

Dear Genesis Family,

It's almost that time again! The time for celebrating, but this year that looks very different from the usual family parties, road trips, and traditions we have done in the past. With Christmas right around the corner, Genesis is excited to announce that our Christmas Gift Offering for 2020 is almost here. Since Genesis began, we have taken hold of this holiday because at its core, it's about one thing... giving. A season when people give to family, children, and friends, showering them with love and compassion. Why? Because it gives us a chance to display our God to others who gave the greatest gift of all for each and every one of us.

We at Genesis believe that the church should exist for the benefit of others. We believe we should be devoted to generosity and the Gift Offering is one way to do something BIG to show it. **The Gift Offering is something above your normal tithe and offering** to help us do some things we have only dreamed of or just needed to do without haste as a church.

Usually we list things like helping build a new network of churches spreading the gospel in countries like Germany or partnering with a local ministry here in our city to help love and support foster families who are taking orphans into their homes. Things like taking IGNITE Sports and Arts to a camp in the Bahamas and more, but COVID has changed so many of our own plans. Because of this we are praying and asking you to give to **the unknown**. The moments COVID has unveiled that remind us of **Proverbs 16:9; "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."** We want to dream big but also want to be ready for all unknowns we have yet to even experience when life turns upside down on us in unprecedented ways. We are praying for continued wisdom and financial resources to pivot in whatever way needed to reach our city and across the world, to extend our outreach digitally, and in so many other ways in these current circumstances. We always want to be proactive as a church not reactive and your gift this year will help us prepare for moments to do just that. Moments like this past summer were 17 homes and families we personally know in Brazil suddenly were gone in a fire, or a young girl in our neighborhood here in Orlando who didn't have money for a doctors check up.

We are asking you to give big with us in faith!

2 Corinthians 8, Paul bragged about the church in Macedonia because they were eager to take part in a gift. Some gave just what they could, while others gave more than they could. This gift offering is not about equal gifts but about equal sacrifice. Some have been majorly affected by COVID-19 while others extremely blessed.

As the Pastor of this church, I am writing you this letter now to ask that you begin to plan and pray about your part. I know there are many opportunities to give during Christmas and I affirm that each are great opportunities. What I am asking is that you make it a part of your Christmas tradition to give to your church so that we can do more of what God has brought us here to do. The more we all play a part TOGETHER the bigger impact we can have. Pray with your kids, your spouse, and set a financial goal that you will make to further the purpose of Genesis and to impact the lives of families and children in our city and around the world.

Our Gift offering will begin on **Sunday, December 6th and continue till December 31st**. All giving is tax deductible if received by the end date given for your 2019 giving records. The Gift Offering is a great place for businesses looking to give an end of year contribution as well!

You may give to the Gift Offering as a one time gift or multiple times throughout the month. You may give on Sunday at Genesis at our kiosk stations,

online through our website genesischurchorlando.com/giving

or by mail. **Genesis Church P.O. Box 781827 Orlando, FL 32878**

As a church devoted to Generosity, let's make this Christmas 2020 one we remember forever!

Grace + Peace Pastor Tim