

NC COGOP Stewardship Newsletter

December 2018
Stewardship Newsletter

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Stewardship Ministries



Director's Comments

The Joy of Giving

become rich.¹⁰ And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago;¹¹ but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have.¹² For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.¹³ For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened;¹⁴ but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 9-14 (NKJV).

The identifying traits characteristic of these 1st Century givers (I count no fewer than ten qualities) are noteworthy: i) their giving was not circumstantial to their own political, social, or economic difficulties (v2a); ii) it was joyful (v2b); iii) it was generous (v2c); iv) it was sacrificial (v3); v) it was willingly done as something that they wanted to do rather than something they had to do (v4a); vi) they were thoughtful, determined, and insistent in helping others (v4b); vii) they were submissive and obedient to God's will and to His leaders (v5); viii) their gifts were inspired by Christ's personal example for all of us (v.9); ix) they possessed an eagerness to fulfill their desire to be a blessing to others expecting nothing in return (v. 10-11); and x) they were willing to do with a little less of what they had; so, that others could have a little more (v. 12-14).

Like the Macedonians, we too can possess an abundance of joy in our giving! Let's evaluate ourselves by asking, "How many of these ten traits exhibited by them in giving do we now have; or are we ready to attain?"

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Greetings everyone!

As we enter the Christmas season, we are all caught up, to some degree, with the giving and receiving of gifts.

Many are mistakenly motivated to give (cards, gifts, holiday treats, seasonal foods, special celebrations, etc.) out of a sense of obligation, expectation, or even materialism. Truly, if these are our reasons for giving, then there is no genuine joy to be experienced by givers.

How then does one find the joy of giving?

In his second letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul may have revealed the answer to this question. Herein, he compliments the Macedonians for their willing and sacrificial gifts to help others. Indeed, out of their great affliction and deep poverty emerges, through giving, the abundance of their joy! We read:

Excel in Giving

8 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: ² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. ³ For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, ⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵ And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God... ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might

Disclaimer

- ◆ The Church of God of Prophecy - North Carolina, Inc. is not engaged in rendering financial advice, legal advice, or other financial planning services. This information herein provided is offered as a help to the local church and the pastor/minister and reflects our current understanding of the IRS rulings. If financial, legal, or tax advice is desired or required, then the services of a competent professional should be sought.

180° Turn Around Drive: State Convention Expense Offering

Together, we can do a 180° Turn Around and pay for our state convention expenses up front!

Will you be one of the 180 donors who give \$180 within 180 days?

Will you challenge others to join us?

Sign - up to give and monitor our progress at www.nccogop.org!

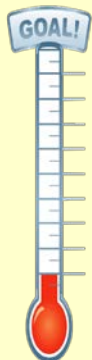


STATE CONVENTION EXPENSE OFFERING

180° TURN AROUND DRIVE

Help us do a 180° turn around for our convention expenses!

\$32k+
by June 30, 2019



180+ DONORS | \$180+ PER DONOR | 180 DAYS

If 180 donors (individuals, families, groups, churches, businesses, etc.) give/raise \$180 each (\$30/month average) during 180 days (January - June), we will be able to raise over \$32,000 toward State Convention Expenses.

Give online at www.nccogop.org or mail your donation to
NCCOGOP, PO Box 699, Jamestown, NC 27282

Be sure to write *STATE CONVENTION EXPENSE OFFERING* on your gift



180° Turn Around Drive Update and Rationale

We are very pleased to report that to date we have received a combined total of \$8,100 (25%) in pledges towards our goal of \$32,400 (100%). Most of the donors are listed on our website (however, some are giving anonymously).

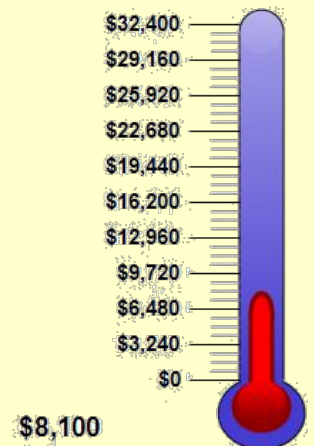
Thank you all so very much for a great start in raising the funds needed to cover the expenses for our upcoming state convention! As you are faithful to honor your pledge; please encourage others to join us in this worthwhile endeavor.

Some have asked, "Why are we doing such a capital campaign?" The simple answer is "Stewardship"!

For example, during the year, many families put aside money monthly (instead of going into debt annually) in anticipation of the additional expenses associated with the Christmas season (gifts to buy, decorations to replace, special foods to prepare, travel abroad to visit families, etc.). This wise practice relieves the stress from the holiday and enhances its overall enjoyment.

Similarly, the NC COGOP Board of Directors and State Finance Committee believe that it is the best practice to put aside additional funds in advance of these convention costs; rather than going into debt for them every year.

GOAL VS. PLEDGES



North Carolina Hurricane Recovery

The People Had A Mind To Work:

Nehemiah 2:18b, 4:6 (KJV)

2:18b ... And they said, Let us rise up and build. So, they strengthened their hands for this good work.

4:6 So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

In the months of September and October, North Carolina was devastated by *Hurricanes Florence* and *Michael*. The statewide cost estimates continue to climb, and the recovery efforts are ongoing. Though both storms had a sweeping affect, Florence did most of its damage to coastal cities, and Michael's damages were inland. Combined, these storms caused minor damages to church properties in Ramseur, Bogue, Dunn, Eden, and at the State Parsonage. However, New Bern, Maribel, Wilmington (16th Street), Wilmington (College Rd.) Church Parsonage, Washington Church, and Laurel Hill all sustained major damages. ***But the people have a mind to work.*** And so they did; stripping walls covered in black mold, strengthening foundations, pulling out rain soaked wiring, just to mention a few things. To cut costs, pastors and congregations, as well as volunteers from churches and organizations in and out of the state, helped the churches do most of the work. We are grateful for organizations like *Men and Women of Action* from the *Church of God*, and *New Life Christian Academy, Rocky Mount NC.*, for their contributions. It seems that no matter the challenge or extent of damages, the verses above clearly reflect the tenacious spirit of these congregations. Pastor Harrell Brock of the New Bern Church said it this way, "we are going to be better; our latter shall be greater than our past". (continued on next page)



Bishop Coalter, Bishop Davis, and other bishops & pastors touring the damaged churches and seeing the ongoing repairs.

North Carolina Hurricane Recovery (continued)

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On December 4th and 5th, North America Presbyter, Bishop Tim Coalter and I along with NC Region #4 Presbyter, Bishop Eugene Hartley (our tour guide and hurricane work crew coordinator), and NCCOGOP Board Member, Bishop Steve Crews, toured the five hardest hit churches and properties. The comprehensive goal of our tour was to visit with the pastor, key leaders and workers, and to listen; to gain perspective, see the churches, their progress and their needs; to pray, cry, laugh and be with them; to have a fellowship meal together; to encourage and celebrate them; and to remind them that they are not alone. Our first stop was the Washington church, pastored by Albert Cliff. Stop #2 was the Maribel church; we met and prayed with charter member Lillie Mae Pegram. Stop #3 was New Bern pastored by Harrell Brock and his wife. When the evening came, we traveled south to Jacksonville, North Carolina to shorten our morning commute. We spent the night in a hotel there, arose early on December 5th and continued the trip into Wilmington for stop #4, the Wilmington (16th St. Church), pastored by James Carter, and stop #5, the Wilmington (College Rd.) parsonage, to meet Pastor - Bishop Lawrence Brewer.

In all we traveled above 680 miles, and it was worth it!! Each pastor seemed to be filled with hope and optimism; as did their leaders and workers. It was a very encouraging trip that will speak volumes to the ministry here in North Carolina. Most uplifting was to hear pastors express that they will finish the work, and continue their ministry; and to hear each of the pastors express their profound and heartfelt appreciation for our visit and the attentiveness of the State Office and the North America Presbyter. Wow, it was great!! And it's all because, the people have a mind to work.

In closing, the North Carolina Church family and I are grateful to God for His watch and care over us, moreover, we are thankful for a loving and giving *Church of God of Prophecy* family who has and is responding to us with extreme generosity in our time of need. Your donation combined total to date is \$41,751.00.

To God be the glory!

Bishop Davis

*"Your donation
combined total
to date is
\$41,751.00"*

Bishop Jeffery A. Davis
State Presbyter
NC COGOP



Pictured seated from left to right: Bishop Tim Coalter, Bishop Eugene Hartley, Bishop Jeff Davis, Bishop Steve Crews, and Bishop Lawrence Brewer