

“If I Had 100,000 Dollars.....”

By: Amanda Olmstead

It is proven that diversification is the key to a prosperous financial future. The famous quote “You should not put all your eggs in one basket” is a universal truth that investors should adhere to. Given the opportunity to invest 100,000 dollars, I would be diverse in my expenditures, placing them in various areas or organizations I feel will multiply capital immensely.

First and foremost in my journey to financial success, I would participate in the Christian ordinance of tithing. Ten percent of my earnings would be sent to my Church, the Church of God. I honestly believe that tithing is a paramount investment. According to the Bible it states in Malachi 3:10 “Bring your tithes into the storehouse (local church), that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, Says the Lord almighty, and see if I will not open the floodgates of heaven, and pour out a blessing so large, that you will not have room to contain it.” I do believe with all my being, if I am faithful in my tithes, God will surely bless my finances and grant me favor in my future investments.

My second investment would be to set aside another ten percent for my personal education. I would proceed forward to obtain a masters degree in the profession of my choosing. I feel a higher education is essential to prospering in an increasingly demanding economy. According to the Census Bureau, over an adult’s working life, high school graduates earn an average of \$1.2 million; associates degree holders earn about \$1.6 million; and bachelor’s degree holders earn about \$2.1 million. Holders of a

master's degree earn a minimum of 2.5 million or higher. The documents of the Internal Revenue Service state that those with a master's degree earn over three times as much per year as high school graduates. Other benefits of having a college education include higher levels of savings, better quality of life, and more informed decision making. Promoting my education to practice what I desire and increasing my revenue would be an essential component to meeting my life's financial goals.

Next I would like to invest 60 percent in real-estate. Various areas of Florida property value is steadily increasing each day. This fact remains consistently evident especially in my home county West Palm Beach. In a short amount of time, the value of land has skyrocketed in areas I once knew as desolate. Real-estate is an increasingly popular option in south Florida. Like any other investments, real-estate is not guaranteed. However, if it is near a growing city, the property value usually doesn't depreciate. I would purchase four acres, budget permitting, of vacant land near Orlando Florida. This is a developing area with many tourist attractions and job opportunities. The neighboring, Cocoa Florida, has an advantage of nearby beaches. Many vacationers visit from the middle states just to get an ocean view, and let's not forget the ever famous theme parks in Orlando too. Many snowbirds travel to spend their winter in the warmer temperatures. According to the Florida Association of Realtors, by year's end, Florida came close to reaching the 250,000 mark for annual sales, with a total of 242,234 homes sold -- an 11 percent increase over the 218,739 homes sold the year before. Real-estate is a prevailing industrial department that, if managed wisely, would contribute greatly to my funds.

Also, I would like to invest 15 percent in America's technological advances; selecting a corporation on the cutting edge of technology to purchase \$15,000 worth of

stock. The Sony Cooperation has been equipping millions of people in America with a wide variety of electronics for years. Recently the company has been in the process of producing a new gaming system, the Play Station Three. According to forbes.com, almost 40 million Americans now play video games regularly, and the gaming market is projected to hit nearly 800 million in revenue within the next three years. With Sony adding the new high definition Play Station Three launching this quarter, the video game industry could finally make the transition from serious fun to serious money. I surmise that Sony would be an ideal investment for me. Currently, Sony's stock is being sold on the market for \$48.57 per share and is expected to rise after its recent developments. Technology is an ever expanding field of the future. It has been building on itself for centuries, and will continue to advance as long as the world's economy keeps pace.

My final investment would be to start an IRA account with the remaining 5 percent of the 100,000 dollars I have left. Saving for an early retirement can never start too soon. I would choose several aggressive and conservative funds to place my money, and allow it to accumulate over time. According to a recent Fidelity Poll, the survey shows that American retirement savers have a positive outlook and recognize the importance of regular contributions. Three out of four are confident that their current investments will provide solid returns for their retirement. More than 27 million Americans who contribute to an IRA account last year will contribute significantly to the upcoming tax year. After my full time working career, to relax and reap the benefits of the retirement that I have set aside for myself, would improve the quality of life in my latter years.

In conclusion, through my research I have discovered that investing money is no basic task. The ins and outs of the economic system provide numerous yet complex ways to increase people's capital. Using facts and logic, I found this process to spark my interest for the way our flourishing economy operates. America is defiantly, controlled by the "Almighty Dollar" and everyone is seeking ways to multiply it. One day I hope to have the opportunity to advance my own money. I would choose to invest in my beliefs, my knowledge, the land around me, powerful technology, and put a financial seal on them when I reach the end.