



Calvary Baptist Church

Open to all. Closed to none.

June 5, 2018

Dear Calvary,

As I write this letter, reports of lives lost and images of unthinkable destruction are scrolling across social media feeds and newscasts: the volcanos in Guatemala and Hawaii, the flood in Maryland, the fires in New Mexico and Colorado, and the ongoing rebuilding efforts in Puerto Rico from Hurricane Maria last year (to name a few). As hard as it is to wrap my mind around this kind of instantaneous devastation, seeing grief-stricken citizens walk through unrecognizable remains of hospitals, schools, and so many homes and businesses makes my heart hurt. Knowing that disasters such as this happen with frequency all over the world magnifies that feeling. But such disasters are also occasions that can awaken our spirits.

While we may feel helpless as we read these stories of loss and view these images of damage, there is a concrete, tangible way we can help people who find themselves with their lives turned upside down in an instant: the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS)**. The OGHS offering began sixty-four years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. In March of 1949, a national broadcast on a Saturday evening asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches. A remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities gave their efforts to the broadcast, and more than 75,000 churches responded the next day. Today, OGHS serves people all over the world. Sponsored by nine Christian denominations (including American Baptist Churches USA) and Church World Service, OGHS makes sure that we can respond to needs as soon as they happen. As a result, **tens of thousands of people receive support for ongoing relief and rehabilitation. In addition to emergency relief, OGHS also provides funds for developing projects, both at home in the U.S. and around the world.**



\$2 million of OGHS gifts last year went to help the hundreds of thousands of people impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and mudslides and fires in California. Your gifts are helping people envision recovery and new life, strengthened by the assurance that God is working in, through, and beyond us. The Apostle Paul who said that God is able to *“accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine”* (Eph. 3:20) also put the work of building abundance squarely at our feet: *“...always seek to do good to one another and to all”* (1 Thess. 5:15).

Calvary, your OGHS gifts are a witness to the belief that God is able to “accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine.” All of us have the power to give back to God from that which God has given us, and in doing so, create a more just world for all of God’s children. Through our gifts, we participate in the many ministries that serve the hungry, the poor, the distressed, the refugee. **Please join me this June in giving generously to this year’s One Great Hour of Sharing offering.** Giving is easy with these options:

- enclose a check or cash in the provided OGHS envelope and place it in the offering plate during worship at Calvary OR mail it to or drop it by the church office (memo line: OGHS)
- give on-line: <http://calvarydenver.org/giving/> (choose “Monthly Mission Partner” and type OGHS)
- text **opentoall** to **77977**

Partnering with you,

Rev. Anne J. Scalfaro, *Senior Pastor*

2017 One Great Hour of Sharing Financial Report – How YOU changed the world in 2017

When you take a global view of our world, natural disasters occur every week. If you include disasters of human origin, the opportunity to respond to people in need is even more frequent. The larger disasters are captured by our news media, and word of these tragedies is brought into our homes. It is difficult to imagine the suffering of those whose lives are forever changed. However, many needs of our world—whether in a neighboring state or half the world away—remain uncovered by our news media.

However, with our extensive network of international and domestic partners, American Baptists are able to make a difference wherever and whenever disaster strikes. 2017 was a year of many natural disasters—extraordinary hurricanes, fires, mudslides, etc. Many manmade disasters—think Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Nigeria and South Sudan—continue unresolved, claiming new victims each day. Yes, your gifts to OGHS brought relief in many of these situations. **Here is where your gifts made a difference in 2017:**

AROUND THE WORLD

Country	Response
Bangladesh.....	Flood Relief
Cuba.....	Hurricane Relief
Haiti	Hurricane Relief
India.....	Flood Relief
Lebanon	Refugee Relief
Mexico.....	Asylum Seekers & Earthquake Relief
Mozambique.....	Flood Relief
Nepal.....	Drought & Flood Relief
Philippines.....	Fire Relief
Serbia.....	Flood Relief
Sierra Leone.....	Mudslide Relief
Uganda.....	Drought Relief
Zambia	Severe Storm Relief

HERE AT HOME

State	Response
California	Flood, Mudslide, & Fire Relief
Florida.....	Hurricane Relief
Kansas.....	Wildfire Relief
Louisiana	Flood Relief
Massachusetts.....	Storm Relief
Montana	Wildfire Relief
New York	Storm Relief
Puerto Rico.....	Hurricane Relief
Texas.....	Hurricane Relief
Various ABMen National Disaster Response.....	Hurricane Relief

USE OF 2017 OGHS FUNDS

Emergency Relief	\$ 2,503,786
Refugee & Immigration Ministries	\$ 136,000
Sustainable Development	\$ 566,013
Administration and Promotion	\$ 179,220
Total	\$ 3,385,019

**In addition to emergency relief,
One Great Hour of Sharing also provided funds for
development projects which address chronic needs:**

Around the World

China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Poland, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Thailand

Here at Home

Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma

As Christians we know that God's dream for God's people is not that we would strive to be separate, caring only for ourselves: God gave us community to practice love and compassion.



One Great Hour
O F S H A R I N G