

*Your ship has come in!*

# Lifeboats for Laodicea

More “*ship*” for the *shipshape* Church:

<i>Lordship</i>	<i>Worship</i>	<i>Relationship</i>
<i>Stewardship</i>	<i>Membership</i>	<i>Leadership</i>
<i>Fellowship</i>	<i>Friendship</i>	<i>Mentorship</i>
<i>Apostleship</i>	<i>Scholarship</i>	<i>Discipleship</i>
<i>Partnership</i>	<i>Citizenship</i>	<i>Courtship</i>
<i>Companionship</i>	<i>Eldership</i>	



*“And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. Then they that were in the ship came and worshiped Him saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”  
Matthew 14: 32-33 KJV*

# Aldersgate Advisors

## LIFEBOATS FOR LAODICEA

### Shipshape- [ship-sheyp]

1. in good order; well-arranged; trim or tidy. Free from any disorder.

Not a term usually associated with the Church of Laodicea or its members - making God gag and all!

Aldersgate Advisors has crafted Lifeboats For Laodicea to reach and rescue the “rich” and restore order to the Laodicean Church. Providing local churches with more “ship” – literally and figuratively – helps support, stimulate and sustain each church by generating – **more Lordship – more worship – more relationship – more membership - more stewardship - more fellowship – more leadership - etc.**

As a new outreach, we realize few if any churches have ever contemplated such programs, budgets, or resources so Aldersgate and its affiliates can provide flexible turnkey programs for the needs, goals and objectives of almost any congregation. Designed to be a new recurring financial resource to fund individual churches, ***we expect first year donations of at least \$1,000,000 for each local church.***

While there are many worthy missions to reach the lost, the poor, sick, hungry, homeless, those in prisons, addicted to drugs, etc and to almost every country in the world, this may be the first outreach of its kind. ***This new mission specifically targets the unique spiritual needs of a segment of society usually ignored by most - reviled by some – and yet is probably prevalent in your community – and probably in your very church.***

Lifeboats For Laodicea (Lifeboats) is a special outreach to those with truly extraordinary circumstances and that are “almost impossible” to reach. If there is any group that truly needs our compassion and help - it is the affluent – “*the worldly wise and wealthy*” both in and out of the Church - those that may be considered “rich” by the world’s standards but are actually ensnared by their possessions and spiritually destitute.

**Do we love our rich neighbors as we love ourselves?** Ironically, while many willingly sacrifice everything for fame and fortune- their children, spouses, health, etc, others blame the rich for most of our social ills. Our increasingly covetous, secular society seems to have little sympathy for the spiritual well being or the eternal consequences for our wealthy neighbors. Rather than viewed with compassion, the affluent are viewed simply as resources to be exploited, their personal life struggles – just entertainment. When tragedy strikes, many believe they’re reaping what they sowed.

Aldersgate, as an advocate for the affluent helps take wealth to the next level – to prosperity. Lifeboats For Laodicea is part of our mission to facilitate the stewardship of the “wealthy” including those already in the Church and as a new outreach program to reach the wealthy that are not in the Church.

***This is a Christian missionary outreach designed specifically for the wealthy, funded by the wealthy that speaks the language of the wealthy.***

*‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. ‘So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, will I spit you out of My mouth. ‘Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. “Revelation 3:15-18*

## How does Lifeboats help churches reach these “wealthy” that are so difficult to reach and how is it different from other programs?

On any mission to reach the lost, it is necessary to “speak their language” or contextualize the message. We use the language of the wealthy to reach the wealthy. It’s been said that *“Money talks, but wealth whispers.”* We agree. We find many of the “worldly wise”; “the rich and successful” that would never go to a church or are otherwise “too busy” pursuing the lusts of the world, will gladly find the time to meet on a yacht!

Thus, to dispel any preconceived misplaced apprehensions or concerns about “Christians” and the “Church” - especially for those that may not have a regular access to a sound Christian support group or grew up in such a setting, **we use boats and yachts donated to local churches** as ministry tools to access the rich in comfortable non threatening recreational environments in which they – the affluent – aspire to or are accustomed.

Lifeboats For Laodicea uses donated yachts and other types of boats to reach the wealthy on lakes, rivers, the oceans, and marinas, etc. However the vessels’ use is limited only by the creativity of the local churches, the needs of the local communities, and the desires of the donors – youth fishing, weddings, weekly church services on the lakes, etc. Participating churches will be able to expand their church facilities and open up a “boat church” location at the local lake with all the respective benefits and opportunities. **That should be a target rich environment for the church – lakes, marinas, the wealthy and lost, and recreational water venues!**

Ships, boats, fishing, and water are used and referenced extensively in the Bible so “boating” actually makes an especially easy segue into more spiritual discussions. There are many potential uses for all types of boats - but generally the larger and newer the better for our purposes. The specifics of the boats / yachts being donated dictate their best use including but not limited to: personal outreach to the wealthy often in one on one or small groups and intimate settings, boating and fishing trips for economically disadvantaged and special needs children, fundraisers, weddings, boat church services at the lakes or bible studies at local marinas and other outreach services. **Some churches have had local “boat church” services at area lakes for decades with great success.** We believe that is a worthwhile project and want to help expand the practice.

Thus, depending on the types of donated vessels and how they are used, will determine the amount of financial resources available to fund the local churches’ other programs and missions. **We expect initial donations of at least \$1,000,000 per church, with all future expenses also paid by donors.**

With so many options and so much discretion and yet with very specific IRS rules and regulations, it’s essential for each donor and every church to agree on how the vessels will be used and that such use complies with the needs and objectives of both the donor and the church. That’s where we can help as the program is a logical extension of our usual advisory services.

### Why a special outreach for the wealthy?

*‘So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, will I spit you out of My mouth. ‘Because*



After more than a quarter century as a managerial economist, Scott Crabtree co-founded YES Yacht Executive Solutions to provide customized financial, tax, economic, and wealth strategies to facilitate the yachting lifestyle. A lecturer on international trade, nationally published author of investment, banking, economic, venture capital and corporate finance articles with membership in the American Economic Association, the National Association of Business Economist, and the Association of Christian Economist, recent areas of interests emphasize tax, alternative investments, behavioral finance, game theory, biblical investing, and Christian stewardship especially the growing investment discipline of socially responsible investing.



*you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked*

Jesus warned extensively of the dangers of trying to serve two masters. For the lost, sick, hungry, in prison, addicted to drugs and alcohol, etc, there are numerous missions seeking to help them, but not many, if any designed for the wealthy, ensnared by their possession, addicted to their success.

Many scriptures admonishing the wealthy are well known to both Christians and non Christians alike such as: James 5:1-4 *“Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten. Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire.”* and 1John 3:17 *“But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?”*

However, in this increasingly affluent secular materialistic society, is there a more disturbing scripture than Matthew 19: 23-24, *“Truly I say to you, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven? And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God”?* Yet the affluent with their unique burdens, temptations, and struggles, are rarely looked upon with sympathy or as possibly needing our help.

However those ensnared by their pride, fame, fortune, wealth, are usually blinded by their worldly success - *“you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.”* They can be especially skeptical and suspicious of someone trying to *“help them”* as almost everyone in their lives wants something from them. Besides from their worldly view point, they think they *“have the world by the tail”* and don’t need any help. The affluent are often surround by sycophants and have no one willing to tell them the truth. **As such they may never realize their peril – or not until it’s too late!**

So just as Jesus made a special direct effort in Luke 19 to personally reach out in a one on one effort to save a rich tax collector Zaccheus, Lifeboats is an outreach designed especially for the *“worldly”* wise and wealthy, the affluent who often require personal - one on one attention. **Our mission is to seek and save that which was lost and then to help the affluent be wise stewards of their blessings and lead balanced productive lives and to prosper – just as their soul prospers.** And as per Revelation 3, this is a problem both in and out of the church.

Lifeboats For Laodicea helps local churches obtain resources necessary to penetrate the common fallacy of the affluent: *“that being rich, they don’t have any needs as their lives are already “complete”.* It’s well established the relationship between material gain and emotional welfare often seems to be inverse. Even the ancient Greeks learned this from their myth of King Midas who recognized his infamous *“touch”* was actually a curse after it turned his food, drink, even his daughter into gold.

Research on human happiness and contentment reveals that after someone wins the lottery, they are only *“happier”* for about six months. After the euphoria wears off - they are no happier than before they won the lottery. **In fact many are less so.**

Even very rich people--the Forbes' 100 wealthiest Americans are only slightly *“happier”* than average Americans. With net worths exceeding \$100 million, providing ample money to buy things they don't need and hardly care about, 80 % agreed that *“money can increase OR decrease happiness, depending on how it is used.”* **And some were indeed unhappy.**

One fabulously wealthy man could never remember being happy. A woman reported that money could not undo the misery caused by her children's problems. **Thus, it's no surprise research shows the wealthy are up to three times more likely to kill themselves than those with less money.**

In fact it's common that after achieving a certain level of financial success, eventually for an empty feeling, depression, or a sense of restlessness to be expressed by excessive risky, unhealthy pursuits including but certainly not limited to substance abuse and promiscuity. **Is there a more compelling cry for a personal relationship with Jesus?**

**Yet too often the “Church” and “Christians” fall silent.**

Many believe the affluent are simply reaping what they sowed. No doubt much evil has been done in the unrighteous pursuit of mammon. Mistakenly though many seem to think all wealth is ill-gotten. Besides - the wealthy can “afford it” as evidenced by an increasingly disproportionate tax burden. In the U S, the top 50% of income earners pay 97% of the income tax. The top 5% of earners pay 60% of all taxes while the top 1% earns only 19.6% of the income yet pay about 41% of all the taxes.

All have received special gifts, some a special blessing to make money. In fact, it is God that gives us the power to make us rich. Wealth if used properly as intended, is a blessing and a force for good. But rather than use their gifts and blessings for the benefit others (1Peter 4:10), many are seduced by the temptations and are ensnared by many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

Being ensnared by wealth is really just another form of idolatry. It seems to have much in common with an addiction to drugs or alcohol. Just as drugs and alcohol if abused can cause undesirable and destructive behavior temporarily deceiving an addict from the realities of their actions, so can fame, wealth, success, deceive the affluent! However the improper use of wealth can be much more devastating. While the abuse of both drugs and wealth can be catastrophic to the individual, their family, and to society - **the misuse of wealth and idolatry can have eternal consequences.**

Lifeboats For Laodicea is necessary because society tends to look the other way when the wealthy need help - often with unfortunate results. The news is filled with the numerous personal tragedies of many wealthy, famous, and successful athletes, entertainers, politicians, business professionals and celebrities that are surrounded by “yes” men. However, these are just the travails of the famous that we hear about.

Unfortunately, even just the “marginally” affluent in our neighborhoods, churches and companies, have friends, family, business and spiritual advisors that are equally financially dependent on them. Thus too few of these “confidants” are willing to tell them the truth and potentially jeopardize their financial relationship. It may be because they don't know the truth themselves or they are afraid of losing their “gravy train”.

Many modern churches and “Christians” may tolerate “inappropriate behavior” from the “wealthy” in the congregations for fear of alienating potential donors. Unfortunately for many of the affluent, they lack anyone around them willing to jeopardize the income derived from their relationship with the affluent by speaking “tough love” for the true spiritual benefit of the wealthy. Such failure to correct these lost is not scriptural and is a disservice.

With their wealth, many actually purchase legions of “gatekeepers” to insulate them from truth – at least for a while. With these literal and figurative “gated communities”, it often takes special programs and efforts to reach them. **Aldersgate and Lifeboats For Laodicea – with your help may be the only voice of truth available to many of them. *So if not you – who? If not your church – where? If not now – when?***

If you or your church leaders care to learn how rewarding it can be to put more “ship” in your church, please let us know how we may be of service.