

Giving during difficult times

The disciples of the New Testament were bold visionaries. In Acts 11:28-30, we read the story of God's servant, Agabus, who prophesied about a famine which would spread over the entire Roman world. The disciples were courageous and took a step of faith at the prompting of the Holy Spirit. In spite of this impending famine that would affect their own lives and futures, the disciples willingly gave to help others in need.

Their action was not an emotional reflex to a sad story, but a deliberate *decision* on their part. Every financial decision we make is a stewardship decision. Even during difficult times, God may lead you to help someone in need. He may even challenge you to meet a greater need; to expand His Kingdom on earth through an investment in reaching the lost – people you may never even see.

Even during the difficult economic times we face today, the Church must remind God's people of His provision. If the *willingness* is there, the *wealth* to do what God calls you to do will follow your act of obedience. He is wiser than we are, and will never challenge His Church and His children to a task unless and until He is prepared to help them resource it.

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