

March 29, 2020 – UCC One Great Hour Of Sharing : Theme - More Than We Can Imagine

Our church offering from Sunday March 29, 2020 will be Donated to One Great Hour of Sharing



What is One Great Hour of Sharing® (OGHS)?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

What Percentage of OGHS Donations Are Used Directly For the Mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming; and 5 cents for interpretation materials. The associated administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.

Examples of How OGHS Donations Have Been Used - Development - Not Just Peanuts

In a community that's far from any town, where only 22 families live, 3 sisters planned to change their community with peanuts. Sarthia, Piremeka, and Vishaathana explained that it had only rained in their community in India a few times over the last year. A lack of water had affected everyone. The thought to improve their community began when Piremeka and her husband began dreaming of a better life for their two children. They heard about programs that provided small loans to people like them. The first loan they received, helped them open a little store. The store—the only of its kind for miles—carried groceries and items that you would find in any corner store. They had bread, milk, oil, and even candy and sweets. However, the store didn't provide Piremeka and her family the kind of life that would give their children better opportunities, and there certainly wasn't enough of a profit to invest in their community. So Piremeka and her sisters came up with a different plan. They got loans to grow peanuts. As peanut farmers, they were very wise. They held on to their peanuts for just the right time to take them to market. They would then sell and receive the best price for their harvest. They learned that if they would plant peanuts for 2 or 3 harvests and then allow the land to rest, that they would reap a bigger harvest while also protecting their farmland investment and peanut business. The sisters and their families used peanut farming to raise enough money to ultimately build wells on their property. Where they lived, their gardens, animals, and livelihoods were all affected by a water shortage. By building three wells in their small community, they would change the flow of the water, bringing water into the community where all could benefit. To you and me, these may look like ordinary peanuts. But to the people in Piremeka's village, the peanuts were an investment in their futures. (www.ucc.org/oghs_Mission_Moments_2020)