**The Two Rivers Mission Community**

**Generosity – sermon 3**

**Giving generously to God’s mission**

**Handout**

*Epistle reading: James 2.1-17*

*Gospel reading: Matthew 28.16-20*

The worldwide church has a worldwide mission:

* “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” (Psalm 24.1).
* God gave his church the task of taking the gospel to all nations (Matthew 28.19)…
* …going from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1.8).

We can act as:

* Individuals
* Churches

Commit to giving to the worldwide mission of God:

* To make disciples
* To care for the church where she is persecuted
* To care for the poor and needy

James 1.14-17 says: What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,’ but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

Be generous by:

* Getting informed
* Praying
* Supporting
* If possible, build a relationship

In Philippians 4, St Paul thanks the Philippians not just for their financial gift but for sharing in his hardships for the Gospel – there was genuine partnership.

We can’t do everything, but we can do something…

So, shall we?

**Questions to ponder**

* How can we avoid becoming too inward looking as Christians and as churches?
* What experience do you have of the worldwide mission of the worldwide church? What has inspired or encouraged you?
* What could your church do to generously support the worldwide mission of the church?
* How could you form genuine partnerships with those doing gospel work locally, nationally and internationally?

**Prayer**

Father God,

Save us from thinking too small of you,

Too small of your love for the world you have made,

Or too small of the mission you have given to your people.

Help us, to play our part in your mission to your world,

To share the gospel, to plant and grow churches, to build your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

Help us to not only be informed, to pray, to advocate, to love and serve, but also to generously give.

For your glory’s sake, Amen

**How to give to your church**

* Ask your treasurer or Rev Gary for the church bank account details and set up a regular payment or make a one-off gift.
* Find your church on <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/> and set up a regular payment or make a one-off gift.
* If you pay sufficient tax, sign a gift aid form, so your treasurer can reclaim gift aid on your donation