

“Giving that Knows No Ending”

*God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store--
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door--
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred,
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.*

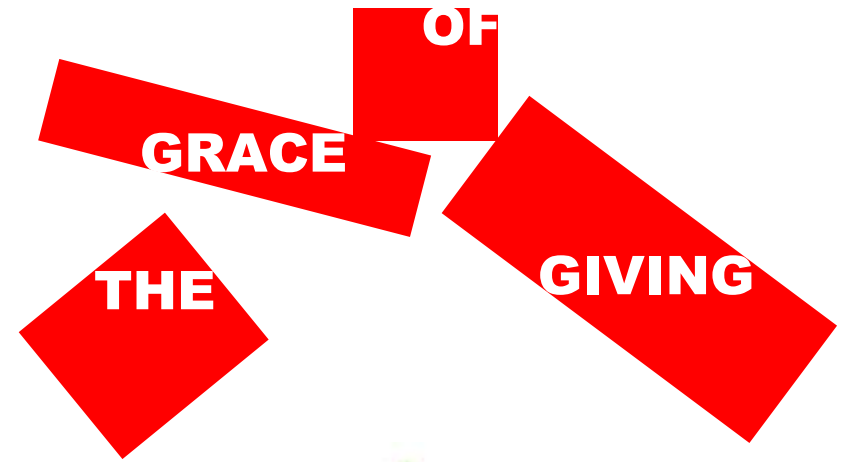
Robert L. Edwards, 1961



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November 2009



The American Church in Paris
Stewardship Campaign 2009-2010

The Grace of Giving

“But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this *grace of giving*.” 2 Corinthians 8:7

We invite you to reflect on what Paul means by the “grace of giving.” The giving of financial resources is much more than simply giving money to the church to be used for Christ’s ministry. Financial stewardship is a spiritual discipline that can lead us into a deeper experience and trust of God’s faithful provision for each day. As we continue to depend on God’s daily grace to meet our needs, our faith grows. Each year as we seek to grow in generosity, we discover deeper levels of joy and spiritual richness that come with sharing our resources. We learn that there is a direct connection between stewardship and spiritual growth.

The great Swiss theologian Karl Barth asserted that an important component of the gospel is the “scandal of particularity.” This means that God takes into consideration the very unique context and needs of our lives. We are called to give only as we have received. Every individual must reflect on how God has given to them, and then ask the question of God, “What would you have me give to you?” To the rich young ruler Jesus said, “Everything.” The impoverished widow freely gave “all she had.” The repentant Zacchaeus gave half of all he had. We are called to give sacrificially and in proportion to what we receive.

The tithe (10%; see Malachi 3:8-12) is one important Biblical standard for giving. But each must consider, with the Lord’s guidance, how much that portion should be. If you are already giving, we invite you to consider increasing the percentage of your income that you gave last year as a way to deepen your reliance upon God’s grace. And we also urge you to participate actively in the many programs of the church by sharing your time and talents. As you grow in the grace of giving, may God bless you richly!

The Stewardship Committee
American Church in Paris

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Why is it important to make a pledge or to promise to give a certain amount of my income to the American Church in Paris?

The ACP relies on your pledges to fund its programs. In order to practice scriptural stewardship, programs are planned annually. The ACP’s annual budget is drawn up during the month of December. To enable the leaders – Pastors and Church Council members – to prepare a sound budget, they must know the revenue they can count on. Because of this, we invite you to make a pledge, or a promise, during November 2009 for the 2010 budget.

Can I get a tax deduction on my contribution to the ACP?

Yes. If you make your gift by using your pledge envelope, personal check or electronic funds transfer we will send you a certificate for a tax deduction. If you make your gift in Euros to the American Church in Paris (ACP), 66% of your gift can be deducted from your French income tax (*see website: www.impots.gouv.fr and click on particuliers > réductions*). If you wish your gift to be tax deductible in the United States, you must make your check payable to our parent organization “The American and Foreign Christian Union” (AFCU) and put the words “for ACP” on the memo line of your check.

What is the role of the American and Foreign Christian Union (AFCU)?

The AFCU pays the senior pastor’s salary. All other church expenses are financed by the ACP’s operating budget, of which your tithes and offerings are a major component.

Please find below a worksheet which could help you decide your pledge amount:

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Weekly Giving						
		15%	12%	10%	8%	5%	3%	1%
5,200	100	15.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	3.00	1.00
10,400	200	30.00	24.00	20.00	16.00	10.00	6.00	2.00
15,600	300	45.00	36.00	30.00	24.00	15.00	9.00	3.00
20,800	400	60.00	48.00	40.00	32.00	20.00	12.00	4.00
26,000	500	75.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	25.00	15.00	5.00
41,600	800	120.00	96.00	80.00	64.00	40.00	24.00	8.00
52,000	1,000	150.00	120.00	100.00	80.00	50.00	30.00	10.00
78,000	1,500	225.00	180.00	150.00	120.00	75.00	45.00	15.00
104,000	2,000	300.00	240.00	200.00	160.00	100.00	60.00	20.00

A portion of your stewardship supports ministries such as these:

Sunday Atelier Concert Series

The Sunday Atelier Concert Series has been a mission of our church for nearly 80 years! A wonderful cultural gift to the wider Paris community, some 35 free classical concerts are presented each year by artists of the highest caliber.

“Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!” Psalms 150:3-5

Contact: Fred Gramann music@acparis.org

Friday Mission Lunch

Friday Mission Lunch offers a nutritious hot lunch to the homeless and those in need every Friday at the American Cathedral. Volunteers participate weekly to cook, serve and clean-up.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18

Contact: Kristie Worrel kristieworrel@hotmail.com

Children’s Worship

A focus on worship for children during the traditional “Sunday School” time. Our hope is that as children get to know and love Jesus in the space and time that is dedicated to them on Sunday, that we grow together and discover ways to encourage families in their worship throughout the entire week.

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” Matthew 19:14

Contact: Ania Bannister and Anne Speicher childrensworship@acparis.org

Adult Discipleship

Small groups that emphasize community and friendship as the ideal context for seeking Christ together – in Bible study, prayer and daily living. The recent enthusiasm for “Thurber Thursday” testifies to a widespread desire for even more opportunities in this area.

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

Contact: Peter Bannister peter.bannister@free.fr

A portion of your stewardship supports ministries such as these:

King’s Garden

The King’s Garden children’s home provides a Christian home in the Philippines for poor, orphaned and neglected children. Through biblical principles and moral values taught from the word of God, the home attempts to break that cycle of poverty by providing a vocational education and livelihood skills.

“And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” Matthew 10:42

Contact: Tess Roque tessmroque@hotmail.com

Living Truth Foundation

Based in Ghana, Africa, and directed by a former ACP member Francis Cobbinah, this is a ministry that does outreach in hospitals, prisons and in local schools.

“I needed clothes and you clothed me... I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Matthew 25:36

Contact: Carolyn Bouazouni cbouazouni@free.fr

Youth and Young Adult Program

The ACP has warm and welcoming ministries with youth (ages 11-18) and young adults (ages 18-30), which include weekly Bible study, prayer and fellowship, as well as retreats, outings, and service programs.

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young will see visions, your old will dream dreams.” Acts 2:17

Contact: Ginger Strickland youthpastor@acparis.com

Lay Care Givers

A trained team of church members who make visits to the hospital, call or send cards to those who are grieving or going through a difficult periods and rejoice with those who have experienced joyful events.

“I was a stranger and you invited me in...I was sick and you looked after me.” Matthew 25:34 & 36

Contact: Kerry Lieury jk.lieury@wanadoo.fr



The Grace of Giving



Just some of the fellowships and missions that benefit from your financial stewardship, time and talent!

