

INSIGHTS ON FAITH & GIVING

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Mission

The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving exists to serve the public good by exploring the multiple connections between philanthropy and faith within the major religious traditions.

Resources

Seminar: *Creating Congregational Cultures of Generosity*. In this two-day seminar you will learn: (1) how to talk about money with theological integrity, (2) how to create an organizational climate of fiscal transparency and accountability, (3) how to extend the practice of pastoral care to care for donors, and (4) how to become a generous share-the-vision type of organization. For more information, [click here](#).

Course: *Faith & Fundraising*. This four-day course is a joint offering of the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving and The Fund Raising School of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. The next offering of this program will be May 10-13,

Religious Giving in Uncertain Times: Outlook for 2010

A mixed picture - both resiliency and struggle - characterized the experience of the nonprofit sector in 2009. The December 2009 Philanthropic Giving Index (PGI), a sort of "Consumer Confidence Report" for philanthropy in America, points out that while the giving climate has improved since Summer 2009, donors and fundraisers remain wary of the economy. (The PGI is based on a semiannual national survey of 404 nonprofit fundraising professionals and provides an overall assessment of the fundraising climate in the United States. The full report is available for purchase on the Center on Philanthropy's [website](#).)

Recent studies, including one by the [Barna Group](#) and [one released by the Lake Institute and the Alban Institute](#) in October 2009, reveal the context behind this general unease. The Barna study, conducted in the last quarter of 2009, found that American congregations experienced on average a 7% drop in income. Perhaps it should not surprise us then, as you see in the charts below, that almost 67 percent of fundraising professionals think that the economy is still negatively impacting their ability to raise funds, and fundraisers generally reported less success with most fundraising techniques by the end of year than they had predicted in the summer.

2010.

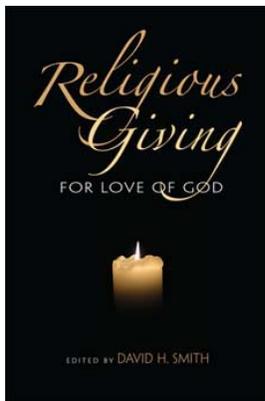
For information, [click here](#).

Lake Institute Highlights

The Seventh Annual Thomas

H. Lake Lecture with Dr.

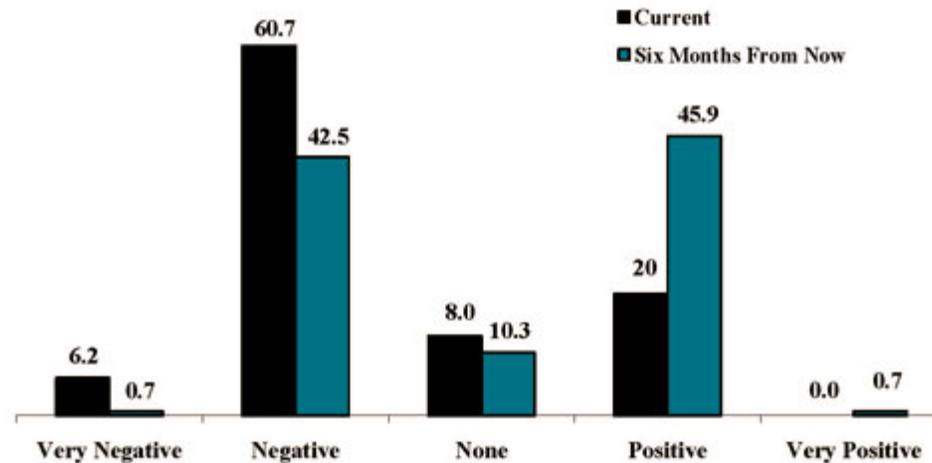
Ingrid Mattson will be held on Thursday March 25, 2010 in Indianapolis. Dr. Mattson's address, entitled "Zakat in America: The evolving role of Islamic charity in community cohesion," will begin at 5:00pm. Scroll down for further details or visit our [website](#) .



The Lake Institute is pleased to announce the publication of ***Religious Giving: For Love of God***, set for release April 2010. In this work produced by the Institute and edited by David H. Smith, contributors consider the connection between religion and giving within the Abrahamic traditions.

[Preorder: Religious Giving: For Love of God](#)

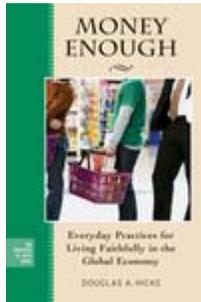
Impact of Economy on Fundraising



Source: Philanthropic Giving Index, December 2009, The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

Book Recommendation

In this recently published work, Doug Hicks, who studied under the noted theologian Ronald Theimann and Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, harnesses his knowledge of religion, ethics and economics in a series of practical reflections on everyday living.



[Money Enough: Everyday Practices for Living Faithfully in the Global Economy](#)
by Douglas A. Hicks
Jossey-Bass, February 2010

Contact Us

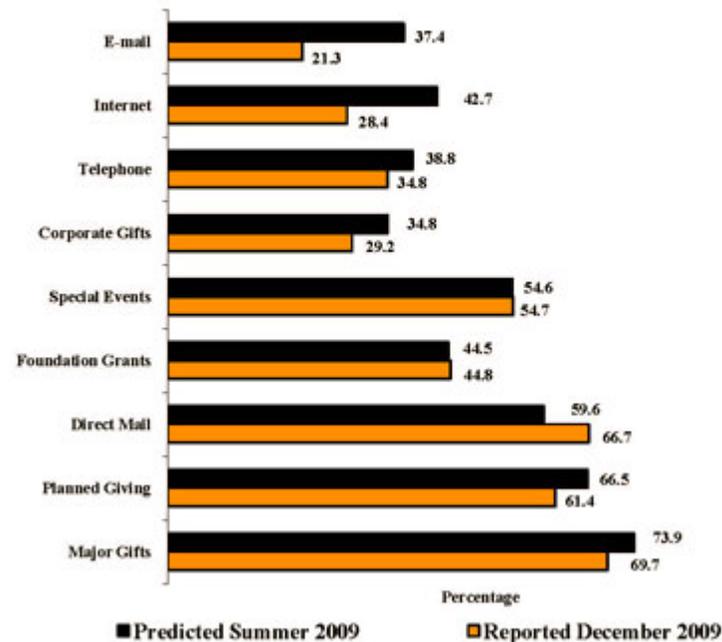
William G. Enright, Executive Director

Richard Klopp, Associate Director

Natalie Ingle, Program Manager

Ashley Miller, Administrative Assistant

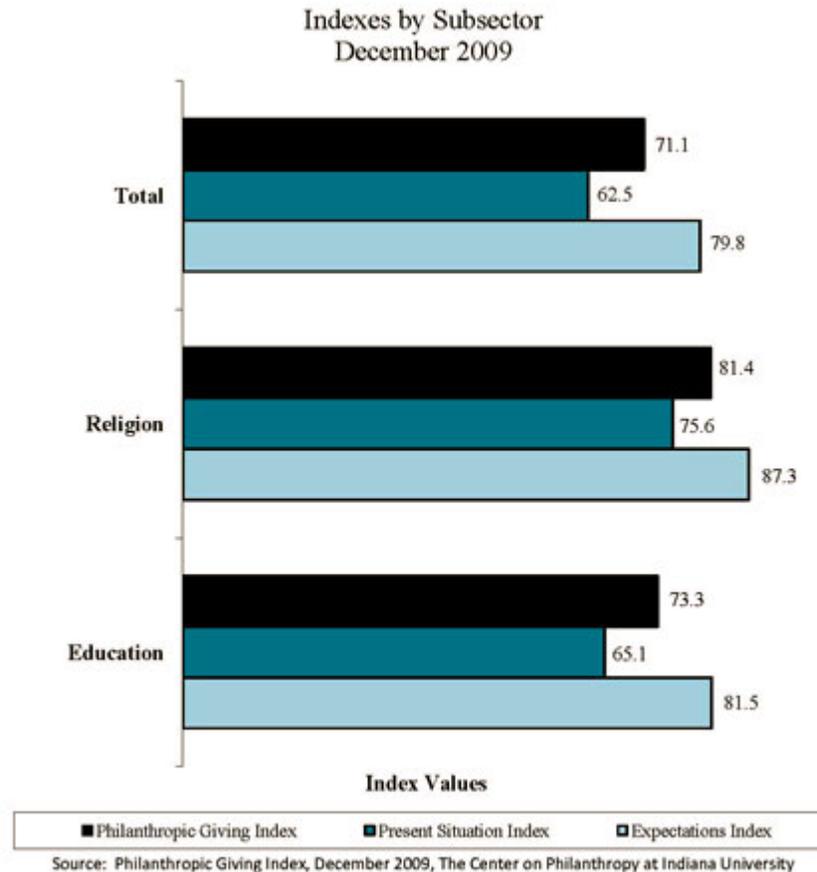
Predicted (Summer 2009) Versus Reported (December 2009) Success of Fundraising Techniques
(of those that responded to both surveys)



Source: Philanthropic Giving Index, December 2009, The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University

However, it is important to note that, according to the most recent PGI, **fundraisers from educational and religious organizations** were the **most optimistic** about the present giving climate (see chart below). An encouraging finding, supported by the fact that [Giving USA 2009](#) data showed that giving to religion was the one charitable sub-sector that actually grew in 2008.

Lake Institute on Faith & Giving
550 West North Street
Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3272
Phone: 317.278.8955
lfi@iupui.edu



Indeed, the December 2009 PGI found that religious organizations were more likely to report an increase in the number of repeat donors during the past two years (40.9%).

Tips for Prudent Financial Planning in 2010

In this still uncertain climate, the prospect of planning your 2010 budget may seem a daunting task. However, our work with religious organizations allows us to interact with congregations of all shapes and sizes from around the United States. And as the taboo subject of "money" has increasingly become a topic of major concern, many have told us that the recession has provided them with opportunities to reassess their core missions, implement necessary changes, and learn all they can about congregational finances. Below you will find a handful of the tips that have emerged out of our conversations with congregations over the past year.

- Given the economic uncertainty of 2010, **pursue a cash-and-carry philosophy** in your budgeting and spending. If you don't have the cash, you can't afford the expenditure.
- **Spend according to your priorities!** Let your core mission values shape your expenditures.
- **Keep your members informed** as to your financial status; fiscal transparency and administrative accountability are pivotal to the creation of a congregational culture of generosity.
- **Good theology is the gateway to sound economics.** Jesus put a priority on caring for the homeless, the poor, the jobless, the sick etc.
- **Be a good neighbor** to the hurting in your community.
- Don't beg for money; **celebrate what you have and are doing.**
- Dare to birth hope amidst economic sobriety by telling heart-touching stories as to **the difference you are making** with what you have.

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7th Annual Thomas H. Lake Lecture

presented by

The Lake Institute on Faith & Giving



Dr. Ingrid Mattson - Director and Professor at the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary - is the first convert to Islam and the first woman president of the international Islamic Society of North America. She'll discuss "**Zakat in America: The evolving role of Islamic charity in community cohesion,**" followed by a Q&A.

After the lecture, Dr. Mattson will be available to sign copies of her book, *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life*.

March 25, 2010

Lecture 5:00pm

Reception & book signing 6:00pm

University Place Auditorium

850 W. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46202

IUPUI Campus

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