

Thankful Hearts & Generous Giving--Vol. 8, No. 47

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Next Thursday many in America will sit down to a table spread with a plentitude of food in celebration of the Thanksgiving holiday. Reputedly this tradition dates back to the Pilgrims and Native Americans who shared a feast together in gratitude to God for his bounty. Such harvest festivals possess ancient roots, dating to time immemorial. Israel in Old Testament times was instructed to observe many such feasts of thanksgiving. But Thanksgiving is about far more than consuming copious amounts of food. It's a recognition that every good and perfect gift comes from the Father above. It's about having an attitude of gratitude in all things, openly praising God for his beneficence, and sharing his bounty with others, especially those in need. It also sets the stage for Christmas.

I praise God for congregations in the Churches of God, General Conference (CGGC) who generously share their blessings with others this time of year. Some host or help with a community dinner for seniors, the homeless, or needy. Others begin to gather food, toys, or clothing for distribution nearer Christmas. Still others put together "care packages" to be sent to service personnel, missionaries, and more. These are great options and I hope many will emulate these ministries. I also praise God that the congregations doing these sorts of things do them year round and not just during the holiday season. After all, thankfulness and giving come from the Spirit and represent a way of life, not a time of year.



Columbia City youth serve at a homeless shelter soup kitchen

In recent years many of our churches have become involved in Operation Christmas Child sponsored by the [Samaritan's Purse organization](#). For those unfamiliar with this ministry, people fill shoeboxes with things that would delight a child (toys, crayons, school supplies, hard candy, etc.). The local church collects them and sends them to Samaritan's Purse which then distributes them all over the world. For many children these are the only gift boxes they ever receive. Having worked at the shipping center in Boone, NC the past several years, I highly recommend this ministry. It's a great way to express a thankful heart and bless a child somewhere in the world at the same time. Just for the record as far as we've been able to track CGGC congregations sent 5993 boxes last year and 4736 in 2012. We'll start posting 2014 numbers in the eNews soon and maybe we'll go beyond the 6000 mark this year. PTL!



This year's Shoebox collection at Buchanan Church of God

Another way churches and individuals can express thanks and bless others is by giving financially at this time of year to CGGC ministries. Some extended families have gone together and done this in past years rather than doing a gift exchange among themselves. It's like making a joint gift to Jesus to spread his kingdom blessings to others. If every CGGC congregation and every CGGC church family

did this, there'd be no lack of ministry support. I've listed below some of the ministries in need of additional designated funds for the 2014 budget. Why not consider one of them as needful of your support? You can give by sending a check to CGGC, Box 926, Findlay, OH 45839 with the appropriate designation number, or go to the [CGGC website](#) under the GIVE tab to learn more and respond directly as desired to any ministry.



I pray as we celebrate Thanksgiving and move through Advent that we may find multiple ways to bless our communities and demonstrate the great love of Christ. If anyone lacks for ideas, give me a call and I'll offer some suggestions. God gave us his ultimate gift in Christ, who is our reason and measure for thankful hearts and generous giving. Have a happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Advent.

Together ONe Mission,
Ed
Soli Deo Gloria!

PS-Below are some CGGC ministries that need additional support as of October 31, 2014. Please pray and consider helping to close the gap in these areas. Every gift, no matter how small or large, will be greatly appreciated and will go directly to the ministry designated by number.

	<u>2014 Goal</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Needed</u>
CC2702 Bangladesh education & schools	\$ 30,000	\$ 18,453	\$ 11,547
CC2709 Bangladesh churches & evangelism	30,000	17,324	12,676
CC2718 Haiti Project Help partnering fund	40,000	18,181	21,819
CC2720 India churches & evangelism	30,000	18,729	11,271
CC2723 India Mission compound maintenance	9,000	5,555	3,445
CC2725 CCM contingent fund	20,000	6,514	13,486
CC2756 Doug & Anna-Karin Molgaard (Sweden)	87,986	59,654	28,332
CC2758 Everett & Mary Teller (Tsaile, AZ - Navajoland)	57,182	30,419	26,763
CC2764 Caleb & Christina Acosta (Latino - USA & Latin America)	73,540	70,969	2,571
CC2765 Andy & Theresa Snyder (Haiti)	59,993	31,053	28,940
CC2802 Latino outreach	15,000	9,930	5,070
CC2803 Haiti church ministries	45,000	30,949	14,051
CC2814 Missionary recruitment & training	5,000	700	4,300
CM1500 University of Findlay Christian ministries directors' support	37,515	28,212	9,303
CP1309 Church Planters' salary support	25,000	6,187	18,813
DC2201 The Church Advocate	1,000	0	1,000
SA1401 Student scholarships at Winebrenner Seminary	20,000	100	
TM1708 ACTS Teams (Mission opportunities for youth in mission)	30,000	21,699	8,301
UF2501 University of Findlay fund	20,000	625	19,375
WS2601 Winebrenner Seminary fund	40,000	35,299	4,701

Train Your Church Leaders

In the fall of 1988, my last semester of college, I filled in as the youth pastor at a local church. I was given a key to the church and wished the very best of luck. Truthfully it was a fairly frustrating few months.

I didn't know how to engage volunteers. I didn't know how to turn the youth into an effective team. I didn't know how to develop young leaders. I was young and available. Luck wasn't enough. I needed training. I wasn't the only one.

I have built a solution for developing leaders in your church. You may want to start with yourself. You may want to train your staff or key volunteers. There are three steps to this solution.

Step # 1: Take our "Foundations in Christian Coaching" class. During January and February of 2015, we are offering it at three different locations (Mattoon, IL, Findlay, OH, and Pittsburgh, PA), AND we are offering this class for the first time online.

Step # 2: Take "A Coach Approach to Christian Leadership" class. This class will be taught in Findlay, OH on March 23-24 (Mon-Tue) by Bill Copper, a seasoned ministry coach and teacher.

Step # 3: Take our Mentor Coaching class and hone your coaching skills to a level of confidence.



**Brian
Miller**

These three steps will also make you eligible for the Certificate in Christian Leader Coaching from Coach Approach Ministries.

It is very frustrating to be want to lead for your church and not know how to do it. These three classes will give your leaders confidence and tools to lead your church into the vision God has for it.

Can you imagine how much less frustrated and more effective your church leader could be by May of 2015?

To sign up for any or all of these classes, click here: <http://www.coachingclarity.org/become-a-coach/>

Because you are with the Churches of God General Conference, use the Promo Code "CGGC" for a 30% discount on any or all classes.

Listen to my interview with author Reggie McNeal, as he speaks about the importance of building a coaching culture in your church: <http://www.coachingclarity.org/?p=917>

Thanks!
Brian Miller

Search for New CGGC Executive Director in Progress



The Churches of God, General Conference, based in Findlay, Ohio, is now receiving applications for the position of Executive Director of the denomination. Bill Reist, CGGC president, is serving as the chairperson of the transition team along with eight others from across the Church.

An application, position description and desired attributes of the Executive Director are available on the Churches of God website or by contacting wreist@collegefirst.org or revrockey@gmail.com. Applications received by December 15, 2014 will be given priority, with a decision to be made, Lord willing, by March 31, 2015.

For more information regarding values, beliefs and history of the CGGC you may visit <http://www.cggc.org/about/> online. Please direct all inquiries pertaining to the Executive Director position to the e-mail addresses above and not to the CGGC offices.