

## Chapter 1 : Fast Offerings: - ensign

*The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of love and of generosity and of goodness. It illuminates the picture window of the soul, and we look out upon the world's busy life and become more interested in people than in things.*

Led by the theme from the Prayer of St. To prepare for the BAA, pastors, priests and lay appeal chairpersons attended a kick-off meeting with Bishop Serratelli Aug. John Paul II Center here. It is privilege to take what God gives us and share with those who have less. Generous giving is not only a help to those in need, it is a virtuous act. Generous, cheerful giving is actually an act of worship that honors a God that loves us so much. In a word, giving is sacramental. It is an outward, visible sign of our inward spiritual disposition. May our lifestyle and may our own sacrificial giving supply the needs for others who have less. During the weekend of Sept. Bulletin announcements will be made for parishioners to understand more about the Appeal. During Masses on the first weekend of October, pastors will give a homily on behalf of the Appeal. During weekend Masses of Oct. To make the Appeal a success, the work and commitment of the pastors and lay appeal chairpersons are essential and have been proven through past Appeals and Partners in Faith, the diocesan capital and endowment campaign conducted in To encourage the priests, Msgr. The BAA does tremendous work in the Diocese. It helps us with our work of Catholic Charities. When people are asked what are they interested in often, it is supporting the work of Catholic Charities and this is a way of doing that. He spoke about the importance of the In-Pew Commitment Weekend. Each year, these agencies provide help to tens of thousands of people in need. Donations support a variety of programs and services in all three counties of the diocese. In addition to these agencies, the Appeal will provide funding to Catholic school students who live in inner-city areas. The Appeal helps fund financial aid to assist families to afford Catholic school education, technology upgrades to enhance the academic programs offered in the schools and support of school activities. Also, the Appeal helps funds education for diocesan seminarians. This is especially important since the number of seminarians has increased dramatically in recent years, along with the cost of formation. Similar to appeals in the past, parish rebates will be given to parishes that raise money over their Appeal goal. Half the amount received in cash over the parish goal is returned to parishes for their own needs. Parishioners are invited to visit these ministries such as Catholic Charities agencies or Nazareth Village to see firsthand where donations are being used. Funds raised in the Paterson Diocese stay in the Paterson Diocese. To provide financial support to the BAA, there are several ways to help:

**Chapter 2 : BIBLE VERSES ABOUT GIVING AND RECEIVING**

*St. Francis of Assisi For it is in giving that we receive. If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have.*

Grant me the treasure of sublime poverty. Francis of Assisi While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart. Francis of Assisi Where there is injury let me sow pardon. Francis of Assisi Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance. Francis of Assisi Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Francis of Assisi It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching. Francis of Assisi O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Francis of Assisi Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned. Francis of Assisi Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self. Francis of Assisi I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, he can work through anyone. Francis of Assisi If God can work through me, he can work through anyone. Francis of Assisi Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words. Francis of Assisi The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. Francis of Assisi, this prayer first appeared written in French in My joy is the golden sunset giving thanks for another day. Gratitude itself is a source of joy. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love. We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread They offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: Frankl Today, I say yes to forgiving. I commit to being for-giving love and for-giving compassion in all areas of my life. We must receive, utilize and extend the gift. Success and prosperity are spiritual attributes belonging to all people. You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. Edison I hate the giving of the hand unless the whole man accompanies it. Giving up is what makes it permanent. Glasow Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving us wordy evidence of the fact. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go. Our enemies would dance with joy if only they knew how they were worrying us, lacerating us, and getting even with us! Our hate is not hurting them at all, but our hate is turning our own days and nights into a hellish turmoil. Beauty halts and freezes the melting flux of nature. All too often we are giving young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to grow their own plants. Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love? Sheen Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. Love consists in giving without getting in return; in giving what is not owed, what is not due the other. The essential elements of giving are power and love - activity and affection - and the consciousness of the race testifies that in the high and appropriate exercise of these is a blessedness greater than any other. Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. It is, strictly speaking, a real factor in scientific research. It is the democracy of the dead. Tradition refuses to submit to that arrogant oligarchy who merely happen to be walking around. Chesterton Sweetest Lord, make me appreciative of the dignity of my high vocation, and its many responsibilities. Never permit me to disgrace it by giving way to coldness, unkindness, or impatience. May the world be kind to you, and may your own thoughts be gentle upon yourself.

**Chapter 3 : 'It is in giving that we receive' - Rediff Getahead**

*Find this Pin and more on "For it is in Giving that we Receive" [racedaydvl.com](http://racedaydvl.com) of St. Francis by MLynn Necaie. This is an incredible idea! Completely inspired by this family's Advent project to perform Random Acts of Christmas Kindness ("RACK") in preparation for Christmas.*

For about a year and a half, Scott had been thinking about ways to develop an in-person satsang on the island. After attending a weeklong retreat in Tomales, he was ready to take his next step towards this goal. Starting the satsang became a leap of faith for me. I felt both the need and the capacity to make it happen. I started off by holding a four-week introductory course. Most participants had sampled a range of spiritual practices. Some had devoted themselves to other traditions, but were looking for something more or at least a supportive environment to sustain their discipline. How was I going to keep this from becoming a course in comparative spiritual practices? The rest I could not control. The facility where the Kona Satsang meets. It was fascinating to watch as these seekers grasped passage meditation. Their questions were thoughtful and recognizable: The videos were obviously impressive to most and absolutely captivating for some. I was astonished when at week two we had lost only three of the original participants and two of those returning had meditated for 30 minutes every day and another announced he was meditating twice a day every day albeit for 20 minutes. More tales of how it was similar to or different from this practice or that practice. And then use of the mantram. You use it during the day? Longtime meditators from different traditions sensed the depth to the passage meditation practice and were intrigued at the connection between training the mind in meditation and awareness of their actions and attitudes during the day. Over the last two weeks attendance became consistent and the questions became more practical. One was making changes to her schedule to facilitate meditation; another was fascinated by experiments with use of the mantram during the day. To my surprise and delight, the group had no need of a soft sell. I have to get up early for work. The group lingered after meditation, visiting and discussing how new members could be added. It seemed we had become a satsang. The part of the experience that has been surprisingly rewarding personally has been the increased focus it has given me for my own practice: In recommending passages for others to memorize, I am resolved to learn a new passage myself. I cannot help but be reminded of the words of St Francis that it is in giving that we receive. It is early yet, and I am sure challenges lie ahead, but I feel confident we have a good beginning.

**Chapter 4 : Perfect Joy: It is in Giving that We Receive**

*St. Francis of Assisi* "For it is in giving that we receive." To see what your friends thought of this quote, please sign up!

E-mail Through generous fast offerings, we not only help those in need but also open the windows of heaven for blessings to be poured out on us. Gerry was constantly in trouble. Always asking others for more. Thick red sores covered his face, neck, and arms. Half his front teeth were missing. He was dirty, his clothes were torn, he smelled, and I had to resist the inclination to shrink away from him. Never had the bishop seen anyone weep so freely and so genuinely. Tears flooded his eyes and fell down his cheeks. In fact, only a few members knew who they were. They kept to themselves and did not answer their door unless they knew who was calling. But the bishop had a nagging feeling about the family and wondered how they were doing, so he decided to pay them a visit. No one answered when he knocked, but the bishop knew the Larsens were home, so he took a seat on the porch and waited. For nearly an hour he waited. Again, the bishop took a seat on the porch. The only piece of furniture in the bare room was a stained and torn couch. As he spoke with the family, he learned they were sleeping on blankets on the floor. The father had been injured six months ago and was unable to return to work. The family had eaten the last of the food, and it would be another week until the next disability check would arrive. The bishop assigned them to visit with five families to see if there was anything they could do to help. Kitchen, bedroom, dining room, and living room were all combined into the small space in which they lived. With five children and the cost of food, housing, and medical bills, they had tried to make the best of their situation. Blessings of the Fast While the people in each of the above stories differ in many ways, they all have one thing in common: Fasting and giving a generous offering for the relief of those in need strengthens and edifies us and offers opportunities for rich spiritual experiences. The process of fasting, of going without food for a little while, helps us both physically and spiritually. Isaiah, in his day, suggested the same. Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? In these latter days, the Lord has restored the law of the fast as a pattern for caring for the needy. They came to Joseph and wanted help, in Kirtland, and he said there should be a fast day, which was decided upon. It was to be held once a month, as it is now, and all that would have been eaten that day of flour, or meat, or butter, or fruit, or anything else, was to be carried to the fast meeting. When the poor are starving, let those who have, fast one day and give what they otherwise would have eaten to the bishops for the poor, and every one will abound for a long time. Our burden of taxes would be lightened. The giver would not suffer but would be blessed by [this] small abstinence. A new measure of concern and unselfishness would grow in the hearts of people everywhere. Can anyone doubt the divine wisdom that created this program which has blessed the people of this church as well as many who are not members of this church? Rudd, formerly of the Seventy and author of *Pure Religion*, a history of Church welfare, explained in an interview: Elder Rudd has said: It was instituted to bless everybody, the worthy and the unworthy. To help center them and change their lives. The whole purpose of welfare is to help people be better, happier, and to experience more joy. He knew that he held in trust the fast offerings which faithful members of his ward had offered for this very purpose. Steps toward Self-Reliance In all cases, however, the bishops knew they must do more than merely relieve present distress. They were to do what they could to teach principles of self-reliance so that people could, in the future, not only help themselves, but in time help others as well. This is one of the primary reasons the welfare program of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is so successful in helping people lift themselves. One of the first steps a bishop takes as he works with families in need is to examine the resources available to them from members of their extended family. As she counseled with her bishop, he suggested they explain the problem to her children and see if there was anything they could do. The children decided to help. The bishop provided some of the roofing materials, and then the children, with help from members of the ward, came together and repaired the roof. The children felt pleased that they could work together and perform this service. The love the mother felt for her children as a result of this experience became a foundation for bringing the family closer together. A primary goal of assisting families is to help them plan, prepare, and

work for the day when they can live without needing help from others. Sister Larsen, for example, was offered the opportunity to help in the meetinghouse doing some cleaning. Since Gerry had worked on and off as a handyman, he was put to good use helping the elderly who were in need of home repairs. Gerry quit alcohol and drugs. His health improved and he began helping with Scouting and youth activities. The Larsens became active in the Church and never forgot the kindness of the bishop who came at the time they needed help the most. The Hall family began to see that there was a way out of their one-room apartment. On assignment from the bishop, Brother and Sister Lippman helped arrange visits to the dentist and doctor. An optician provided glasses for the mother. For the first time in years, she could read to her children. The food and clothing the bishop provided helped them save some money. After a year, Brother and Sister Lippman helped them find a low interest home-buying program for which they could qualify. Today the Hall family lives in their own home. They are active in the Church and are preparing to go to the temple. And they give encouragement to other families who feel hopeless and helpless and stuck. Back when John and Shirley Merrill were trying to survive graduate school, they watched as others extended a helping hand to people in need. They wanted to do the same. But 30 years of marriage had been filled with the wonders and distractions of a busy life. Four of their six children needed braces; three went on missions; two played sports; one danced. Between play performances, nights of tending fevers, and days of struggling to bring in enough money to support the family, they hardly had time for themselves, let alone for much else. Now, as their last son stepped on the plane to begin his mission, the Merrills were faced with an empty home for the first time. As they drove home they reminded each other of how they had wanted to do something significant for others in need. But Shirley had developed a painful arthritis that prevented her from being very mobile, and John still had another seven years before retirement. However, they knew that in their own city there was suffering and hunger. How could they reach out and help the homeless? One Sunday, as they sang the opening hymn in sacrament meeting, these words had a profound impact on them: I think that when we are affluent, as many of us are, we ought to be very, very generous and give, instead of the amount we saved by our two meals of fasting, perhaps much, much more—ten times more where we are in a position to do it. They felt nearer to the Lord and felt in a powerful way the blessings promised by Isaiah: Romney, then of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, taught: I am not promising you riches, but I am telling you that this is the most practical way to protect yourselves and families from actual need. Thus, he immortalized a Samaritan who, as he was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, encountered a man who had been robbed, beaten, and left on the side of the road to die. Never mind that the man was a Jew, despised by many of the Samaritans. Never mind that a priest and a Levite had previously passed by, ignoring him. Never mind that stopping to help was inconvenient, time consuming, and costly. As we give generous fast offerings, we literally feed the hungry, bind up the wounds of the sick, and clothe the naked. By so doing, we not only bless the lives of others, but we open the windows of heaven and qualify ourselves to receive additional choice blessings from the Lord.

Chapter 5 : "In Giving, We Receive"™ - Diocese of Paterson - Clifton, NJ

*For it is in giving that we receive. and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen. More on Genius. About "Prayer of Saint Francis" "Prayer of Saint Francis" Track Info. Home; S;*

More Our biggest problem with giving and receiving is that we try and track it. And when we do that, we lose the beat. The best dancers are never singularly focused on the mechanics of their movements. They know how to let go, tune into the rhythm and synchronize with their partners. We just have to dance. Take one of my friends for example, a very successful entrepreneur. Gifts are actually meant to be given. In his daily life, he started cultivating some beautiful practices of generosity. For instance, every time he walked into a fancy restaurant, he told the waiter to find a couple that is most madly in love. Being a fan of Batman, he took his anonymity seriously: And as a food connoisseur, some of his favourite places were also quite pricey -- upwards of a couple hundred bucks per person. On one such day, he walks into a nice restaurant and does his usual drill. The person serving him obliges. However, this time, the waiter comes back with a counter request. I think it would make her feel better if you were to just introduce yourself, just this once. My husband and I, well, we work at a small nonprofit with physically challenged kids, and we have been saving up all year to have this meal here. It is our one year marriage anniversary today. It renews our faith in humanity. Thank you SO much. They kept in touch, he joined their board and they are friends to this day. Now, in that scenario, who was the giver? Who was the receiver? And more importantly, does it even matter? Dancing, tells us to stop keeping track. The real reward lies in what flows between us -- our connection. So, my dear friends, there you have it. Sometime last year, I spontaneously treated a homeless woman to something she really wanted -- ice-cream. We walked into a nearby , she got her ice-cream and I paid for it. Can I buy you something? The cashier looks on, as we all share a beautiful, awkward, empathy-filled moment of silence. I would be delighted to receive your offering. What if we pay-it-forward by tipping this kind cashier who has just helped us? The good news is that generosity is not a luxury sport. Martin Luther King Jr. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love. May you all give, receive -- and never, ever stop dancing. Nipun Mehta appealed students to find greatness in serving others Photographs:

**Chapter 6 : For it is in giving that we receive. - Francis of Assisi - BrainyQuote**

*In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

Where there is injury let me sow pardon. Francis of Assisi It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. To confirm your subscription, you must click on a link in the email being sent to you. Each email contains an unsubscribe link. No one is to be called an enemy, all are your benefactors, and no one does you harm. You have no enemy except yourselves. Francis of Assisi Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Francis of Assisi O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Francis of Assisi It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Francis of Assisi I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, he can work through anyone. Francis of Assisi Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned. Francis of Assisi Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words. Francis of Assisi If God can work through me, he can work through anyone. Francis of Assisi Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self. Francis of Assisi The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. Francis of Assisi, this prayer first appeared written in French in My joy is the golden sunset giving thanks for another day. Gratitude itself is a source of joy. They offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: Frankl Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love. I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. Giving is the highest expression of our power. I commit to being for-giving love and for-giving compassion in all areas of my life. We must receive, utilize and extend the gift. Success and prosperity are spiritual attributes belonging to all people. Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. Edison You can never love without giving. Giving up is what makes it permanent. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go. Our enemies would dance with joy if only they knew how they were worrying us, lacerating us, and getting even with us! Our hate is not hurting them at all, but our hate is turning our own days and nights into a hellish turmoil. Glasow Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love? Sheen Forgiveness is the giving, and so the receiving, of life. Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. Never permit me to disgrace it by giving way to coldness, unkindness, or impatience. If instead of a gem, or even a flower, we should cast the gift of a loving thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels give. Beauty halts and freezes the melting flux of nature. All too often we are giving young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to grow their own plants. Gardner Instead of giving a politician the keys to the city, it might be better to change the locks. The State never abdicates. Bankruptcy represents a longstanding commitment in this country to helping people get a fresh start. This principle has never been giving only certain people a fresh start. All you are unable to give possesses you. For it is in giving that we receive. You can also search my large collection of Encouraging Quotes. May the world be kind to you, and may your own thoughts be gentle upon yourself.

*Satsang: It Is in Giving That We Receive. By Scott Stories From Meditators. Scott is a passage meditator living on the Big Island of Hawaii. For about a year and a.*

I am a true believer that when we give our time, talent or treasure to others we truly receive one of the greatest blessings in life. Giving back or helping those in need is what connects us to others and makes us happy and studies are proving this to be the case. It is truly what living is meant to be. In just a few short days I will be celebrating my 4 year SparkVersary which means I have spent countless hours perusing the message boards. Over the course of four years I have seen complete strangers reach out to help others and what an amazing event it is to witness. Friendships are made and solidified as our members connect. And who can better to relate to our situation than others who have walked in similar shoes. This past weekend I had the pleasure to participate in the White Rock Marathon Relay in Dallas with a handful of my high school classmates from 30 years ago. I had the last leg of the relay which meant waiting well over 3 hours after the race began for my turn to run. Fortunately, we had shuttle buses available to take us to our prospective baton exchange point. While sitting on the bus with other relay runners, I had the pleasure of chatting with four women. I was talking with a woman from New Mexico who was wearing a Team Lizzie shirt. She spoke with such passion for this cause it actually made me wish I had a cause to run for. In just a few short minutes there was a connection. And this woman was not alone in her quest to run to help others. There were teams running for Team in Training, Team Owen and many other great charities. It was so touching to see people running for a cause, other than just to finish a marathon, half-marathon or marathon relay that it has inspired me to find a charity for next year. So how can we find happiness this holiday season? Well, studies have confirmed that when we give money to help others, no matter how big or small the amount that we give, it makes us happy. For many of us doing just a small deed to help others can make us happy and makes us feel good about ourselves. May the gift of giving journey well beyond the holiday season. Have you found that giving to others makes you happy? Have you discovered that your whole mood shifts just by offering a kind word or gesture to someone else? You will earn 5 SparkPoints.

Chapter 8 : For it is in giving that we receive. --St. Francis | Saints | Pinterest | Words, Quotes and Sayings

*For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned." ~ Francis of Assisi In a world where more and more people seek to get more than they seek to give, be one of those people who offer their love and support to those who need and ask for it.*

It is pretty short, but there is still a lot to be learned from it. The first reading for Mass from the book of Corinthians is a lot longer, but the meaning that is being conveyed repeats itself, that Jesus Christ was truly raised from the dead. The length of words really do not have anything to do with how much meaning are in the verses in scripture. It is the same with our own conversations sometimes too. The meaning of our lives, and our death, and indeed our faith itself, has no meaning at all if Jesus Christ did not truly rise from the dead. Jesus conquered death, on Easter morning, when he returned from the dead. He proved by his own life, that there really is such a thing as eternal life. What we know right now, is not all that there is. Our lives go on forever. If our lives go on forever, and death is but a doorway into a new way of living, then perhaps we should evaluate our lives from time to time, to see if we are living it, from the perspective of eternity? Will the choices that we make today, matter in the long run? People get wrapped up in so many superficial things, that they distract themselves from what is most important about life itself. There are many people who spend years of their life studying to obtain a higher education, but their motive is to make a lot of money when they are through, or to gain the admiration and respect of others, and a more prominent place in society. There is nothing wrong with a higher education, if it is genuinely used to serve others though. Motive is everything in the spiritual life, because it reveals the true state of our heart. At the root of whatever we do, our focus should not be on our ourselves, but on God and on other people. They left all of their personal comforts in life and gave away their assets, to follow Jesus wherever he went and provide for the needs of the community of people who traveled with him. She left a life of luxury and personal comfort, in order to follow Jesus and provide for him and the disciples needs. This was evidently more rewarding to her, to follow Jesus and serve other people, than any of the things that she owned or the luxurious life that she had previously lived. Joanna found what the true meaning of life is all about. Joy is not inwardly focused, but outwardly expressed. It is in giving and serving others, that we experience a deep sense of family, friendship, a sense of belonging, peace and joy. His joy lives on to this day.

**Chapter 9 : "For it is in giving that we receive.-St. Francis of Assisi - Make a Change Blog**

*Certainly, we can give cynically - the law of giving works no matter what - but when we give with a specific goal of getting, the experience of receiving is empty. To fully receive - to receive with a joy that motivates us to keep on giving - we must give from a place of selflessness - from a place of service to others - not selfishness.*

Francis, 13th century saint "When you give, You begin to live, You get the world. I grew up in a fairly middle class family, the daughter of a Southern Baptist preacher who apparently did pretty well for himself. We always had nice houses, nice clothes, nice toys - all the amenities of the American middle class. Until It all fell apart when I was nine. My dad, who had left the pulpit to take a job as a chaplain for a major hotel chain, met another woman on one of his many out-of-town trips. He came home that last time, broke it off with mom and was gone. Shortly thereafter, our middle class followed him. The mortgage company came calling. The bank evicted us. We landed in a public housing project in an apartment too small for three people. Mom and I shared a bed for years until they found a bigger apartment for us. To my pre-teen mind, the world had ended. Expelled from the Garden of Eden, I went to work when I was thirteen and have been paying my own way ever since. Money was scarce which meant things were scarce - toys, clothes food. We never went hungry. We were never homeless. She would praise God for anything that we had - a meager dinner, hand-me down clothes, just enough money for the rent. But, mom also instilled in me a precarious relationship with money. I recall that once I was out on my own, it seemed that I could never get ahead. It always seemed that I had just enough to always cover whatever emergency arose. I was distressed, but my mother praised God. If God knew my car would break down, why not just fix the car? What developed in me from that theology was a deep aversion to money. What bill is coming? Oh my God, did the cat just sneeze? I was always waiting for the other shoe to drop. Inevitably it did - my issues with money becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. Whosoever is a testament to my money issues. When I started the magazine, I naturally wanted it to be a printed magazine - which put me on a collision course with my money "issue. Magazines raise money by selling ads. But, since the head of this fledgling ministry had issues with money, and hated asking anyone else for any of their money - Whosoever was doomed. After four issues, the print version of Whosoever folded as quietly as it has begun - all because I unconsciously sent all the money away. Francis knew - even Dave Matthews understands - that receiving is paradoxical. We only get when we give. This is why we need to be careful what we give to the world. If we give love, we get love. If we give hate, we get hate. Francis echoes the words of Jesus, "Freely you have received, free give" Matthew Certainly, we can give cynically - the law of giving works no matter what - but when we give with a specific goal of getting, the experience of receiving is empty. To fully receive - to receive with a joy that motivates us to keep on giving - we must give from a place of selflessness - from a place of service to others - not selfishness. These are the people who give, expecting nothing in return - though what they receive is often greater than they have ever thought to give. But, for those of us who have "issues" with money, it can be difficult to wrap our minds around the paradox of giving and receiving. Francis and his famous prayer. I want to believe that it is indeed in the giving that we receive. If I give - how will I live? I need to cover my own expenses first, right? We want to give. We know we need to give. We know that the Bible commands us to give, and not just that, but to give cheerfully! I know that Christians are expected to give, not just a tithe to their church, but to the community at large - to organizations and groups that advance the causes that we support. The motivation for that giving should be one of gratitude for all that we have received from God. We give because God has given so graciously to us. I suspect that I am not alone in that thought. It has taken me years to understand the paradox of giving that both St. Francis and Dave Matthew have been trying to teach me. I had to start small, giving a small percentage to my church. Even on a small scale, the results truly amazed me. I gave timidly, worrying that I might need the money - but I always, and I mean always, had enough. In fact, I always had more than enough. Before I began giving - even meagerly - I would inevitably run short each month, waiting impatiently for that next paycheck. Once I made that step of faith, however small, the abundance came back to me in just the same measure - whatever I gave up, I got, and then some. I had gotten just a taste of the law of giving - just a glimpse of the paradox of St. Francis and Dave

Matthews. Banishing thoughts of lack Most often it is that thought of lack that keeps us from giving. What needs to change is not our income, but our attitude. Lack thoughts will produce a reality of lack. What is needed then are new thoughts. We must banish all thoughts of lack and replace them with thoughts of abundance. If we lack for anything it is because we simply have not asked for it. If we have asked for it and it does not appear it is because we have not asked believing that it will be given. Early in its publication, the magazine hit rough waters. They invited to this particular staff meeting, a woman who had given generously to the magazine in the past. As she heard their latest tale of woe, she said, "I get the notion that you gentlemen expect me to make you another contribution. This lady was their ace-in-the-hole and now, even that was gone. Instead of money, she said she would give them something even more valuable - a "fresh, dynamic, and creative idea" that would solve all of their problems. What she told them was to banish all thoughts of lack. Certainly the magazine lacked a lot - equipment, subscribers, ideas and faith. Instead of focusing on what they lacked, the woman asked them to fill their minds with thoughts of prosperity. She asked Peale how many subscribers they needed to survive. Peale replied that they had about 40, subscribers at the time and that , ought to be enough. Are our motives unselfish and genuine? After some time in thought, Peale said he finally saw in his mind "a vast number of people whom we were to serve and help. What changed were the people. We were changed and so everything began changing for the better. They trusted that God would provide and God did. Do not be confused. I am not preaching a prosperity gospel here. I am not preaching that you give to get - for that is what the prosperity preachers tell you: Remember the Guideposts staff first prayed about their project and dedicated it to God and human service. Their motives were unselfish and genuine. God may indeed bring money or material success into your life if you banish thoughts of lack, but God may also bring in more intangible things - love, kindness, friendship, community, a sense of well-being, a sense of personal fulfillment. Jeavons and Basinger tell the story of a family who decided to tithe regularly during a time of financial strain. They gave up "recreational expenditures" like dining out and movies. Their commitment to giving forced them to take more time with one another and in the end, "the deeper appreciation they developed for one another and their family, as well as the satisfaction they derived from their giving, was a blessing far greater than any sacrifice they made to maintain their tithe. Despite the lack of resources, Whosoever has chugged along with modest success over the past ten years. As we celebrate a decade of service to our community, our board of directors has dedicated themselves to banishing all thoughts of lack. We know that we will succeed because all our thoughts, all our efforts, are focused on bringing these things to pass. We have prayed over these ministries, we have we dedicated it to God and to human service. Our motives are unselfish and genuine.