

genesischurch

November 2020

Dear Genesis Church Family,

As part of our family, we are excited to invite you to participate in the 2020 Year-End Giving Campaign, aka “Christmas Offering.”

This offering is an opportunity to celebrate together God’s blessings in our lives by offering an *extra* gift. As part of our general budget, Genesis joyfully gives 11% of our annual budget to support ministries both here and abroad. The Christmas Offering is when we go above and beyond, giving even more! This makes visible one of our shared values as a church: open-handed generosity.

We know that many of you participate in a variety of giving initiatives during the holiday season. We celebrate the generosity of our church body! Not all of you will choose to participate in this year-end giving, and that’s okay. We want to make everyone aware of this opportunity and the great work that’s being done here and throughout the world. This year, we have prayerfully chosen to fund five projects, with local, regional, and global impact.

Who/Why	2020 Special Project	Partner Organization	Goal
Christ-centered Urban Renewal	Leadership development for inner city ministries	Cru Inner City Grand Rapids	\$5,000
Refugees	Support 25 youths at \$600 each for the year	Questscope (Syria and Jordan)	\$15,000
Church Planting	Support for Michael and Emma Howard as they plant a new church	Highland Park Metro Detroit Church Plant	\$10,000
Outreach	Technology Upgrade for Video & Online Ministry	Genesis Center	\$5,000
Local Outreach Care	Dishwasher for Men’s House Water Heater for Hope Hall Laptop for Administration	The Nehemiah Project	\$2,500

Total: \$37,500

We know this is a lot of money, and we are excited to see where God leads our giving in these projects. Thank you for opening your heart to this opportunity and the impact that we can have together for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,
Norm Byers, Scott Gardziella, and the Genesis Church Elders and Deacons

2020 Year-End Giving Opportunities

As we look at the exciting year-end giving opportunities for 2020, we also want to celebrate the generosity of the Genesis community in the 2019 giving campaign. Last year we asked for a total of \$39,000 for four projects. We received a total of \$57,200! Here is a recap of how those funds made an impact:

Ghana Christian Mission: Printing of 900 Bibles in 9 languages.

Questscope (Syria and Jordan): Provided education, mentoring and medical care for high risk refugee families.

Pregnancy Care Center of Petoskey: Created an additional classroom for parenting classes.

Genesis Center: Purchased patio furniture for our fellowship deck (which is currently on backorder due to COVID).

Christ-centered Urban Renewal – CRU Inner City, Grand Rapids: CRU is an established Christian ministry that comes alongside churches to reach people for Christ. CRU Inner City is a newer initiative with a focus on the unique needs of urban areas. American cities continue to grow, but not everyone is benefiting equally. Marginalized communities are struggling with the economic, physical, and spiritual effects of poverty. The inner-city church, highly effective but often under-resourced, is addressing these needs through the transformative power of the gospel in words and deeds. Your gifts will help provide leadership training for those who are making a gospel impact in the underserved areas of Grand Rapids. They will be trained in creating gospel engagements and whole-person discipleship.

Refugees – Questscope: Education for youth in the Middle East.

Marginalized youth and refugees in the Middle East who are uneducated are sidelined and excluded from vocational and personal business opportunities--often for life. For just \$600 per year Questscope is able to provide critical, life changing support and education for a young person. The program will provide them with a GED-type certificate, with which they are able to continue onward into government vocational training or to rejoin the formal education system. Questscope is the only alternative education program allowed/available for these individuals in refugee camps. Your generous gift will equip them with the resources and relationships they need to thrive. You can turn despair into hope with your radical commitment to the most vulnerable among us.

Church Planting – Highland Park Church Plant: These Funds will support Michael and Emma Howard as they make preparations to plant a new church in Highland Park which is located in the center of Metro Detroit.

Hope Street Community Church will be an urban church targeting a poverty-stricken community with the Gospel. The Howards have been in local church ministry the last several years and most recently were approved for church planting through the Converge Assessment Center. Over the next number of months, they will be doing training and preparing through a residency at Crossover Community Church and raising support and their team.

Outreach – Technology Upgrade for Video & Online Ministry: We have learned so much in this unusual season due mainly to the COVID-19 virus. It has become apparent that our ability to minister with excellence online is more important than ever. In response we are seeking to upgrade our video capabilities to meet that challenge.

Local Outreach & Care - The Nehemiah Project: The Nehemiah Project is a faith-based non-profit shelter serving homeless men, women, and children in Northern Michigan. They are committed to sharing the love of God with all who pass through their doors. They are not government funded so their support comes from local churches and individuals. At this time they have a few specific needs that we would like to provide for them: dishwasher for men's house, water heater in Hope Hall (office and dining hall/meeting area), Dell Latitude Laptop Computer.

Christmas Offering – Questions you might ask:*What is the difference between the regular offering and this special offering?*

The Bible teaches, “Each should honor the Lord with your wealth with the first fruits of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9). Proportional giving is also taught in the Bible with the full tithe of 10% being the benchmark. (“Bring the whole tithe” Malachi 3:10.) Giving is to be systematic and given throughout the year. Exodus 35 expresses that there are certain times that we are invited to attach ourselves to special projects by giving above and beyond our tithe. This is called the free will offering. This can be a time to give in a sacrificial way that stretches us to grow in our faith. The Christmas Offering should be over and above what you regularly give.

How can I give?

- Online: Secure giving is available through the Genesis App, as well as the Genesis website. Go to <https://genesispetoskey.com/give/> and click “Give Now.”
- Snail Mail: Enclosed you will find a card where you can check the project(s) you would like to support. Send your check or money order to Genesis Church, 1124 Northmen Drive, Petoskey, MI 49770.

How much should I give?

Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that will stretch your faith. The precise amount you give is between you and God. The issue is not equal giving but equal sacrifice. What amount can you give that will stretch your faith?

How will the money be divided?

The funds will be divided by how they are designated by each donor. You can choose which project you’d like to support, or simply give to “2019 Christmas Offering” and we’ll divide the funds.

Can I give in-kind gifts of stocks or bonds?

Yes. Since Genesis is a 501c3 organization, there can be tax benefits for you by giving in-kind gifts.

Are my gifts tax-deductible?

All gifts to Genesis, whether via the regular offering or this special offering, are completely tax-deductible. Your gift will be deductible in the tax year given (i.e., gifts given in 2019 will be deductible on your 2019 taxes).