



Hey Gateway Family!

Each year at Christmas time (and extending through March) we have a special offering at Gateway for some worthwhile and eternal endeavor. We do this because, *"it is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35), and because God wants to use *us* to reach others who are suffering and/or do not know Him.

This year we are again partnering with **thinkSMALL** because they are so effective at reaching the lost around the world, leading them to Christ, and discipling them.



Foursquare missionaries Gary and Paula Hayes left their home and two businesses in Seattle a dozen years ago with a dream to make an eternal difference. Their ministry, **thinkSMALL**, would begin in **Thailand** where God would give them a dream and a plan to mobilize the local church in Thailand to reach unbelieving children, disciple them, protect them, mobilize them, and raise them up as a force who could transform the nation of Thailand as servants of Jesus.



Their goal was to build a team of local indigenous Christian teams who would then train the local church to reach out to kids in schools, villages, slums, and cities with entertaining shows that share a powerful message. This message empowers children and youth against drugs, trafficking, and abuse, and also contains the Good News about Jesus. Now the **thinkSMALL** dream is spreading

around the globe resulting in now over **382,000 salvations (mostly children) with over 90% of those being disciplined as followers of Jesus!**



This year we feel directed to focus and direct our Christmas offering towards **thinkSMALL Congo** which is right in the middle of the "blood diamond" area where children are kidnapped and turned into slaves to dig for minerals (gold, diamonds, cobalt, etc.) or forced into child armies. It's a tough area for sure. However, **thinkSMALL** is making a difference. **Since 2017 over 20,000 have come to Christ (mostly children) and almost 90% of those are being disciplined** by local churches and denominations working together there to make an eternal difference.



*Let's partner with them and reach even more!* Please begin praying now about what God would have you give to this special offering above and beyond your regular giving. Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Mel*

Mel & Denise...and the Staff & Council of Gateway Church

P.S. Below are some answers to some of the common questions you might have. However, if you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (206-604-3907) or email me at [mel@exploregateway.com](mailto:mel@exploregateway.com).

### **What's the Difference Between the Regular Offering and this Special Offering?**

The regular offering is the proportional amount (called a "tithe" which is 10%) that we set apart on a systematic basis and give throughout the year. Our tithes and offerings go to fund the ministries and missions we already have in our church, as well as our day-to-day functions. From time to time there are opportunities to give in a sacrificial way. This Special Offering is one of those sacrificial occasions that stretch us to grow in our faith. The Christmas Offering should be an offering above and beyond what you regularly give.

### **How Much Should I Give?**

Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that will stretch you and your faith. The precise amount you give is between you and God. Some may not be able to give that much and others will be able to give significantly more. If someone can and is directed by God to even give in the thousands, they should. The ultimate goal is not for us to give a certain amount, but to pray, step out in faith, and give sacrificially for the sake of those who desperately need help and it's in our power to help them.

### **When Should I Give?**

As soon as God directs your heart and you're able to respond. It's like I've told my sons, "*Delayed obedience, is not obedience.*" If God directs you to give a certain amount each week until the deadline, then do that. Above all, pray, listen, and obey...*and be amazed at what God can do through you as an individual and through us as a family.* Remember, consistent gifts over time add up (I'll let you do the math). Please use one of our giving envelopes and write "*Christmas Offering*" next to "*Other\**" designating that your gift is for the Special Offering.

### **Can I Give Online, Via Bank Check, or Through Auto-Debit?**

Yes. When you give at [exploregateway.com](http://exploregateway.com) and click on the "[GIVE](#)" tab, then simply select "*thinkSMALL Christmas Offering*" under the "Fund" drop-down menu. Likewise, you can give through YOUR BANK'S BILL PAY. Most banks offer this service free of charge. If your bank asks you to input an account number for the check, just put your first and last name so we can make certain it is credited correctly. Again, simply mark in the memo area that your gift is for the "*thinkSMALL Christmas Offering.*"

### **Are My Gifts Tax-Deductible?**

All gifts to Gateway Church, whether via the regular offering or this Special Offering, are completely tax-deductible. Your gift will be deductible in the tax year given (i.e., gifts given in 2019 will be deductible on your 2019 taxes). Please be sure to include your name and address when you give so that a receipt can be sent to you for your tax preparations. You are not required to utilize a tax deduction for your gift, but it is available for all gifts.

*Have additional questions? Please contact Pastor Mel  
At [mel@exploregateway.com](mailto:mel@exploregateway.com) or call 206-604-3907.*

