



Giving for Mission Sunday – 14th March 2021

God gives. That is the message of the Bible. God gives life in Genesis 1 by creating the world. And he gives relationship – both with himself and between humans. God gives most abundantly in the person of Jesus. Jesus in turn gives himself for us on the cross and gives us new resurrection life and gives us the Holy Spirit and ultimately life everlasting.

And our call in scripture is to share in God's nature as a generous giver. God blessed Abraham so that he might bless others. That is the pattern for us all. All things come from God and of his own to we give to God.

As a result of the 'Immeasurably More' process we engaged with last year, we created a Mission Action Plan, which will help guide us and keep us focussed on blessing our community in the coming months and years.

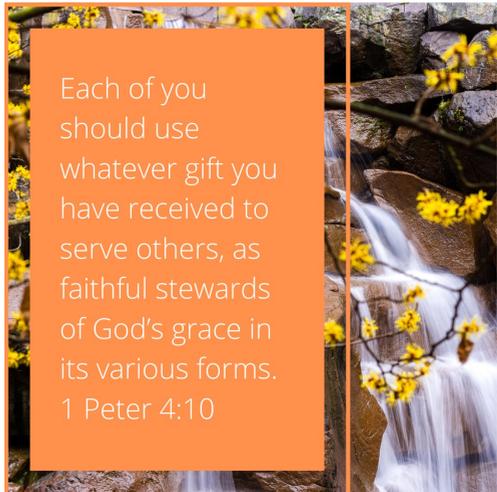
COVID has underlined the needs in our community. People have spiritual needs. And

the forgiveness we receive in Christ, the life beyond death we have in Christ and the purpose that each of our lives has in Christ – that is greater wealth than the biggest billionaire can possess. People have material needs – from foodbank, to bad housing, to lack of good jobs. And people have social needs – from the educational damage that COVID has caused, to the huge problems of loneliness and addiction. Ours is a community that deeply needs God's blessing.

But good intentions are one thing, change on the ground is quite another. And to achieve change, we'll need resources. Those resources won't all come from us, but a lot of them need to come from us.

People give at St Barnabas in lots of ways – by their time and talents, but also financially. Financial giving is far from the only way that we give. But it is an important way we give. That is especially true during COVID, when we ourselves are so restricted.

Sunday 14 March is 'Giving for Mission Sunday' at St



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
1 Peter 4:10

Barnabas. This is an opportunity for each of us to review our financial giving to St Barnabas. Of course, if you have faced unemployment or furlough you may well not be able to give, or need to reduce your giving. That is entirely to be respected.

However, for many of us, we have actually saved money in COVID, with so much of life shut down. St Barnabas needs to raise significant additional funds if we are to make the Mission Action Plan a reality.

Please can you do three things in the run-up to 'Giving for Mission Sunday':

Pray about your finances. Has God blessed you in ways that

you could use to bless others?

Plan. What percentage of your wealth do you give away? God calls us to generosity. Is your giving generous?

Pledge. On Sunday 14 March there is an opportunity to pledge a gift to the work of St Barnabas.

If you can, it is great to give regular amounts each month. That is a huge blessing to St Barnabas, as it means the

church can plan with certainty going forward. Alternatively, you may wish to make a one-off gift. Either way, please contact our treasurer, Phil Edwards on 651818 or treasurer@st-barnabas.net and he will help.

Thank you for all the ways you already give. Please pray, plan and pledge on Sunday 14 March. That way, our mission into our community will have the resources it needs.

David Goodhew

To the St Barnabas Church family

Thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls and prayers received following the death of my mother, Dorothy Bishop, last month. It helped to make a sad time more bearable.

Our thanks once again,

Mervyn and Gillian Moore

NEWS FROM Alejandro Mesco AREQUIPA - PERU

Dear brothers in Christ,

Receive our best regards.

Despite this difficult time all over the world, our beloved God continues to be present accompanying us in the sufferings of many neighbours in hospitals and giving consolation to the hearts of those who have lost their loved ones due to the pandemic.

The second wave of covid 19 is much more contagious and hospitals in all regions of Peru are saturated with patients and there are no ICU (Intensive Care Unit) beds, and there is a lack of oxygen in some regions; doctors are desperate for not being able to help all patients.

One million vaccines arrived in Peru yesterday, we hope it will be enough for the doctors and service personnel who are on the front line in the hospitals; and for the rest of the Peruvians population, it is expected that more vaccine will arrive between April and September. In all regions of the country we have a targeted quarantine, Lima is the most affected city at this time; In Arequipa, the contagion is growing at a high level.

At MMI, we are going through difficult times, two of the team were infected with covid 19, they are recovering with the blessing of God. Attention to patients is being carried out in a restricted way, just only urgent cases. In January we have been delivering wheelchairs and food bags once a week. Due to the quarantine, this February the delivery of chairs has been suspended and in March we will restart the delivery of chairs again.

With God's blessing and thanks to your financial support, I continue working at MMI (Medical Ministries International) and we are doing well. Doris is stable for a few weeks and for others she struggles with stress and other physical discomforts of her body. The place where we are living at this time helps Doris a lot because it is a rural area outside the city. All of our children are well and safe from the pandemic. Alejandro junior and his family have moved from Valparaiso to Quilpue and will live in the pastoral house, Alejandro junior will be assistant to Priest Guzmán, and in 2022 he will have greater responsibilities in the Emanuel church.



As you know I am a vulnerable person, and because of the pandemic, I am supporting MMI once a week. I am also in charge of coordinating with the team of professionals to prepare the definitive project for the construction of the clinic and we are progressing very well and I think that the second week of March, we will be ready to present the final project, so we hope the municipality grants us the license to build and have a decent place to serve so many people who require medical attention.

Every Sunday we have online meetings with the small group of "Casas de Paz", it is a very special time where we all participate and share the word of God and we also have sad times when we find out about some family members of the group, who are infected with covid 19, we pray a lot and support each other as much as we can. Dear brothers, thank you for your prayers for us and we also pray for you every day.

Please I ask for your prayers for:

'For the entire families that have been infected, may our Lord perform miracles in their lives. 'By all the MMI team

'For our dream of building the clinic.

We say goodbye with all our affection to you.

Yours sincerely:

Doris and Alejandro Mesco.



From the Registers

Funeral at St Barnabas

8th February

Gordon Harrison



PCC in February



David reminded the PCC of all that had happened over Christmas, services in church and online, online crib service, and Feast of Fun and Christmas Eve craft deliveries.

The PCC received information about the new Diocesan vision consultation and the Church of England report on human sexuality, 'Living in love and faith', which will be considered later in the year.

There was the usual review of church life in the current restrictions and reports from Mark Walley on ministry with children and families and Tony Hutchings on the buildings. Alistair Bolton was elected as chair of the Facilities Management Committee.

The parish safeguarding policy was approved for another year.

Ann Watson and Ali Ward, Recognised Parish Assistants, reported to the PCC.