



# Footprints of Generosity

## GENEROUS GIVING IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Many of us are going through some kind of transition in our lives that is related to the economy. Lost jobs, reduced hours of work, higher health care costs and other things that you can name are touching you, those in your family or those within your congregation. Because of these transitions, many individuals and congregations feel that hoarding and caring for themselves is a greater priority than sharing. To look for a new job, one needs money. To prepare a home for sale, one needs money. With life in transition, it is a struggle to prioritize giving back to God and sharing with others.

Churches are struggling because giving is less than it has been in the past. People within congregations are experiencing difficulties and need assistance. Missionaries serving here in the United States and around the world are finding it more difficult to do the work to which they have been called because they spend time fundraising. Giving to support ABC Regional Ministries has been steadily dropping. Yet God continues to give to us in abundance. It seems that we always have what we need and some to share. Maybe it is time that we realize the privilege we have to be able to give back to God in thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do for each of us.

Is your congregation encountering what some may call a financial crisis? Are there less funds available than in the past to meet all the obligations? Is giving to mission beyond the church harder to justify? Is the current economic situation making a difference in the ability of people in your congregation to give and give generously?

The answers to these questions are very revealing in the current situation in which we find ourselves. Brian Kluth, a pastor, author and stewardship consultant, has given 5 reasons why it is life changing and life giving to be a generous giver. Kluth is one who practices what he teaches and preaches in his own life. Find additional information at [www.kluth.org](http://www.kluth.org)

## Five Life-Changing Reasons to Become a Generous Giver to God's Work

**1) Giving to God allows you to see God as your Provider**  
1 Chronicles 29.16 O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

Psalms 24.1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

**2) Giving to God allows you to overcome financial fears and worries**

1 Kings 17:13-16 Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.

Genesis 28.20-22 Then Jacob made a vow, saying..."of all that you give me I will surely give one-tenth to you."

**3) Giving to God allows you to bring God's order to your finances**

Deuteronomy 4:23 The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

Proverbs 3.9 Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.

**4) Giving to God allows you to fight the dragon of materialism**

Luke 12.15 "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

1 Timothy 6.10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

**5) Giving to God allows you to experience more joy**

1 Corinthians 16.2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn.

2 Corinthians 8.2 During a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity.

*Nurturing generous disciples  
to serve as the  
hands and feet of Christ*

© Mission Resource Development ABCUSA  
This resource is provided to you as a ministry of the  
Office of the General Secretary because American Baptists  
are *united in mission* through United Mission.  
THANK YOU for your gifts to United Mission!  
[www.generousdisciples.org](http://www.generousdisciples.org)

