

Generosity Report

2012—2013 Annual Guide for Contributors



Christ's Mission...Our Mission...Your Mission!

*Beloved children of the Restoration, your continuing faith adventure with God has been divinely led, eventful, challenging, and sometimes surprising to you. By the grace of God, you are **poised to fulfil God's ultimate vision** for the church.*

—Doctrine and Covenants 164:9a

Dear Friends,

The church around the world has been richly blessed thanks to the support of our priesthood and members.

Over a year ago, we asked priesthood and members to align their giving with the **whole mission of Jesus Christ** through five Mission Initiatives. Since then, amazing things are happening in villages, neighbourhoods, and communities around the world.

In this *Generosity Report: 2012–2013 Annual Guide for Contributors*, I will share some good news with you about how tithing contributions are helping fulfil Christ's mission. You will meet Maria Lomax, a vibrant witness of Christ's peace in the British Isles. You will learn how giving is helping youth from East St. Louis create new beginnings with Christ. And, your generosity is helping fulfil our call to Experience Congregations in Mission in California.

As we look to the journey ahead, we must continue to build on the ways we have made Christ's mission real in the lives of people all over the world during the past year. If we remain focused on the path set before us, the church will make major strides toward fulfilling Christ's mission.

While you review the *Generosity Report*, I invite you to prayerfully **consider your true capacity** for giving to Christ's mission. If you feel called to increase your giving to Local and Worldwide Ministries, visit www.CofChrist.org/give to see all the ways you can help.

Please join me in answering the call to pursue Christ's mission...our mission...YOUR mission!

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen M. Veazey".

Stephen M. Veazey, president of the church

Christ's Whole Mission

In 2011, the church asked members to align their giving to Christ's mission through five Mission Initiatives. All ministries, personnel, and resources of the World Church are aligned with these Mission Initiatives, keeping us focused on the **whole mission of Jesus Christ**.

Invite People to Christ—*Christ's mission of evangelism*

Abolish Poverty, End Suffering—*Christ's mission of compassion*

Pursue Peace on Earth—*Christ's mission of justice and peace*

Develop Disciples to Serve—*Equip individuals for Christ's mission*

Experience Congregations in Mission—*Equip congregations for Christ's mission*

To learn more, visit www.CofChrist.org/mission.

Invite People to Christ—*Christ's mission of evangelism*



Thanks to contributions, a camping ministry that began in the 1970s is still sharing the love of Jesus Christ with children from East St. Louis, Illinois.

The camps foster personal growth, transform lives, and empower youth to make a positive impact in their neighbourhoods. They also help youth cultivate a relationship with Jesus.

“The spiritual ministry during the camps is that of extending love to the kids and trying to exhibit the qualities of Christ,” shared Barry Murphey, an enthusiastic supporter of the camps until his recent passing. “We can be there. We can provide three regular meals a day. We can treat them with respect. We can encourage them to feel good about themselves. And we can help them understand what peace is about while stimulating compassion for one another.”

Today, dedicated camp staff continue to share the witness of Jesus Christ much like Barry did during his life.

We are called to share the peace of Jesus Christ with those waiting to hear the redeeming words of the gospel. As we become new in Christ, many will join us on a life-changing faith adventure. Together, we will share Christ's peace through our witness, compassion, and pursuit of justice and peacemaking.

Abolish Poverty, End Suffering—*Christ’s mission of compassion*

Support from the church is providing continued famine relief as the Horn of Africa’s worst drought in 60 years inflicts a crisis on 12.5 million people.

Kenya Mission Centre President Robert Adie shared, “We are glad for what the World Church has done... The situation is pathetic, and we are in constant prayer.”



A grant is helping children and families in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, by supplying clean drinking water for consumption and storage and to keep livestock alive, distributing emergency food supplies to feed 20,000 people, and providing access to mobile health clinics to treat malnutrition and vaccinate children.

Apostle Bunda Chibwe said, “This assistance is a powerful testimony for the church in fulfilling its mission to be builders of communities of joy, hope, love, and peace.”

We are called to be Christ’s hands and feet, reaching out through compassionate ministries that serve the poor and hungry, and stop conditions that diminish the worth of persons, and cause suffering.

Pursue Peace on Earth—*Christ’s mission of justice and peace*

Since 2007, the British Isles Mission Centre has generously shared Christ’s peace with schools and communities through Peacemobile, an interactive exhibit designed to cultivate cooperation skills and celebrate cultural diversity.



In 2011, thanks to giving to Worldwide Ministries, the mission centre purchased two more Peacemobiles. Maria Lomax, Peacemobile coordinator for the mission centre, said, “Each time I see a child using the exhibits, I learn and experience something new. I have seen children as young as five work together to solve problems, and I have watched children with low self-esteem blossom.”

We are called to restore Christ’s promise of peace through teaching and practicing non-violent conflict resolution so we can help promote and pursue peace for all peoples and all nations across the globe.

Develop Disciples to Serve—Equip individuals for Christ’s mission

World Service Corps volunteers, Andrew Murphy, Katie Thuesen, and Connor Moor, spent six weeks in South Korea working with the Seoul Congregation. They led energetic children in vacation church school lessons, cultivated enduring relationships with young adults, and tasted local foods that stretched their culinary boundaries.



“This experience transformed my life. I knew that I would be a different person when I returned home. I just wasn’t sure how I would be changed,” said Andrew. “It deepened my understanding of discipleship. It showed me how I can help build God’s peaceable kingdom on Earth. And, now I really understand what it means to be a vibrant witness of Jesus Christ.”

Generous contributions have made opportunities like this possible for more than 400 World Service Corps volunteers since 1999.

To truly give and receive God’s grace is to dedicate yourself to the cause of service in Jesus’ name and mission, while also preparing others to chart a similar course.

Experience Congregations in Mission—Equip congregations for Christ’s mission

In 2010, the El Segundo Congregation in California was planning to shut its doors.



As the congregation prepared to close, Denise Leichter, a member of the congregation, noticed a need for ministry to seniors in the community. She appealed to her congregation and then to the World Church for financial support to launch Senior Health Advocacy Ministry. Help was granted. “The funding enabled us to develop a wonderful ministry for our seniors and their families,” said Denise.

Today, the ministry witnesses enthusiastically of the peace and love of Jesus Christ. They send birthday cards and notes of encouragement to seniors in the community. They host monthly events where they have explored the benefits of tai chi, shared tips on Internet safety,

and discussed the symptoms of early-stage Alzheimer's. "Most of all, we celebrate caring and honouring a generation of wisdom, endurance, and generosity. As we support the worth of all persons, we experience mission and feel God's blessings," said Denise.

We are called to become congregations that are the true and living expressions of Jesus Christ, woven together by the Spirit, and sent into the world as witnesses for Christ's love and compassion.

Looking Forward

The fiscal year 2013 budget includes a 5-percent increase in tithes for a goal of \$14,850,000 (£9,580,645).

Income FY2013

Your tithing contributions provide 53% of the income to support Christ's mission. Another 19% is from previous contributions to the Endowments.

Expenses FY2013

Invite People to Christ	£3,309,500 (19%)
Abolish Poverty, End Suffering	£2,400,000 (13%)
Pursue Peace on Earth	£1,348,500 (8%)
Develop Disciples to Serve	£6,845,000 (39%)
Experience Congregations in Mission	£3,748,500 (21%)

Supporting Christ's Mission

You can support Christ's mission by ...

- Using Adult & Children's Envelopes
- Setting up a Standing Order
- Sending a Cheque to the Mission Centre Office made out to 'Community of Christ'
- Making a Bequest

You can also encourage children to use **Generosity Jars**. Generosity Jars showcase Jack and Jenn and teach children the principles of generosity. Beginning the habits of sharing, saving, and spending at an early age creates healthy patterns of money management that will serve children well as they grow. Generosity Jars have been sent out to each congregation. If you need more contact the Mission Centre Office.

Visit www.CofChrist.org/JackandJenn to watch the Jack and Jenn video series.

Thank You

*Faithful disciples respond to an increasing awareness of the abundant generosity of God by sharing according to the desires of their hearts; not by commandment or constraint. Break free of the shackles of conventional culture that mainly promote self-serving interests. **Give generously according to your true capacity.***

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:9

It has been an exciting time of growth for the church. Thank you to those who responded generously to God's gifts of grace and love.

As we look ahead, we will continue to build on the ways we are fulfilling the **whole mission of Jesus Christ** around the world. If we remain devoted to the path set before us, we will realize God's ultimate vision for the church.

The church invites you to prayerfully consider your **true capacity** for giving to Local and Worldwide Ministries. Contributing to Christ's mission, while unique to individual circumstances, is your response to God's generous gift of grace.

Thank you for helping fulfil Christ's mission...our mission...YOUR mission!

For More Information

Andrew Fox, Mission Centre Financial Officer

Community of Christ, Thanet Street, Clay Cross, Chesterfield, S45 9JS

Phone: 01246 768831

E-mail: andrewfox66@yahoo.co.uk

Web : www.cofchrist.org.uk