Dear Friends,

Yesterday I read an article about the economy and the stock market. Today I received an email addressing that same article. We're hearing a lot about the stock market and its ups and downs these days. It seems millionaire and billionaire investors are selling off their stocks at an alarming rate. (http://www.moneynews.com/Outbrain/billionaires-dump-economist-stock/2012/08/29/id/450265?PROMO_CODE=FE8A-1) They have lost confidence in these stocks. They know something the average American doesn't know.

I'm not involved in the stock market at all, and this message isn't really about whether you should be buying or selling stocks. It's about asking yourself, "In what do I place my confidence?" Psalm 118:8 reminds us, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

A number of years ago, a potential donor made a pledge to The Hope of Survivors for the purpose of obtaining property for a healing center. That pledge never came through as intended. Why? The money was lost in the stock market crash a few years ago. While hoping to increase their ability to give generously to more ministries, they lost the potential to give at all. It's risky business, to say the least.

I have to ask myself, "Is that how God wants to raise funds for His causes?" Somehow, I just don't think so. In my opinion, it is better to invest in the Lord's mission and projects than in any business or secular endeavor. The rewards may not make you rich on this earth, but the eternal rewards will more than make up for any perceived lack or loss here. Just reading Matthew 19:29 is an encouragement to me, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

I find it interesting to note that the property for which we are now trying to raise funds to purchase for use as a place of hope and healing for victims is found in Pella, Iowa. In Dutch, "Pella" means "a place of refuge." That is precisely what The Hope of Survivors yearns to provide for clergy sexual abuse victims. Will you help us accomplish this goal and provide a safe haven - a refuge - for those in need? Proverbs 14:6 declares, "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge."
Just knowing that your donations to The Hope of Survivors are making a positive and life-saving difference in the lives of clergy sexual abuse victims should thrill your heart and soul. No gimmicks, no get-rich-quick schemes, no taking risks on whether the stock market will help you give more or less (or none at all)...just simple giving from the heart as the Lord impresses you.

Victims will thank you. God will bless you.

Now, that's MY kind of investing!

Thank you for your support.

Samantha Nelson
Vice President & CEO