

## Gift Profile Guide

A few years ago, Ted Turner committed to give **one billion dollars** to the United Nations. USA TODAY, in their coverage of the story, ran the caption: "Ted's Excellent Donation." It's hard to disagree that a gift of \$1,000,000,000 wouldn't qualify as "excellent."

However, the greatest Financial Analyst to ever live uses different criteria to gauge the greatness of a gift.

One day the Financial Analyst watched as a poor widow dropped two tiny coins into the offering-box of a large, wealthy temple. The Analyst also watched as other contributors – most of whom were rich – gave great sums of money.

The Financial Analyst made it clear to his "listening audience:" her gift was the greatest gift given that day because it represented everything she had. The others, explained the Analyst, gave out of their wealth (translation: they weren't going to miss what they had given – in fact, USA TODAY reported that, by the time Ted Turner had finished giving his gift, his estate actually netted an additional \$100,000!).

Do not miss (or mistake) the meaning: The Financial Analyst was not suggesting that "total divestiture" was the requirement for a great gift. But rather, for a gift to have true significance, it must come **more from the heart than from the wallet**. For a gift to be considered great by God's standards, **it has to affect our life and not just our bank accounts...**

### **Three-Year Commitments Over and Above Regular Giving to Covenant Christian Community Church**

Giving Period: April 2009 - March 2012 (Four Tax Years)

The chart below illustrates the type of financial commitments we believe it will take to raise the amount of \$1,200,000.

Financial gifts to *Challenged to Grow* are over and above regular giving to Covenant Christian Community Church.

## \$1,200,000

### **# of Commitments Amount of Gift**

1 100,000

1 75,000

3 50,000

5 25,000

7 20,000

9 15,000

12 10,000

24 7,500

35 5,000

Many Others 3,000 and less

**"I will not offer as a sacrifice to the Lord my God that which costs me nothing."**

**2 Samuel 24:24**

### **Covenant Christian Community Church**

2630 East 18th Street  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058  
P 541-298-5551  
F 541-298-5553

# CHALLENGED TO GROW

## Don't Hold Back

**HOW TO MAKE  
YOUR  
COMMITMENT  
and  
Gift Profile Guide**



# Steps To Prayerfully Considering Your Commitment

## – Step One –

Pray. Pray individually, and if you are married or have a family, pray together with the ones you love. Also, mark your calendar to reflect the key dates and prayer opportunities surrounding **Challenged to Grow**. Remember to highlight **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009** for our all-church Celebration Service.

## – Step Two –

Begin praying by asking God to place an amount in your heart for you to give to our **Challenged to Grow** campaign over the **next three years**. Then begin to ask yourself what amount of money:

- You desire to give, and
- You believe God could provide for you to give.

## – Step Three –

Assume for a few days you were to give the amount that you've arrived at.

Now ask yourself these four questions:

- Am I demonstrating my faith in God with this amount?
- Is my gift sacrificial?
- Am I joyous about giving this amount?
- Am I convinced that I can give this amount with a motivation of worshipping God and showing my thankfulness?

*“Each one must do  
as he has made  
up his mind,  
not reluctantly  
or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver.  
And God is able  
to provide you  
with every blessing  
in abundance,  
so that you may always have  
enough of everything and  
may provide  
in abundance  
for every good work.”*

Corinthians 9:7-8

## – Step Four –

If you can answer “yes” to all four of these questions, then you can feel comfortable about your gift amount. If you cannot honestly answer “yes” to these questions, go back through **Step One** and **Step Two** until you are comfortable with your answer.

If you're single, you're done. Pray, thank God, and be prepared to fill out your Commitment Card during our Celebration Service on **April 5<sup>th</sup>**.

If you're married, move on to Steps Five and Six.

## – Step Five –

Set a specific time to get together with your spouse (and/or your family) and talk about your commitment to **Challenged to Grow**. Share your gift amounts with each other (the result of your time praying). If you each came up with the same amount – that's great (and a little unusual)! If you came up with different amounts, repeat Steps One through Three, and see if there is an agreement when you get together the second time.

## – Step Six –

If you came up with the same number on “round two,” then pray, thank God and be prepared to fill out your commitment card during our Celebration Service on **April 5<sup>th</sup>**. If you are not able to reach an agreement on your gift amount in a reasonable amount of time, choose the lower number as your gift amount. Pray, thank God, and be prepared to fill out your commitment card during our Celebration Service.