

Growing to Serve

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q: What is the difference between a “fundraising” campaign and a “giving” campaign like Growing to Serve?

ANSWER: A BIG difference! The purpose of a “giving” campaign is to challenge each of us to give out of our OWN resources. In a “fundraising” campaign, you collect money from someone else by selling them a product or service. A giving campaign always results in personal spiritual growth -- a fundraising campaign just raises money. The Growing to Serve campaign was designed to (1) Stretch your faith, (2) Build your hope in God’s promises, (3) Deepen your love for Christ & His church, and (4) Teach you Christlike generosity. By learning to sacrifice personally for the cause of Christ you will grow toward spiritual maturity.

Q: “I am a single parent with several kids and almost no income. But I want to be a part of building our church. How can I give?”

ANSWER: First, let me commend you for your heart’s desire to give. It reminds me of the poor widow Jesus honored for her faith in giving in Mark 12:41-44

“Jesus sat near the Temple Offering Box and watched the people put in their money. Many rich people gave large sums of money. Then a poor widow came and put in two copper pennies. Jesus said, I tell you the truth, this poor widow gave more than all those rich people together! They gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had; she gave all she had to live on.”

From this moving example of sacrifice, Jesus taught 3 important truths:

- o Your attitude is more important than your amount in giving.
- o It is always possible to give something IF we really trust God.
- o God measures our faith by comparing what we’ve given with what we have left over after we’ve given.

This is why we talk about **“Equal sacrifice, not equal gifts”** As you pray about what a genuine “sacrifice “ will mean to you, I urge you to read the Bible story of the miracle that happened when another single parent gave away what little she had (1 Kings 17:8-16). God took care of her the rest of her life. And God is still doing miracles today in the lives of those who dare to trust Him!

There are many ways to give - if one is willing. On the commitment card you will receive on Feb 14, there will be an opportunity to indicate an amount for a one time gift, and/or a series of gifts spread out over 36 months. Pray about what you can give, then watch God fulfill his promise to meet your needs (Phil. 4:19).

Q: Are we paying any fundraising consultant for this campaign?

A: NO! We have designed this campaign based on the biblical instructions God gave for raising the money to build the Temple in 1 Chronicles 29. Other churches who have followed this model, have also helped guide us through this process.

Q: How will the money we raise be used?

A: The building fund is kept separate from the general ministry funds. All Growing to Serve gifts will be used to pay the expenses of building facilities. It is important to remember that our Growing to Serve gifts are to be in addition to our regular giving for the on-going operation of the church. Otherwise our day-to-day ministries would suffer.

Q: What about money that has already been given to our building fund?

A: It is currently in a savings account gaining interest. Some of that money has been used for architectural designs and site preparation.

Q: How soon will we be able to use our new facilities?

A: If we collect \$500,000 in cash and commitments during this Giving Campaign, it is feasible that we could move into the new building within 12-18 months. Keep in mind that this includes getting official architectural drawings, permits from the city, and securing a project manager that can lead us in this time frame.

Q: What if I'm unable to keep my 3 year financial commitment?

A: None of us know the future, so we understand that circumstances beyond our control can impact our ability to give. Some will be blessed and will be able to increase their commitment. Others, however, may experience financially altering circumstances (job loss, extended illness, divorce or death in family, etc.). If you need to adjust the amount of your commitment (whether up or down), simply ask for another commitment card and fill it out. Your commitment is between you and God, and only one other individual in our church, who will keep track of all our commitments.

Q: Will my gift be tax deductible?

A: As a charitable organization, all gifts to Glencairn Church are tax deductible. In recent years, CRA has adjusted how they calculate the benefit to the giver. Regardless of income level, each giver saves roughly 40% on their donations. For example, if you give \$1,000 to Glencairn, any taxes arising on your income will be reduced by \$400, making the net cost to you only \$600 for that \$1,000 donation.

