



A HamPack mailing from Lorna MacQueen,
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Money talks : Why do we give?

“Why do we give money to the church?” a child asks her mother, who is filling Sunday’s offering envelope. How will the mother answer her daughter’s question? How do we answer this question for our children? ... Do we say that we give to help pay the church’s bills? Do we say that we give because of all the good things the church does...?

If we tell people to give in order to get, people might conclude that God is like a crooked politician whose favor we can purchase ... If we tell people to give out of obedience to a divine command to tithe, God might become an angry judge who demands and enforces ... If we tell people to give out of gratitude, people might understand God to be the source of everything we are and all we have, and that God lovingly provides for us. We might truly take what Jesus said to heart: “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. . . . Look at the birds of the air. . . . Are you not of more value than they? . . . Consider the lilies of the field . . . will [God] not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’” (Matt. 6:25–31).

“Why should I give to the church?” ...we need to be es-

pecially careful to answer in a way that is consistent with who we proclaim God to be. ...

God’s love, confirmed in Jesus Christ, is freely, graciously, offered to each and all, and . . . we are to love God with our whole selves and to love and do justice to our neighbors as ourselves.”...

Scripture’s greatest gift is to keep before us the reason we give to God. We give to God in response to all that God has given us—particularly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—and as a way of sharing in God’s own will for and work in the world. In other words, we give in response to the gospel. According to the Bible, we give to God (1) as an act of worship, (2) as a way of participating in God’s reign, (3) as an act of resistance, (4) as a way of bearing witness, and (5) to grow in grace. Some preachers also believe that the Bible teaches that we give (6) to receive.

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Programs and Opportunities

Ministry in Motion Oct 23-25 Wellington Square UC, Burlington, ON; see www.ministryinmotion.ca

Making the Most of Retirement –Mary Helen Garvin and Peter Scott, Nov. 1st-3rd at Crieff Hills Community near Guelph -Reg. Deadline: October 14th

Worship for the Deaf Community: UCC online worship series: ASL webinars. Contact: Adele Halliday: ahallida@united-church.ca or 1-800-268-3781 ext 4187

Breaking out! Becoming a Missional Church (Événement bilingue/bilingual event) Montreal. Nov 7-9 2011 - Eric Law: plenary presentations, workshops and worship for new ministries in an intercultural context. umif@egliseunie.org

At our United Church Learning Centres:

♦ **Naramata Centre-** Naramata, B.C. Tel: 250-496-5751: www.naramatacentre.net **Retreat: Be Still and Know that I am God**– Directed 8-day retreat, Nov 11- Nov 20, 2011, with Murray Groom and Lois

Programs Cont'd

- Huey Heck. Silence, spiritual practice and individual spiritual direction.
- ◆ **Calling Lakes Centre** -Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, S0G 1S0 Tel: 306-332-5691, www.callinglakes.ca. *Church Beyond the Pews*: Sept 23-Sept 26, 2011 with Thomas Brauer. "...shape your ministry, congregation and life for mission."
 - ◆ **Five Oaks Centre** - Paris, Ontario, 519-442-3212, www.fiveoaks.on.ca. *The Eleventh Commandment: Honour the Children* Oct 11, 4 p.m.-9:30 p.m. with Carolyn Pogue and Bill Phipps. *Spiritual Dimensions of Ecological Questions*, Oct 12-13 Pogue and Phipps – "how we are to live, personally and collectively,

in the current context of ecological stress."

- ◆ **Tatamagouche Centre** - Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, 902-657-2231, www.tatacentre.ca. Tim Scorer: . *Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teaching and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*: Oct 16-18, *The Gifts of Silence: A Retreat*: Oct 18-20

Resources:

The Search institute (discovering what kids need to succeed)

downloadable resources on mentoring, development assets, asset building communities and faith communities... and more: <http://www.search-institute.org/downloads>

Faith at Home Canada: <http://www.faithathome.ca/index.html>: mobilizing faith in the home.

Connections for Youth Ministries:

- 'a youth ministry bibliography' <http://www.emergingdesigns.org/biblio.html>
- 'Immerse: A Journal of faith, life and youth ministry' <http://www.immersejournal.com>
- 'Youth Ministry Stuff' - <http://ymstuff.weebly.com/index.html>
- 'Deepening faith: Youth Ministry Resources' - http://tcpu.org/library/deepening_faith
- 'Rethinking youth ministry' <http://www.rethinkingyouthministry.com/p/test.html>

TOOLS FOR SELF-UNDERSTANDING and leadership development

As with any methodology or tool,

use the following with care. The concepts are an aid, not a dogma or a way to pidgin-hole people. Please be wary of free online tools which are often so brief they are not particularly helpful.

- ◆ **DiSK** is leadership and personal assessment tool. It is a non-judgmental tool that enables people to recognize and discuss their behavioral differences: <http://www.discprofile.com>

- ◆ **The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® (MBTI®)** personality inventory is built around the psychological types described by Jung. Seemingly random variation in behavior is actually orderly and consistent, due to differences in the ways individuals use their perception and judgment." (<http://www.myersbriggs.org>);

www.psychometrics.com

- ◆ **Enneagram** psychological typing describes nine distinct types of personality and the concerns that underlie personality development and influence our life experience. There are many available books including: *The Wisdom Of The Enneagram: The Complete Guide To Psychological And Spiritual Growth For The Nine Personality*

Types by Don Richard Riso, Russ Hudson Random House, 1999

- ◆ **Emotional Intelligence theory (EQ** - Emotional Quotient). The EQ concept argues that IQ, or conventional intelligence, is too narrow. There are areas of Emotional Intelligence that provide a new way to understand and assess people's behaviours, management styles, attitudes, interpersonal skills, and potential: <http://www.businessballs.com/eq.htm>

- ◆ **Learning Style VARK** - <http://www.vark-learn.com/english/index.asp>

- ◆ **Learning Style KOLB** - <http://www.businessballs.com/kolblearningstyles.htm>

Made for Goodness and Why This Makes All the Difference by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu, HarpurOne, 2011. Rather than understanding ourselves as 'fallen' we are invited to know ourselves as designed for goodness.

"...when we recognize our fundamental goodness, we act differently..." (p. 8) "The impulse to care, the instinct for goodness, is a shining thread woven into the fabric of our being." (p. 15)