



CBM

Giving in a Demanding Season

FALL
2025

A Reflection on Trust, Hope, and Generosity

→ CANADIAN THANKSGIVING is almost here, a time to gather, share meals, and pause in gratitude. Yet even before the dishes are cleared, the season of demands on your time, attention, and resources begins to press in. You may already sense it: stores preparing for Christmas, calendars filling, inboxes crowding with worthy appeals. →

→ In the midst of it all, we search for meaning that goes deeper than another obligation.

Henri Nouwen tells a story that points the way. In *A Spirituality of Fundraising*, he recalls meeting a young man who needed support. Instead of simply giving money and walking away, Nouwen invited him into conversation: “Tell me about yourself.” After listening deeply and then offering his help, Nouwen later received a thank-you note with

a cheque for the exact amount he gave returned. Generosity, he reminds us, begins with relationship and trust, not pressure or persuasion.

This short booklet is your space to pause. Before you read an appeal or consider a gift, we invite you to reflect, to listen, and to ask where God may be leading you in this season, not just with your money, but with your attention, prayer, and trust.

You Are Not Alone

One of the encouraging characteristics of being part of the Canadian Baptist family is that we are never discerning alone.

For over 150 years, we have stood together, serving in partnership, learning across cultures, responding in crisis, and walking with the church in places near and far.

This appeal comes to you not from a single voice, but from a community, a body made up of local churches, global partners, Canadian donors, and international staff who believe that the whole gospel must be lived out in both Word and Deed.

You are part of that story. And your decision, whatever it may be, belongs to a larger movement of hope.

“I started giving to CBM after hearing stories from their global partners. It helped me see how generosity is not just about impact, it’s about shared faith, trust, and love.”

—LONG-TIME CBM DONOR

This work does not rest on one donor, one church, or one gift. It is held together by many faithful participants, ordinary people offering what they can, trusting God to multiply it in extraordinary ways.

Giving as Response, Not Obligation

“Fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission.”

—HENRI NOUWEN

What would it mean to view your giving not as a burden, but as a response to God’s invitation? Not a transaction, but a participation?

In CBM’s work, we don’t see giving as a way to fund our plans. We see it as a form of discipleship, a tangible expression of trust. And trust, especially now, takes courage.

There is no shame in discernment. God does not coerce generosity. Instead, He invites us into alignment, to offer our resources in ways that reflect the Kingdom of God, where healing, reconciliation, justice, and joy are made visible.

In that light, this appeal isn’t really about money. It’s about surrender, about listening, and about trusting that what we offer matters, even when we don’t always see the outcome.

The World We're In

You are not imagining it, this is a demanding season. Costs are rising. Uncertainty lingers. Churches and individuals across Canada are feeling the strain of post-pandemic recovery, cultural shifts, and financial stress. You are not alone in wrestling with how to respond.

This fall, CBM is sharing two invitations with you. The first is a **general appeal** to support our ongoing ministry where help is most urgently needed. The second is our annual **Hopeful Gifts for Change catalogue**, which offers practical ways to support others while honouring those on your Christmas list.

These are just two among many invitations you'll likely receive, from CBM and from other worthy organisations.

So how do you decide where to give? Or even whether to give?

This booklet is not here to persuade. It's here to help you listen, to create a space where God might speak clearly about how your resources, your time, your money, your intention, can be part of something bigger than all of us.

→ A Closing Invitation

You've received a *Seasons of Prayer* guide. You've read stories of what God is doing. You've been invited to consider a gift.

Before you respond, we ask one thing: **Pause. Reflect. Listen.**

Ask God where your time, your prayer, your money, and your influence are most needed right now. Ask how your trust might be deepened by how you give.

Then consider:

Sharing the *Seasons of Prayer* guide with your church or small group

Visiting cbmin.org to learn more about what your gift can support

Talking to someone you trust about how they discern their giving

Not every season is one of abundance. But every season is an opportunity to say yes to the Spirit's quiet nudge.

And if that yes leads you to give through CBM, thank you.

Together, we trust that God will use these gifts, just as He uses each of us, to bring about a broken world made new.



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