

# Unleashing Generosity in 2022

Welcome to 2022 which comes with the opportunity to continue to grow the heart of generosity personally and for your people. *Don't let this opportunity pass you by.* In fact, start as soon as possible to either lay that foundation or build and develop what you've already begun.

No matter where a person is in their Christian life, being human can sometimes cause us to withhold complete surrender and for some reason think we know best and choose to make decisions on our own. Ever been in that situation?

It's good to stop and consider those times and what the outcome was. It may have been something small and we haven't noticed any difference, but then there are those times when we keep God out of major decisions and find ourselves doing the same thing that didn't work out the best way last time and we consider, "Am I learning anything from this?" Check out this quick clip from Brian Kluth. It's clear and direct and can leave us with some serious questions but also some valued actions to take. This is helpful for anyone and has been used as an introduction to the offering.

**Brian Kluth: Finding Order through Disorder**

<https://www.facebook.com/596311429/posts/10158584420761430/?d=n>

## **WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING:**

One of my memories of the offering time was the chatter that seemed to happen while the plate went along the rows. I spoke to others and found a similar experience. But this is actually a significant moment in our service when we worship God through our giving and things like chatter really takes over. It also seemed like it was almost the add break when the announcements were always followed by the offering providing a break in the service.

As I thought about this it started to really concern me. That's not what it is about. The offering time is about worshipping God not taking a break. This is supported by scripture which shows the importance God places on our giving and how it is a true act of worship. This is a time when we surrender our control over our lives and hand it over to God. Our finances is actually something we are very reluctant to give up control of which is a very strong reason why we need to think about this and realise why it is worship when we bring our tithes to God.

## **GENEROSITY IS NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY:**

Remember money is not the focus when we talk about generosity. It is an all of life surrender. What difference has come into your life since you made that decision to follow Jesus.

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## ON LINE SERVICES:

We continue to find ourselves needing to meet online rather than in person. Because this is an important part of our worship, we need to include this opportunity in our service. People can give through EFT which is easy to set up or they may want to continue giving through cash in envelope and drop it. But making that time to consider our giving and worship

## EASY WAYS TO INTRODUCE & DEVELOP GENEROSITY:

- ✚ Have you heard of the 'Drip Method'? It's when you have an idea you want to share and it's done by being consistent and deliberate in bringing that idea to your people. In this instance, it's *generosity*. Finding ways to bring the message could include in a sermon a sentence, paragraph, topic or in some cases the entire message. Bring it into Bible Studies or as your Life Group meets. What is happening in your corps or centre? Include generosity in there.
- ✚ Take 3-5 minutes prior to bringing our tithes to God to 'set the scene', creating a moment to consider how this is a time of worship and how bringing our finances to God is also us bringing our all to God. There are various ways this can be done and we have some ideas on the Generous Culture Resources Website including use of scripture, songs, videos.
- ✚ Remember Harvest Festival weekends? In amongst the corps visits and stalls with goodies for sale on a Saturday night, it was about being **thankful** for what God has provided and often focused on the livelihoods of the area depending where you lived ie farmers, miners, office workers, emergency workers etc. Why not schedule a Sunday or whatever works for you to acknowledge what God has provided and to give thanks for God's abundant generosity and provision. Be as creative as you want! And if you do this, please share with the Generous Culture Team what you did as it may encourage others.
- ✚ Encourage Life Groups to do a study on topics such as generosity, giving, stewardship or what scriptures tell us about managing our finances.
- ✚ Work towards a workshop looking at how God can give us wisdom regarding our finances. This isn't just for people who find themselves in financial worries but this is wisdom we all need. We have some great resources ie Peace University Course with Dave Ramsey, Navigating Your Finances God's Way by Compass, to name a couple.
- ✚ **AT ANY TIME:** Contact your Generous Culture Coach to assist in assessing where the corps is in relation to generosity and any ideas to build upon what's been happening. This is not a one solution meets everyone's needs but at the centre of Generous Culture is putting God as number one in all things and how do I live that out. Corps and Mission Centres are different so we want to work with leaders to determine the best way forward for you and your people.

# *Unleashing Generosity in 2022*

Remember, it starts with you. As the leader, you lead by example. People look up to you. If you feel you aren't equipped in this area of teaching, you are not alone. Drop your Generous Culture Coach a line or talk to a trusted peer. Another person available is your Area Officer.

Seeing people's attitudes change towards giving, generosity and stewardship is amazing. When people find it exciting to be a giver it can't help but impact us. I've had someone come to me very excited to share that they had started tithing and sharing how God had continued to provide for her and give her wisdom in what she did with what God provided. God wasn't actually giving her anything more, she just had more because she used God's wisdom. This did my heart good and that's what I want for others. (an experience from Christine Dickson)

Bless you as you are a blessing to others. May God's abundance generosity flow throughout your life to others unleashing generosity wherever you go.

## **GENEROUS CULTURE RESOURCES WEBSITE QR Code:**

Make sure you check it out. Some great ideas for offering introductions and videos.

