

## **Consortium praises party leaders' legacy "tithe" pledge**

*Leviticus 27:30 "Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord".*

Christian Legacy welcome the news that the leaders of the three main political parties have now supported the Legacy 10 campaign by promising to donate 10% of their estate to charitable or cultural causes. From April 2012 a change in the inheritance tax law means that everyone who does so will be entitled to an inheritance tax cut from 40% to 36%. David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Ed Milliband join many other names from the world of business, the arts and charities.

Clare Norman from Tearfund says "It's encouraging that the secular world is taking on board the Christian concept of tithing. Although not everyone believes that everything we have is a gift from God, many people want to use some of what they have to bless others who are suffering and do what they can to help. At this difficult economic time, Christians may feel unable to give anything at present but making a Will is the only way to ensure the money God has entrusted you with is wisely invested in a future harvest for his glory."

In 2009 Christian Legacy conducted a survey which indicated that only 17% of churches were teaching about legacy giving. Last year a similar survey indicated an increase to 22%. This would suggest that churches are gradually becoming more open to the idea of asking congregations to consider making a will to ensure their good stewardship of their money continues after they have gone.

Christian Legacy have produced a free legacy church pack Tomorrow's Harvest to help church leaders raise the subject of legacies, both in the financial and the wider sense. This includes the inspiring story of Hattie May Wiatt, a child whose small legacy was the seed from which grew her church, two hospitals and a university. For more information and to download/order the pack visit [www.christianlegacy.co.uk](http://www.christianlegacy.co.uk).

Members of the Christian Legacy Consortium: Bible Society, Care for the Family, CMS, The Leprosy Mission, Livability, Scripture Union, Stewardship, Tearfund and TLG.