

## Making Your Donated Dollar Go Further

Audio Blog by Gregg Harris, President – FEBC

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It seems that just about everyone these days is concerned with making a dollar go as far as it can. Whether you're at the grocery store, the gas pump, or engaging in the privilege of investing your earthly treasure in heavenly enterprises, it's a great thing to think carefully about what your money will accomplish. As a listener to Moody Radio, the solid biblical instruction you receive each day ensures your grasp of the fundamental truth that God owns everything you have and you are to use it according to his priorities and global purposes. What I'd like to talk to you about today is how you do that giving, especially when you give to ministries outside your local church.

Many of us have become accustomed to designating our giving when we give to missionary and Christian relief agencies. This trend has developed over the past few decades. Its basis is quite understandable, as it provides the giver with a sense of greater control and involvement regarding where the funds are going. There is certainly nothing wrong with this motivation. However, may I make a suggestion that might actually make your donated dollar go even further? My proposal is to give consistently to the general fund of the ministries you believe in, and to inform them you plan to do so.

As president of an international mission agency, I am consistently blessed and amazed at the way God moves His children to freely invest in global outreach. What I have come to deeply appreciate are those people who believe so much in the overall mission of a particular ministry, that they give to the general needs of that ministry. In essence, such gifts say to the leadership of the ministry: "I see the overall impact of your work, and I trust your leadership to carefully manage these funds to continue and expand that impact."

So the first element of this proposal I have to stretch the impact of your donated dollar is to give to the general needs of a ministry. Doing so can promote greater giving impact for the following reasons:

- 1) It gives the leadership the freedom to direct funds in the most timely and efficient ways to accomplish the priorities of the ministry
- 2) It reduces the amount of time and energy the ministry must spend accounting for and tracking designated funds
- 3) It allows you as a ministry investor to participate in the total impact of the ministry, and not just one specific part

The second element of this idea for making your ministry dollar go further is to make a regular commitment to support the ministries you believe in. I can tell you that almost every great and historic ministry has been built on consistent and regular support of what some might call "smaller donors". Ask any ministry leader and they will tell you that they would rather have 10,000 donors giving \$5 per month, than one single donor giving them \$50,000 per month.

The third element of my proposal is that you inform the ministries you support that you intend to give regularly to their general needs. Doing so allows the leadership to anticipate their income, plan more effectively, and manage your funds more efficiently.

Well, whatever you think of this proposal, I encourage you to give and pray for the ministries God has laid on your heart and to rejoice that God has allowed us to be participants in his great and global purpose to redeem fallen men and women through the blood of Jesus Christ.

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