

Generations of Generosity: A Litany of Thanksgiving

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, we thank you for the parade of witnesses down through the centuries whose faith and generosity continue to provide us a vital legacy of faith and hope...

For Abraham and Sarah, who dared to leave the security of their own homeland to travel to a land you would show them, and in so doing showed us that through your grace new hope and laughter can be born anew even for those seemingly barren of possibilities.

We thank you, God.

For Moses, who gave up the wealth and prestige of Pharaoh's court in order to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt into the freedom of the Promised Land, teaching your people along the way that you are the God who provides manna and water in the wilderness.

We thank you, God.

For your Son, Jesus Christ, who though he was rich became poor for our sake, so that through his poverty we might become rich, and who gave his very life on the cross to provide living bread and living water for your people of all races and ages.

We thank you, God.

For the example of those in New Testament times who gave of their wealth for the sake of the gospel:

- For Peter and Andrew, James and John, who left their fishing businesses in order to follow Christ, and in so doing discovered the meaning of true wealth.
- For the unnamed widow, whose offering of two pennies to the temple treasury represented all she had to live on and whose example of generosity still inspires to this very day.
- For Mary Magdalene and the other women who followed Jesus and who shared their wealth to support Christ and his ministry.
- For Zacchaeus, greedy tax-collector turned philanthropist, who responded to Jesus' gracious welcome by sharing half his accumulated assets with the poor of his day.
- For Barnabas who sold his land to provide for the needs of the early church.
- **May we learn to walk in their footsteps, O God, as we, too, learn what it means to walk in the way of Christ's self-giving love.**

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We thank you for those modern day disciples whose vision and generosity have helped build the church that nurtures our faith:

- For Colonel J.B. Maclean, whose gift of land bequeathed to The Presbyterian Church in Canada through his will continues to produce an abundant harvest of renewed faith for hundreds of people each year.
- For the anonymous donor whose generous planned gift established the Experimental Fund, which generates enough yearly income to provide seed money for many congregations to launch new and creative ministries.
- For those people within our own congregation, whose generosity and planned gifts have enabled us to carry out Christ's ministry in this place... *(name those people whose generosity has contributed to the life and ministry of your congregation)*

For all of these people, both named and unnamed,
We thank you, O God.

For the living faith passed on from generation to generation by such people as Lois to her daughter Eunice to her son Timothy, whom the Apostle Paul counted as his spiritual son, and for the legacy of faith passed on to us by our own parents and grandparents.

We thank you, O God.

May the seeds of faith planted by previous generations continue to grow and multiply among us. Help us to recognize ourselves, not just as heirs of your abundant grace, but also as instruments of your grace. Inspire us to share with others the wealth you have entrusted to us and thereby plant seeds of hope for generations to come. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



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