

Generous Beyond Limits

When I present *Our Malaria Work* forums, I open with the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). When the Good Samaritan left the injured man in the innkeeper's care, I'm impressed that he simply said, "I will repay you whatever more you spend." He didn't say, "I'll pay you up to and including X denarii, but not to exceed X denarii." The Good Samaritan was *generous beyond limits*.

So, too, was the boy with five barley loaves and two fish (John 6:1-15). He gave his entire lunch to feed the 5,000. He didn't say, "Jesus, I'll keep three loaves and one fish for myself; you can have the left-overs." The boy was *generous beyond limits*.

Prior to Jesus' death, His ultimate gift to us of his *generosity beyond limits*, a woman anointed him with a whole jar of costly ointment (Matthew 26:6-13). She didn't say, "Jesus, I'll anoint you with some ointment, sell some to give the proceeds to the poor, and keep most for my 'retirement fund.'" The woman was *generous beyond limits*.

Perhaps it's in this woman's story that we find ourselves—faced with many good ways to use our resources. These are difficult times. However, despite daily financial responsibilities, we can strive towards lives that become *generous beyond limits*. Through our generosity to our Church's worship, facilities, programs, and giving, we can seek the welfare of the communities, including our global community, in which we serve and live—the communities in which we also will find our own welfare (Jeremiah 29:1-9, especially v. 7).

Giver of Blessings,

Thank you for your generous blessings without limits. It's hard for me to trust you; please grow my faith so I better serve you and my neighbors. Help me be generous beyond limits to support your work in our congregations, communities, and world.

We especially remember our neighbors, gathered by you in our global community, who daily suffer from malaria. Powerfully inspire us to share the resources we have received from you. Move us to give generously to bring our sisters and brothers, protection, healing, and life. Inspire us to support all of your servants who work to contain this devastating disease.

Amen

(submitted by Mary Simonson Clark)