

## Why Give?

From the very beginning of time God has reserved a part for Himself. In the Garden of Eden, God set aside one tree. There was a “hands off” policy issued to Adam and Eve relative to that tree. Shortly afterwards, an offering request was made of Cain and Abel. Offering requests have been made of God’s people ever since.

The reason behind these requests is two-fold: One, to acknowledge, before God, your awareness of His ownership of and presiding over all that exists; Two, the acknowledgment of your own stewardship of God’s possessions and your dependence on His limitless provision.

It has been said that you cannot love without giving. It only stands to reason that if a person loves Jesus, he/she will have a personal need to give to His cause.

There are times in the midst of His cause when large projects, of one nature or another, come into play. These projects call for giving at a level unknown to many Christians. Such projects require that a person reevaluate his/her use of God’s provision. At such times, we are often confronted with the understanding that we have not always used our blessings for kingdom growth, but rather for personal comforts.

Changing one’s lifestyle of giving is not always easy, but we know that God, at times, has asked His people to undertake very difficult projects. But, as each one submitted themselves to the effort and the power of God prevailed, the task was accomplished. We must remember that whatever God causes or allows to happen, He also organizes an effort to ensure its success.

In addition, He offers a series of promises. Read these scriptures: Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:33; Luke 6:38 and II Corinthians 9:6-11.

Pray about your commitment to the Ages to Ages II campaign. Allow God to really work in your life. Step out in faith. Only if God is in it can it ever be accomplished. Trust the Lord to the fullest. Let His blessings of promise pour into your life. As they do, you will experience a new level of giving.



# AGES TO AGES II

Standing on God's Promises

### Luncheon Kick Off -- April 8th

A new chapter in the life of Trinity begins April 8th, will you be a part of it? We formally begin our Ages to Ages II campaign as the second step to the completion of our church campus.

The sermon will explain the vision of the church and how we feel God is calling on us to be faithful stewards of that vision.

Immediately following the service will be a luncheon in the Fellowship Center. A brief presentation will give you information about the campaign and the activities planned between the Kick-off and Commitment Sunday. You don’t need to bring anything but yourself and a faithful heart.

**Who:** You

**When:** Sunday, April 8th

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**What:** Ages to Ages II Campaign Kick Off

While other events will happen during the campaign, this is the place to receive the important information firsthand. No special offering or commitments will happen at this event as Commitment Sunday is May 6th.

### Leadership Roles

Ages to Ages II will succeed because of our families involvement. Several people have already accepted the responsibilities to serve on campaign teams. Others may join as the campaign unfolds. As you get involved, you will receive a blessing greater than the time and work you give.

Fr. Karl and Fr. Joe will provide leadership for the Stewardship Education portion. Fr. Karl will also coordinate the Faith Commitment aspect.

Here are a few of the other leadership roles and positions.

**Campaign Coordinators**  
Edwin and Kaye Camp

**Prayer Team Leaders**  
Lori Pflugh & Judy Schrieber

**Communications Teams Leaders**  
Chris Thomas & Don Clark

**Youth Team Leaders**  
Fr. Joe and Priscilla Beck

**Mail Team Leader**  
Tara Michaels

**Campaign Treasurer**  
Ed Taylor

**Continuation Team**  
Patrick & Priscilla Beck

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

## Projects and Finances

The groundwork was laid for Ages to Ages II with a campaign readiness study done by an independent company specializing in campaigns for churches. The questions in the survey focused on the church programming, current facilities and future needs. Most who completed the survey indicated a desire to have the Sanctuary as soon as possible. This is also the desire of our clergy, Fr. Karl and Fr. Joe.

The study results indicated we could construct the Administration building and eliminate a good portion of our current debt. However, the results also showed insufficient financial support to eliminate current debt or fund the Sanctuary.

The current temporary offices must be gone by Spring of 2019 per Bakersfield City ordinance.

Combining the inability to fully fund the Sanctuary and the approaching deadline of the current office space, the decision to build the Administration building and unshackle the church from a portion of its current debt is the most prudent course of action. The Sanctuary will be part of phase three, the next part we build.

If both the debt retirement and Administration building were fully funded, it would be \$3.8 million -- \$1 million for the Administration building and another \$2.8 million for debt retirement.

The church board decided to move forward with the construction of the Administration building as phase two and the sanctuary as phase three. Ages to Ages II needs to raise 2.5 million minimum and as much beyond that as possible. Reaching this goal will put us in position to begin planning the Sanctuary phase.



## Biblical Stewardship and Our Lives

We know that God is owner of all things (Psa 24:1). However, we don't always reflect that in our lives. We say my house, my car, my stocks, and... my money. Studies indicate Christian families give only 2-4% of their annual income on average.

When we recognize that God is the true owner of all things, it logically follows that we own nothing. We are merely stewards over different portions of His wealth. The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) teaches us that stewards make decisions for the benefit of the Master, not themselves. Every financial decision we make is an exercise in stewardship. We must decide, as stewards, how much money we will invest in Trinity Anglican and the Ages to Ages II campaign and how much we will spend on ourselves.

We must also remember that we are blessed so we can bless others. The Lord has entrusted us with His wealth to do good on earth for Him. Ages to Ages II gives us the opportunity to bless others through weekly fellowship and leading people to lives rooted in Christ.

No one should ever enter any great undertaking without first seeking the guidance of God. We need to prayerfully seek God's will in making these decisions and how he would have us spend His money. He will aid, support, and provide when we trust in Him, but He can only show us the way when we open our hearts to hear His voice through prayer.

If we each do what we are capable of doing, God will supply the material for us to build this spiritual house beyond any of our abilities. He will bless us abundantly.

"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

## 7 Keys to Open Handed Living in a Tight Fisted World

Each family will receive a booklet entitled 7 Keys to Open Handed Living in a Tight Fisted World. You can pick up your booklet after the worship service on April 8th, giving everyone time to complete the 30 days of stewardship devotions before Commitment Sunday.

By reading the short daily devotions, you will learn what the Bible says concerning stewardship as it relates to our walk with Christ.

We are certain the devotions will answer questions concerning stewardship. They will give us all pause as we reflect on our role and responsibilities as stewards of the Lord. We would all agree that "God is the owner of all," but how we each deal with the idea that we own "absolutely nothing" means we are spending God's money He has loaned us.

A short review of the previous week's devotions will happen during Sunday worship.