

gen·er·os·i·ty

- *the quality of being kind and generous.*
- *the quality or fact of being plentiful or large.*

Dear Destiny,

When I think of you, generosity is one of the great characteristics that comes to mind. The first time I recognized the power of your generous heart was more than a decade ago on a Sunday morning at Smart's Mill Middle School. The principal of that school, Eric Stewart, had just lost his daughter to cystic fibrosis. I stood on the stage that morning and asked you to give financially to this family to help them in a practical way. And in just moments, you gave more than \$10,000 to help a family who most of you had never met. This happened with a church of mostly first-generation Christians! I will never forget that moment. I knew that this young church had the heart of Jesus!

The great news is that your heart has never changed. Over and over you have displayed your heart of giving to the point of sacrifice. I can no longer count the many times you have blown me away with your faithfulness in giving.

On top of that, you have been faithful in your regular giving to Destiny Church. The month of March is typically our second largest giving month of the year, and I was concerned that COVID-19 might cause a financial problem for the church, but we have already exceeded our giving for the month of March, and the month is not yet over! Thank you for that!! Our ministry staff and our missionaries are especially grateful for your faithfulness.

In light of your faithfulness and what I believe is part of your ministry gift as a church, I want to bring a specific need to your attention. But first, I want to share with you something that has always impacted my thinking about giving and sacrifice.

In my opinion, other than the arrival of Jesus Christ to earth, the impact of the early Christian church on Rome during the Black Plague stands out as the brightest of lights. Rome, at the height of the outbreak, was losing five-thousand residents per day to the plague. While Romans were fleeing their own families and leaving corpses on the roadways, the Christians moved into the city to serve the sick, bury the dead and feed the poor. Many Christians lost their lives by serving others. It was that sacrifice that moved the leadership of Rome to declare Christianity the religion of Rome. Folks, that is part of our heritage. It is the picture of who we should always be.

Now...a need to be met: For several years, I have served on the board of The Children's Guild. Based out of Baltimore, Maryland, this charter school non-profit has served at-risk children for over sixty-five years. One of their schools in Washington, DC has a student population that includes twenty-five percent of children who are homeless. Typically, the school is able to house these children, feed them and provide clean clothes for school. However, with the school closed due to government mandates, these kids are back on the streets of DC fending for themselves. The school has worked hard to keep in touch with the children, but many of them are going hungry. Usual means of finding food is not working right now.

The Children's Guild has decided to provide an open-air kitchen to feed all of these children right now, but they are in desperate need of money to purchase the food. They have estimated that the cost to feed these children for two months is around \$20,000, and they are asking for help to do so.

I told the Guild that Destiny Church would be part of the answer to this need. I know we have our own organizational needs, and you have been and will continue to be faithful in giving your tithes and offerings as we walk through this difficult time. BUT, generosity is different. It shows the body of Christ being "*plentiful or large*" in the face of need. These children are in great need. They have little protection. We have a chance to be a blessing to some kids you may never meet. Being on the board of the Guild allows me to validate this opportunity and guarantee that your gift will go directly to these kids.

Please pray about this opportunity, and then, please give. This is not about *our* needs. It's about others, and most important, about helping children, who, as you know, are very precious to our Savior.

To give to these kids, simply [Click On This Link](#) and choose the giving category fund, **Food For A Child**. If you choose not to give online, please send us a check made payable to Destiny Church, and put **Food For A Child** in the memo line.

Finally, let me thank you for your faithfulness! I am so proud of you and your heart of generosity. If you are new to the idea of giving, perhaps this can be a starting point for you. I have learned over and over that God's blessings are poured out to me as I give to others. He has never failed in that promise. I am hoping that you experience the same.

I love you,

Greg

P.S. For more information about The Children's Guild, go to www.Childrensguild.org.