



## A Heart of Generosity

God is generous and He desires that His people would be generous. We read over and over throughout scripture of God's generosity directed toward mankind. In Psalm 104 we read of God abundantly providing everything necessary for life. "... the land is satisfied by the fruit of His work." When God opens His hand toward His creation, its inhabitants "are satisfied with good things." Psalm 34:5-8 again speaks of God's generous love and goodness toward all. We also read in 1 Timothy 6:17 that God has richly provided us with everything for our enjoyment. Romans 8 tells us that God will graciously give us all things with Christ.

God is a God of love, and His love is generously directed toward mankind. Out of the abundance of mercy and grace that we have received from God, knowing that He has richly provided us with everything that is necessary for life and godliness, God would have His people reflect His heart of generosity in all situations in life. When we consider generosity, we usually think in terms of finances. God desires that we would be generous in our finances. He desires that we would use our money and any other material possessions we have been given to the benefit of others. There are many people who God has blessed financially, and they have been faithful to use their finances for the glory of God.

But today, it is necessary for the Church to understand that generosity is not limited to our finances. First, we have to understand that generosity is a disposition of the heart. Romans 5:5 tells us that, "... God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit..." Generosity begins as our empty heart is filled by the sacrificial love of God. That we wouldn't just have a glimpse of God's love at work within us. But Ephesians 3 tells us that we can know the infinite love of Christ at work within us, and that we can be "... filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Generosity has its foundation in a heart that is filled with the sacrificial love of God. The love of God within us cultivates a heart of generosity. God desires to change our hearts that we may reflect His character. He wants to create within us a heart of generosity that is fueled by His love, and that this love would become the very foundation of our action. As the Spirit of God accomplishes this work within us, we begin to live a life of generosity that goes far beyond our finances. We begin to be generous in mercy toward others. We recognize that I have been forgiven a debt that we could never have paid. When we recognize the mercy we have received, we desire to extend that same mercy to others. We also begin to have a generous estimation of others. My desire should be to see the best in others and to align myself with God's interests in the good of others. Oswald Chambers said, "... to be a disciple means that we deliberately identify ourselves with God's interests in other people." When I look at others, I would look for God's intentions in them rather than my own. My disposition should be toward the good—not immediately assuming the worst about people or their intentions. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us that sacrificial love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. Generous sacrificial love does not give up on people easily and always hopes for the best in others. God's love in our hearts also leads us to generosity in our service of others. My time, talents, and my abilities, are no longer my own. I consider it a worthy investment to offer my time and talent to others for their benefit. I am willing to give of what God has given me.

God has called us to be generous. He asks you and I to be generous in our finances. But more importantly, He wants to create in us a heart of generosity that extends itself toward others in many ways. God has blessed Rise Up Ministries already by the generosity of so many. So many have given their time and talents to serve the people of the DR. Many have given their time, talent, and wisdom to help in the formative process of Rise Up Ministries. Many have given financially to the benefit of people in the Dominican Republic that they may never meet. All of these different manifestations of generosity have worked together in God's perfect timing to accomplish His work. We thank you all for being open to God leading you toward an ever increasing understanding of His love that will motivate your generosity in every situation you encounter, so that God may be glorified in His Church.

-Pastor Josh Wilson

"...and let us run with endurance.." Sometimes that sounds like a task that is not only overwhelming, but often seemingly impossible. The world around us crumbles in chaos and we find ourselves left in the dust asking, "what just happened?" None the less, we allow ourselves to be picked up by than majestic hands of the Almighty and we continue our race, with all endurance, perseverance and unrelenting faith. Why? Because we are called to a life of active obedience-- not just while things are going well, but even in the midst of the unknown. We preserver in an act of obedience-- because we have a hope and the kingdom work is not yet done! So let us continue to RUN!

#### MISSION TRIP NEEDS:

- ◆ Medical Providers
- ◆ Sponsors for Creole Bibles
- ◆ VBS supplies

## Step Out in Love

Our God is a devoted God, He wants to be in our everyday lives. Being His children is a blessing, and a blessing we need to share. You don't need to leave your country to share the good news. God has placed each and every one of us where we need to be, whether it's in a certain neighborhood, workplace, or even church. God has called us, as His servants, to be the light in those places.

In the book of Matthew 5:15-16, it says, "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven," God wants us to be the bright light. In a way God wants to flaunt His love for us and He wants us to do that by

loving the people around us.

The world that we were born into calls us to be selfish, but the people God calls us to be is selfless. 1 Corinthians 10:24 states, "No one should seek their own good, but the good of others," this is easy to read and sometimes difficult to act out. We are called to love the unlovable, which is completely against the normal in today's society. We need to stand up, as the church, and step out in God's love— one person at a time, wherever God places us.

-Anika Vogle



SAVE THE DATE!

***2021 Dominican Trip***  
***February 20-27***

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING WITH YOU NEXT  
YEAR!



## BUILDING PROJECT COSTS



### *Las Chinas Church of God*

After purchasing land in 2018 the land was cleared and construction began in August of 2019.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE:

Costs include record keeping, consulting and basic essentials.  
**\$600.00**



#### INSURANCE, TAXES, LEGAL FEES:

Cost includes purchase of property, property tax, legal fees including transportation for attorney.  
**\$7,200.00**

#### BUILDING SUPPLIES & LABOR

Cost includes all building materials, equipment rental & labor  
**\$18,000.00**



#### TOTAL PROJECTED COST:

**\$25,800.00**

#### Future Goals:

- Providing a house for Pastor Asnel to live.
- Provide regular and frequent discipleship with a qualified pastor for Pastor Asnel.
- Work alongside the pastor to provide community outreach and evangelism.

*“...we have to understand that generosity is a disposition of the heart”*

## Post Trip Update

Hi Folks,

The end of February Jess and Josh led a group of 41 people to the Dominican Republic. It was a great time of serving the Lord, having great fellowship and comradery. I don't think there is anything better on this side of eternity than to serve the Lord together, as the Body of Christ, in these types of settings.

I know every time I go to the DR, it forces me to take stock of life and have a better understanding of life here on earth verses life eternal when we get to the end of the race we're running and to spend the rest of eternity with our precious Lord and Savior.

As I write this note we are right in the throes of the coronavirus, certainly an upheaval for life here in the US. There are probably many, if not most, in the villages in the sugar cane fields that have no idea what is going on with this pandemic. I'm sure their life has not changed, the men go out every day and work those fields for just a few dollars a day. They come home in the evening, to what we would call a shack, and try to scrounge around for something to eat and do it all over again day after day. I still have a very difficult time comprehending this way of life. It makes my heart hurt for these people and there is no end in sight for their way of life.

Just to let you know the church building that is being built by Pastor Asnel is going well. Still a ways to go, but we are pleased with the progress and hopefully it will be completed in the next several months. We did have a dedication service there on the dirt floor standing in a building that just had one working light in the middle of the platform. It was awesome. We are looking for great things to happen in that community. We met with Pastor Asnel several times throughout the week and we were encouraged by him and we did our best to be an encourager to him.

We think we have enough money raised to finish the church building and we will continue to pray that God will provide the funding to build the Pastor a small house beside the church, along with someday drilling a well and putting in restrooms.

Thank you to all of you that support us through your prayers and financial support. It is more than obvious that we could not be doing any of this without you. You are the big reason we are able to fulfill what we believe God has called us to do.

May God bless you and yours.

Pastor Bruce Wilson





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PLEASE  
 PLACE  
 STAMP  
 HERE

