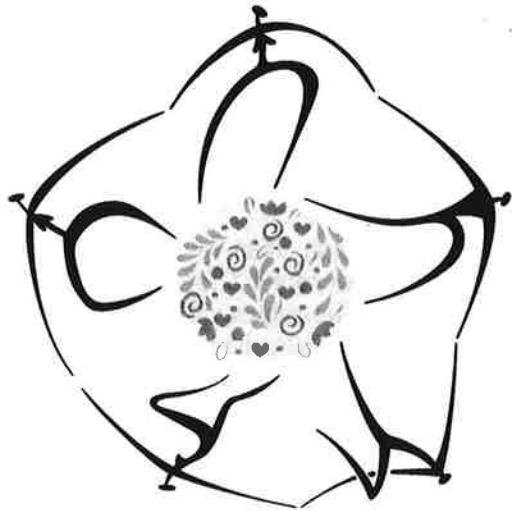


# Finding my raison d'être— or is it my recent **debt?**



## *What exactly is stewardship?*

Genesis chapters 1 and 2 are less an early account of our creation and more a summary of our purpose. There we hear of land, sea, plants, animals, and even human beings. And it was all good. Somehow in that account we have a sense of an interconnectedness, of how everything fits together.

In my own life, when I have strayed from being connected, when I have separated myself from creation and the Creator, when I have set out my own purpose (fame, fortune, fortress), I have felt disconnected, dislocated, and disoriented.

It's at moments of anxiety like these that we discover who our real gods are. In the affluent West of the 21st century, we hide our fears in things, in amassing what our culture tells us we

need in order to be legitimate, to matter. And the more afraid we are that we don't matter, the more we buy.

Recent economic studies indicate that Canadians are more indebted today than at any other time in our history—ironically, at a time when unemployment is low, incomes are rising, and times are good.

Canadians are not very generous with charitable givings. We are not sharing. We are not connecting. But does this fearful living move us closer to happiness? Apparently not, because anxiety, stress, and panic are everywhere.

In his book *Becoming Human*, Jean Vanier says that we discover our true identity when we connect to one another, particularly when we share of our true selves with one another. The very act of reaching out beyond ourselves is spiritual; it is a tangible demonstration that we care. Whether this act is volunteering our time, writing a cheque for a worthy cause, or working to better our community, it is a sermon—our sermon.

If I truly believe that God made me for a reason, that there is something inherently worthy about me, then using my gifts as an act of commitment rather than simply spending on material things to silence my fears is something I am called to do. And that something is what we call stewardship.



Written by Kevin Little for  
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