

BE A BRINGER

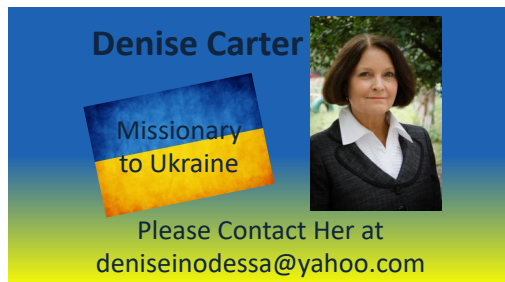
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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GROWTH GUIDE the **difference maker**

Handout: 01/27/2019

Study: 02/03/2019

My Generosity Can Make A Difference

The truth is that God doesn’t need our money, but He knows that our orientation toward money reflects our obedience to the Lordship of Christ and how well we grasp that he is the source of all we have. As followers of Christ, our goal in life is not gaining power, possession, or prestige for ourselves. We exist, along with the entire body of Christ, to fulfill the Great Commission until Christ’s return. Generosity offers one of the most powerful ways for us to leverage the blessings of God for the advancement of the Kingdom. Best of all, when the church acts with generosity to serve others, it is a clear picture of Christ, who generously gave his life and all He had on the cross that we might find life forever.

Financial hardship has a way of breaking down the walls that separate us, even in the church. The sudden loss of wealth and security reminds people that our stated net worth on paper—our value in the eyes of the world—can change at any moment. During the last recession, people began to question what really mattered in life and think about what was of lasting value. Individuals that had placed their hope in the markets began to recognize that paper is really nothing more than paper—it has no lasting value. Two people, who might have been separated by the divide of wealth between homelessness and luxury, now found themselves in the same pew, seeking the same answers: Where are you, God? What is your plan for me?

The church has a unique message for times of economic uncertainty. Jesus provides us with an alternative approach to money that celebrates the sharing of our resources with one another. What we are describing is not an economic model that forces people to share their resources with another, nor is it a political agenda. Instead of being motivated by outside pressure, we believe that the church must begin to challenge people to behave in ways that are consistent with what they profess to believe. Why? Because the world—the lost people all around us—is watching and paying attention to how we respond in times of trial and testing. As Jesus reminds us in Matthew 5:14-16: “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.” When we act in ways that are consistent with our commitment to Christ, a watching world notices. We cannot hide who we really are, and generosity reveals that our faith is genuine and true.

As we live with generosity before a watching world, skeptics and cynics will find it nearly impossible to find fault with genuine acts of generosity that demonstrate that our hearts have been set free from our love of money and things. When we give for the benefit of the Kingdom, to serve others in love without an expectation of something in return, that gives them something worth talking about. Far from being a stumbling block to people, money can actually be a conduit, a connecting bridge to people outside the church.

Excerpted from “Contagious Generosity” by Jim Sheppard & Chris Willard.

KEY VERSE

Luke 8:3

and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance. NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Luke 8:1-3; 24:1-12

Introduction

1. Today's passages introduce us to Joanna. In what ways was she a Difference Maker?
2. List some ways in which the generosity of others have made a difference in your life?

Tuesday: Luke 8:1-3a; Luke 19:1-10

Joanna Experienced The Power Of Jesus Christ

3. In what ways did Joanna experience the power of Jesus?
4. How have you experienced the power of Jesus in your life?

Wednesday: Luke 8:3b, Matthew 6:19-21; Proverbs 3:9-10

Joanna Supported The Work Of Jesus Christ

5. Why do you think that Joanna generously gave to the ministry of Jesus?
6. What are some reasons that you should be a generous giver to the ministry of His church?

Thursday: Luke 24:6-12; I John 3:16-17

Joanna Announced The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ

7. How did Joanna's generosity and love for Jesus put her in a position to be one of the first people to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection?

8. What impact does the Gospel have on your generosity?

9. What are ways in which your generosity can help point other to Jesus?

10. Who have you told about Jesus this year?

Friday: II Corinthians 8:1-4; 9:6-7; I Timothy 6:17-18

Grow In Generosity

11. What are some challenges and heart issues that keep people from being generous givers?

12. List some ways that your generosity can be a difference maker this year.