



buzz

Revealed In Prayer

In previous columns, I've described how a life of generosity is grounded in gratitude. It is also revealed in prayer.

Many of us make decisions every day about how we will use the financial resources God has entrusted to us. Sometimes that takes little effort on our part – if gas is \$3.09 at Speedway, we pay \$3.09. We might make the conscious choice to drive as little as possible, and we might even search out the lowest price in town for gas, but most of us take expenditures like this for granted.

When it comes to a bigger ticket item, however, we are likely to give it more thought. We make an offer on a house and the seller counter-offers, so we counter-offer their counter-offer. We shop around for the best interest rate, and we consider the closing costs and future maintenance. It is, after all, the biggest purchase that most of us will make.

But what about our generosity? Do we give the decision about how much of God's money to return to God as much consideration as we should? Do we simply pick a percent of our income, the tithe or otherwise, and not give it any more thought? Do we consider our changing circumstances, perhaps increasing our giving as we receive a raise or pay off our mortgage? Or do we give the \$100 per week that we've given for the 10th year in a row?

Over the years, I've had many conversations with people about their money. One of the most memorable came when I asked a woman how she and her husband decide how much to give. "My husband plans our yearly giving based on our income," she said. "It is divided between local church, mission, colleges, and other areas of interest. When I asked him how much time he puts into this process, he replied, '30 minutes.' Then I asked if he prays about it, and he replied, 'Constantly.'"

Remembering that conversation has made a difference in how I think about generosity. Similarly, I've been challenged by the words of another friend. "Perhaps," he said, "the question shouldn't be, 'How much should I give to God?' Maybe it should be, 'How much should I keep for myself?'"

Decisions about giving are not the most important decisions we will make, but they are too important to be done haphazardly. In the weeks to come, you will be invited to consider how much your household might give in an above-budget contribution to our Welcoming Spaces 3.0 project. As you consider your response, I invite you to think on these questions:

- How have you experienced God's grace in your life and in the ministry of Waterford Mennonite Church?
- What does your generosity say about your thankfulness to God?
- What might God be calling you to in your generosity journey?

–Lyle Miller,
Welcoming Spaces 3.0 coordinator

Note About "God Loves Maria" Article

Don Miller had an article in the September 23 Buzz entitled, "God Loves Maria." Please be aware that Maria is not the person's real name. It was used to protect her privacy.



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My Coins Count

We want to thank all the children and adults at **Waterford Mennonite** for your generosity and enthusiasm in supporting My Coins Count this year at the Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale (MMRS) with your contribution of **\$2,254.69**. Together, with matches from local businesses, MyCC raised over **\$130,000**, helping families gain access to life-giving water.

When water is available, children are better fed and are healthier. Families can garden and generate income to pay education and/or medical expenses. Communities have less conflict over scarce resources. One mother gratefully shared that having enough food and water prevents her children from becoming thieves in order to survive.

The **Michiana Sale** total this year was over **\$477,000**. Thank you for your work and support of the sale, and for sharing your resources in the name of Christ, so other families can have their basic necessities met through Mennonite Central Committee and our partners around the world.

—John Martens,
MyCC Coordinator, MMRS

MYF Fundraiser and Service Project October 17 – We Need Your Help!

The MYF have entered the Elkhart County Leaf Collection Competition. Here's how you can help:

- If you live in UNINCORPORATED ELKHART COUNTY sign up at the participation station to let us collect your leaves on Wednesday, October 17, and again on Wednesday, November 14
- Donate your pick-up truck and driver
- Donate a leaf blower for us to use
- Bring your raking arms and help us rake!

If we collect four truckloads (1 ton) of leaves, the MYF will be given \$500. Contact katie@waterfordchurch.org for more information!