



LIVING WATER

A Quarterly Newsletter from WaterStone



COVER STORY:

Turning Back *Cultural*
Climate Change



BY OS GUINNESS



Leadership

Ken Harrison
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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CHIEF GENEROSITY ADVISOR

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

About

WaterStone is a Christian foundation that comes alongside givers, advisors and ministries to provide trusted counsel and innovative giving strategies. Since 1980, we have assisted our clients in developing comprehensive plans for sharing their resources with ministries and organizations to fulfill their charitable intent.

Our expertise is working with business owners and stewards of family wealth to unlock the giving potential of their non-cash assets like real estate, business interests, oil and gas and agricultural commodities. Through WaterStone, families can multiply their giving impact for the Kingdom, minimize taxes and heighten the joy of generosity.

Learn More

Visit WaterStone.org or call our offices at 719.447.4620.

Cover credit: Greta Thunburg photo by Streetsblog Denver

By the Numbers

\$950 MILLION
Assets Under Advisement

\$1 BILLION
Complex Assets Contributions

\$2 BILLION
in Contributions

7500+
Charities Supported

\$2 MILLION+
Weekly in Grants

\$1 BILLION
Given in Grants



Shaping the Culture by Engaging Hearts & Minds

WaterStone donors have their eyes on the long game: we're all looking for the most strategic ways to have long-term cultural impact.

Usually, that means working with nonprofits. But not always. Some WaterStone donors opt to invest their Giving Funds in a business interest that aligns with their values and allow the investment to grow tax-free.

One of those companies is **TruPlay**, a gaming platform dedicated to creating video games that lead children to God's truth.

"In the old days, kids would watch cartoons. Now they play games," said founder Brent Dusing. "Let's make something true and awesome that kids will love. That's our goal—let's change a whole generation."

Only 31% of kids believe in God, but TruPlay seeks to change that by meeting kids where they are. The average kid spends 52.5 hours per week on a screen. Rather than use that time to reinforce secularism, Dusing wants to use those screens to bring kids back to the Bible.

The platform launched in August with a plethora of games, videos, and comics. One of their most

popular games is "Maple & the Forest of Words," an adventure game starring a bunny rabbit who loves God. "Stained Glass," another TruPlay game, centers on Bible characters telling their stories in their own voices.

And that's only the beginning. "We're continuing to make more games and build a world-class, cutting-edge entertainment company. Everything we do is high quality and conveys God's truth," Dusing said.

TruPlay's work has been endorsed by Candace Cameron Bure, the late Jack Hayford, and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

WaterStone doesn't endorse or recommend grants to specific organizations—that's your choice as a donor. But we do share your vision of seeking to make the biggest impact, and we're here to support you in doing that.

If you have \$200,000 or more in your Giving Fund, you can request those funds to be managed by an investment advisor or invest in a private alternative or impact investment. We review the request and confirm that you understand the risks associated with such an investment, but you are able to use those funds to support the businesses you believe are advancing the Kingdom.

COVER STORY

Turning Back Cultural Climate Change

by Os Guinness

We're not only in a culture war. We're in a time of "cultural climate change."

We all hear about climate change, but very few people talk about cultural climate change, which is far more important. Cultural climate change affects who we are, but it happens slowly, over many years, often over many decades.

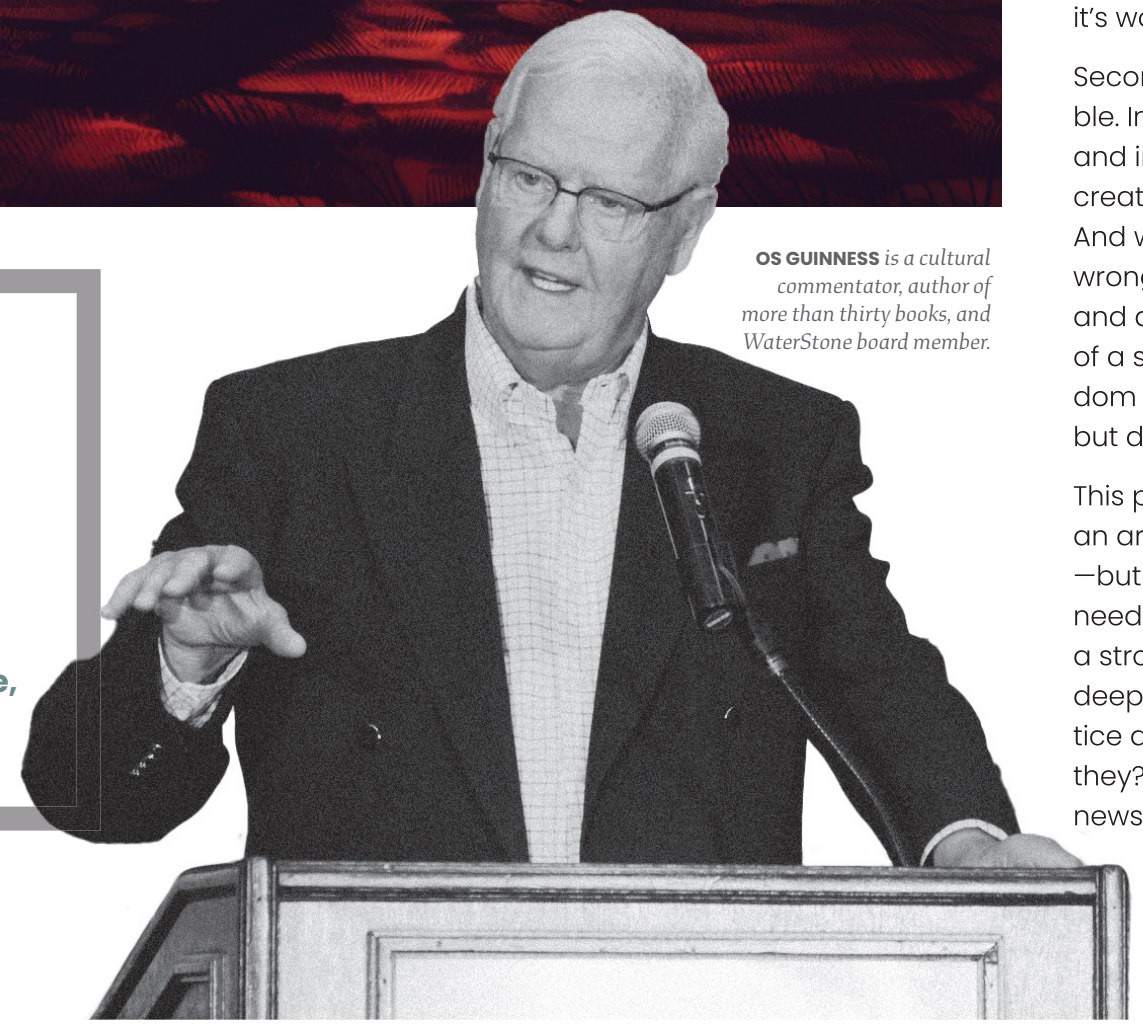
Some say culture wars can be won in 50 years; others say 100. However long it takes, one thing is certain: in our postmodern world without religion, there is no truth, only power. And that leads to the erosion, the unraveling, the fraying of a country.

Behind every mass murderer is not only a gun, as the liberals claim, but a loner. And the broken family network behind them, which creates the loner, which creates the massacre. That is a prime example of social erosion, of cultural fraying—a change far more deadly than what's happening to the climate.



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“While freedom can lead to our going wrong, freedom can also lead to repentance and a freeing of the past and an opening up of a second chance in the future. That freedom means the possibility not only of decline, but decline and renewal.”



OS GUINNESS is a cultural commentator, author of more than thirty books, and WaterStone board member.

This crisis of the West is geopolitical, but it also has extraordinary supernatural dimensions. If we make politics a purely secular activity, we miss the whole moment. Abraham Kuyper, the great Prime Minister of Holland in the early 20th century, once said, “If you could tear back the curtain and see what lies behind the reality, you would see a conflict so intense and so convulsive that everything on earth would seem a mere game by comparison.”

That is the Biblical view of these great challenges we're facing, but what are some of the lessons we can draw from that?

First, we need to regain the Church's counter-cultural stance. What are God's first words to Abraham? “Leave.” He breaks with his country, his culture, his kin, the three great forces that shape us all. Because here is God's new mission, a family, a nation of people who are different.

The church in America is no longer counter-cultural. It's weak in a thousand areas because it's worldly in a thousand areas.

Second, the decline of America is not inevitable. In the scriptures, in the Hebrew scriptures and in the Christian scriptures, humans are created in the image of God with freedom. And while freedom can lead to our going wrong, freedom can also lead to repentance and a freeing of the past and an opening up of a second chance in the future. That freedom means the possibility not only of decline, but decline and renewal.

This process will, inevitably, take time. It will be an arduous effort likely to span generations—but one we desperately need. Humanity needs to regain a high view of human dignity, a strong view of truth, a rich view of words, a deep view of freedom, a balanced view of justice and of peace and of covenant. Where are they? In the scriptures. This is not only good news; this is the best news ever for humanity.

Are You Ready for Year-End Giving?



Charitable giving remains one of the most powerful ways we can shape our culture, but to make the most of your year-end giving, it pays to be strategic.

First, we encourage WaterStone clients to think carefully about their giving purpose and goals. What causes and organizations move you? What legacy do you want to leave for future generations? Do you need to meet any personal financial objectives or are you interested in giving non-traditional assets?

Once you have a clear sense of your goals for year-end giving, identify your most valuable assets. Many believe cash and marketable securities are the only items they can give; however, some of the most extraordinary gifts lie below the surface. Gifts such as real estate, business interests, agriculture, life insurance, and more can all be donated for charitable tax deductions and Kingdom advancement.



Contact
our Giving
Strategies
team today at
719-447-4620
to get started!

Whatever your goals for this year and whatever assets you would like to give, our Gift Strategists can offer a solution personally tailored for you.

You can open a Giving Fund through which you can donate gifts of cash or appreciated assets such as securities, real estate, business interests, oil & gas, or agricultural commodities. You can then recommend grants from that Giving Fund to preferred charities immediately or over a period of time.

We also offer other giving solutions such as charitable pooled trusts and charitable remainder trusts that offer immediate tax deductions as well as lifetime income streams.

No matter your giving solution, it's crucial to submit your gifts on time! In order to receive a 2023 charitable deduction, different types of gifts must be submitted according to the following timeline:

Gifts of Cash—ACH/Wire transfers and cash received by Friday, December 29, 2023

Gifts by Check—Postmarked on or before Saturday, December 30, 2023

Gifts of Securities—Accepted through Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Gifts of Business Interests—Assigned to WaterStone, by Friday, December 29, 2023

Gifts of Real Estate—Deed transferred to WaterStone by Friday, December 29, 2023

Grant Recommendations—Submitted by Friday, December 15, 2023

The holiday season is a time of wonderful generosity, and we're proud to work with givers like you who use their assets to advance the Kingdom.

WATERSTONE DONORS & *the War in Israel*



While the crisis in Israel continues to unfold, one thing is certain: the people of Israel are suffering. There is no greater time to help.

For this reason, WaterStone launched the **Israel Relief Fund**, with a specific purpose of funding organizations currently at work on the ground in this war. The fund will focus on providing humanitarian relief and emergency services to innocent people in Israel, regardless of ethnicity or religion.



One of the recipients of the Israel Relief Fund is **United Hatzalah**, an Israeli humanitarian organization whose volunteers were first responders at the kibbutzim attacked on October 7. Unfortunately these volunteers were also there to discover the atrocities inflicted on children and babies. Our prayers are with them, and we are grateful for their ongoing work.

We hope this special-purpose fund will be used mightily by God to bring glory to His name and tangibly show His love to people who are suffering—both now and in coming months.

Many WaterStone donors have already contributed, and if you feel led to make a gift to this fund, please let us know by contacting our offices. We are moving quickly in response to this situation and will work with you to process your gift and direct it to where it is most needed.



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A Letter from Ken's Desk

How do we make a cultural impact that lasts? Not just for five or ten years but for 50 or 100?

There's no simple answer, but like the star above the manger in Bethlehem, the Nativity of Jesus Christ points the way.

Our Lord made the greatest cultural impact of any person to ever walk the earth. How? By giving of himself, accepting our lowly human form, and laying down his life.

If we want to, as Os Guinness says in this newsletter, change the course of "cultural climate change," we need to be willing to sacrifice as Jesus did.

That may not mean laying down our physical lives, but it might mean sacrificing our time, ambitions, and finances. I'm honored to say that WaterStone donors



understand what it means to be generous. They give their hard-earned assets to advance His Kingdom, and their gifts have changed the world for all eternity.

***From all of us here at WaterStone,
thank you.***

Sincerely,
KEN HARRISON