



CHRISTMAS 2017

THE BIG GIVE

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD... HE GAVE

This year, we put out a call. We asked that you would dig a little deeper, sacrifice a little further, give a little more. You were faithful to the call. When we put out the request, we knew we had a budget to balance, but more, we had a vision to fulfill. From the very beginning, we said we wanted to be a church that lived simply so we had more to give away. This was the heart behind the call. Raising funds together, so that together we could serve our city and world.

Last month, we sent \$10,000 to our partners around the world. This month, it's time to do the same locally. As we prepare for Christmas, we've set aside another \$12,000 for for each of our simplechurches to distribute locally. That's \$2000 for each church to give.

Instructions

Obviously, in keeping with the laws of Canada there are some stipulations we need to follow. In the end, our treasurer will need to approve all the expenses. But with some basic guidelines, everything should be straightforward:

1. Begin by praying. Take a week to pray on your own. Ask God to lay groups and/or persons on your heart. Keep the prayers local. We want to give into our city. Keep your heart on the Kingdom. What would make a kingdom impact? What would honour Jesus?
2. After praying, share your ideas at a church gathering - but hold them loosely. Not every idea will be fulfilled. In the end, you might need to "draw straws". There's nothing "unspiritual" about this.
3. If there's a mixture of organizations and individuals/families, it might help your decision making to split the funds evenly between the two. Then choose one (or two) organizations and split the rest among the families. With organizations, larger dollar amounts tend to be more helpful.
4. When giving to organizations keep in mind that simplechurches cannot give monies to groups that are not charitable. When giving to individuals or families, cash cannot be given. Gifts can only be in the form of gift certificates or physical goods. Further, the dollar amount cannot exceed \$500.
5. When you've decided where the funds should go, send your short list (with dollar amounts) to Andy so he and Neto (treasurer) can double check them. CRA scrutinizes charities very carefully so we need to be extra cautious. If we have to deny one of your ideas, give us grace and let it go.
6. For all gifts to organizations, our accountant can forward the amount directly. For all gifts to families/individuals it's easiest if you purchase the gifts yourself and forward receipts to Andy or Neto. All funds will be reimbursed by cheque. **Remember to keep your receipts!** We cannot repay any funds without a receipt.
7. Finally, all gifts should be given in simplechurches name. This way the organization or person can learn more about us, and the kind of people we feel God calls us to be.