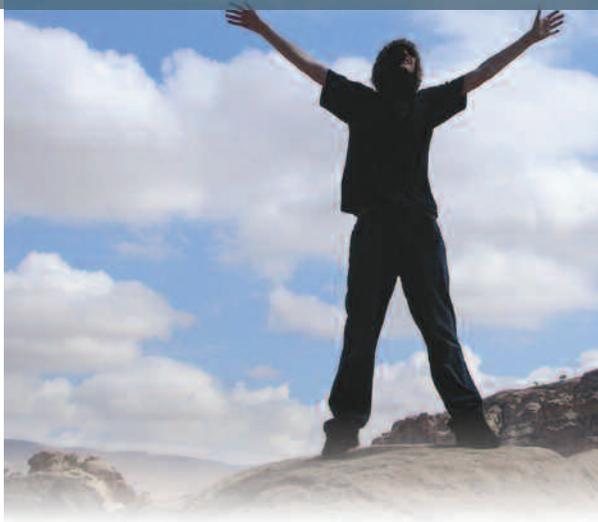


## Giving motivated by love...



**Living generously requires abundant love; love for God, love for neighbour, love for God's work, love for family. Love that flows over into generous, open-handed giving of time, money, hospitality, talents and our very selves.**

*If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:3)*

## How do I know if I'm giving generously?

**In all aspects of our giving – time, money, hospitality, talents, Christians are called to give generously.**

### How do I know if I'm giving generously?

- ✓ When I set my giving in the context of my income, the percentage I'm giving away is a realistic amount.
- ✓ When I see that my giving in all its forms has an impact on my lifestyle. I can identify an element of sacrifice to my giving.
- ✓ When my giving is a priority from what I receive each week or each month, rather than what's left over.
- ✓ When if what I give away was given back to me, it would make a real difference to me.

*“Dearest lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost.”* Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)



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# Giving for Life

# Living Generously



## Giving in response to need...



## Giving in response to the needs of your church...



## Giving in response to God's love...



**Generous giving leads us to respond spontaneously to the needs we encounter.**

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' (from Matthew 25:31-46)*

But there is more to giving than just responding to need...

**Generous giving requires us to give regularly in a committed way to our church and the causes God has placed on our hearts.**

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, (from 1 Corinthians 16:2 NIV)*

But there is more to giving even than giving regularly to our church or other charities...

**Generous giving responds to a generous God. Psalm 145 speaks of God's extravagant generosity....**

*He showers compassion on all his creation. (v10, NLT), "Generous to a fault, you lavish your favour on all creatures" (v16 The Message) "They celebrate your abundant goodness" (v7 NIV)*

As we acknowledge God's abundant blessing and provision, we give – first of all we give thanks, but then we are called to pass on God's blessing to others.