

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

BY EDDIE ASKEW

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**"But a Samaritan, as he traveled,
came where the man was; and when
he saw him, he took pity on him."**

Luke 10:33

A beautiful princess was walking through the palace garden with her sister when they saw a frog. The frog spoke. "I'm not really a frog," he said. "I've been bewitched and if you'll pick me up and kiss me I'll turn back into a handsome prince. We'll fall in love and live happily ever after." The princess picked up the frog, looked at him and then put him in her handbag. "Why don't you kiss him?" asked her sister. "Oh, said the princess. "There's a handsome prince on every street corner but with a talking frog I can make a fortune."

Love or money. Compassion or market forces? Which do we value most? A report on TV told of a couple who were running a successful business but they were giving all their profits away

to help other people. One of them said, "We believe you become a millionaire when you've given a million pounds away not when you've got a million pounds in the bank." I think that's great.

Of course most of us would like the chance of choosing what to do with our first million, but the principle's good. What do we do with what we've got, whether it's money in the bank or our talents and abilities? We can use what we have for ourselves or we can use it to give something to the community we live in. It's great to hear of people who put others first in such a positive and practical way as that business couple.

Really successful living can be counted by the folk we've helped along the way rather than by what we've squirreled away for ourselves.

**Lord, giver of life and love, may I
share as much in giving as in getting.**

Eddie Askew (1927-2007) devoted half a century to leprosy and its consequences. In 1950 he and his wife Barbara set sail for India. Eddie's first placement was in Purulia, West Bengal. In 1965 Eddie took up the post of executive secretary at TLM's office in London. Inspired by his travels and his Christian faith, Eddie found an outlet for his creativity in painting and poetry. He retired in 1987. From 1998 until his death he was TLM-vice-president, and in 2000 he was awarded an OBE.