

# INTENTIONAL GIVERS

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I was eating breakfast with my mom and my Ate when suddenly we heard the doorbell ring. Upon checking, it was a woman who was begging for food. Now, usually when someone knocks on our door begging, we are used to giving food but not money. At this particular time, we were aware that we hadn't restocked our groceries yet. We had no rice, no snack bars, no eggs. Nothing that we could usually give to those who would ask for food. And, we also just finished our breakfast. In this situation, it would've been easy to say sorry and tell the woman that we couldn't give her anything, and that's why the next thing my mom did amazed me. She asked the beggar to wait. She asked my Ate to rush to the nearby sari-sari store to buy some rice. She also checked our pantry and found one canned sausage left. She checked the fridge and saw tinola from last night's dinner. In the end, she was able to give a few kilos of rice, some canned goods, and a warm meal for the beggar. And, I thought we couldn't give the needy beggar anything. At this particular time, I witnessed my mom living out the Word: putting her love into action (1 John 3:16-18), and giving cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7). Giving with intentionality. As I witnessed this, I also remembered how our church has been doing the same. With many

members of our church family being stricken with COVID, I see families helping other families in quarantine by graciously providing food for them during their isolation period. How each person shares resources and networks to help our brothers and sisters who need medical assistance. As I remember this, I see love in action and cheerful giving. And, intentionality shown in communities giving, people are encouraged, families are blessed, and Jesus is made known.

Reflecting on the love shown by my mom and the love shown by the church, I realized that giving is best done with intentionality. In the first place, isn't this how the Father gave His son? Isn't this how Jesus gave His life? Intentionally? The love shown by the Father didn't wait for the world to turn back from their evil ways and go back to Him before He gave His son. No! It is clearly said that God showed his love for us in that while we are still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). With this in mind, just as Pastor Lito would always exhort to us to put our ministry to the next level, we are to put our giving to the next level, by becoming intentional givers, not incidental givers. An incidental giver waits, but an intentional giver finds.

Another good example of this

was the community pantry that was started in Maginhawa. I also want to mention one couple who intentionally allots funds from their family income so that they could give help anytime. Someone else I know regularly buys packed food to give to people who live and beg on the streets. There are just some of the many ways when we can be intentional givers. But the key, I believe, is that we should have hearts that love, eyes that see, and hands that are always ready.

May we not give incidentally, but give intentionally.✱

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