

CHRIST THE KING

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SPRING 2011
STEWARDSHIP
CAMPAIGN

What prompts generosity? Affection for a cause? A substantial unmet need? Warm feelings?

The Bible lays out a spectrum of occasions for generosity from building the temple to meeting the needs of the poor to setting aside the first and best yield of the harvest as an offering to God.

But although there are a variety of occasions for giving, the one thing that prompts generosity is the *grace of God*. It's this grace—this gift of God that wasn't deserved and couldn't be earned—that undergirds and motivates God's people to lay out not only their finances, but their whole lives before him.

It's this grace that Paul references when he exclaims, "Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"¹ And it's this grace that compelled the Macedonian believers ("they gave themselves first to the Lord...")² so that Paul could use their example to challenge the Corinthians:

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.³

As a church, we have experienced his grace beyond measure. And so our hearts swell with compassion for our city and our neighbors. Our vision is to demonstrate this compassion by sharing the gospel of grace through Christ as new churches take root and flourish throughout the city.

We pray that you would join us in this particular occasion for generosity, first by reflecting on the grace of God and giving yourself to the Lord, and then by committing cheerfully, prayerfully, and sacrificially to give financially toward the vision.

¹ 2 Corinthians 9:15 ESV

² 2 Corinthians 8:5 ESV

³ 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 ESV

Your Financial Commitment

As the Lord enables, I/we will pray and give toward the stewardship campaign to continue our vision for planting churches in Boston.

Total commitment: \$ _____

Giving schedule: \$ _____ per month \$ _____ per quarter one time other: _____

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

To help with planning, we're asking you to complete this form as a record of your commitment. Giving to the campaign is in addition to your regular offering, which is necessary to support the ongoing ministry of the church. All information provided will be treated confidentially.

Please drop this in the offering plate or mail to the church office: Christ the King, 130 Prospect St., Suite 201, Cambridge, MA 02139

It all began in a living room in

Brookline. Christ the King itself started as a small church plant. But within its first year, CTK joined forces with a Brazilian congregation, purchased our building in Cambridge and began worshipping and growing together as one multicultural church.

That fledgling church had a big vision: “to ignite and fuel a church planting movement in greater Boston...” So, within a decade, CTK was invested in helping start several new churches including three Brazilian congregations and Citylife downtown.

Several years ago, after that first decade as a church, we set out to clarify our mission, vision and values. We have always loved the city and sought its welfare. We’ve taken our cue from Jeremiah 29:7:

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

We sought to answer the question, “What kind of church is God calling us to be that loves and seeks the welfare of the city?”

As we thought about our future, the Lord took us back to our past. We remembered the unique role that God gave us to play in the city, one that had been in our DNA from the very beginning.

God was calling us to continue to be invested in *planting new churches*—a proliferation of worshipping, missional, neighborhood-oriented kingdom communities all around the city.

But why plant new churches? Don’t we still have a long way to go in seeing the “kingdom come” here in Cambridge? We do, and we continue to pray and work toward that end.



But we also see church planting as our best effort to reach our city. Quoting Tim Keller:

*The vigorous, continual planting of new congregations is the single most crucial strategy for (1) the numerical growth of the body of Christ in a city and (2) the continual corporate renewal and revival of the existing churches in a city. Nothing else—not crusades, outreach programs, parachurch ministries, growing megachurches, congregational consulting, nor church renewal processes—will have the consistent impact of dynamic, extensive church planting.**

We’re now at a significant juncture in our life as a church. CTK has invested serious resources in church planting: about a year and a half ago we established our CTK Church Planting Center to help define the shape of our church planting efforts, research new sites, recruit church planters and cultivate our church planting community.

Our Dorchester congregation has been up and running for some time, and our congregation in Newton was launched last year. Underway are congregations for the South Shore, Roslindale and Egleston Square in Jamaica Plain.

Our desire is to excel still more. So, we’ve decided to kick off a year-long stewardship initiative within the church—a way for us to broaden our efforts while we deepen our faith and cultivate generosity. We’re asking everyone in the church to take part in this opportunity.

This initiative is a call to extraordinary financial giving. In addition to your regular tithes and offerings, we’re inviting you to make a cheerful, prayerful, and sacrificial financial commitment to advance the vision of the church through church planting.

Our overall goal for this year is \$100,000 across all of our congregations. The leaders of the church have already committed a substantial part of this goal. We are asking the congregation to fulfill the remainder.

Take some time to pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us as a church. Pray that God will provide the resources we need. And consider your own personal stewardship before the Lord, asking what he would have you commit to give and how you will trust him to provide.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact any of the pastors or elders of the church or contact the office.

* Timothy Keller, *Why Plant Churches?*, retrieved from http://redeemercitytocity.com/library.jsp?Library_item_param=19