



Abundant Living Ministries
Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

August 2018

50 CENTS

Dear friends... and, in this letter, I will say “Dear Givers” and “Dear Partners,”

We are writing this letter specifically to those who have recently contributed financially to Abundant Living Ministries. Since you are one of the “givers,” I would like to report on ALM’s finances. (This is not a PANIC letter but a report.)

First, let me assure you with the utmost sincerity that your giving is significant in helping ALM to continue offering counseling services without charging any specified fee. Yes, clients are invited to contribute as they are financially able, but...

I met with a pastor this week who will be out of a job very soon, with no next assignment in place. As we concluded our session, he apologized, saying he would mail a gift to our office, but their financial situation is very tight.

Last evening Sharon met with a young mother who had just been informed by her husband that he has found somebody else and does not want to be with her any longer. This wife was not in a position to contribute to ALM as she wished.

A gentleman recently scheduled, referred by another professional counseling office. When his insurance ran out with the other counselor, he was pointed toward ALM with the comment, “your finances will not be an issue at ALM.”

How nice to know that YOU and others are making up the difference!

Through the years, about two-thirds of ALL INCOME is through donations from people like you (in other words, NOT received at the point of ministry service). Some clients who were unable to give anything at the time of counseling have now, years later, become regular givers. Income, in 2018, is running behind 2017, with contributions not quite covering the expenses.

As we face pretty-constant financial challenge, please know that **EVERY ONE OF YOU ARE A TREMENDOUS ENCOURAGEMENT AND BLESSING... you are helping others, through ALM!**

SO... WHAT ABOUT THE 50 CENTS??

Well, I did want to arouse your curiosity, hoping you would read the entire letter, but here’s the 50-cent deal. ALM has a practice of sending out an acknowledgment letter with an IRS receipt for every gift received. And that means the secretary sticks a 50-cent stamp on each acknowledgment envelope.

IF YOU WISH - We could send you JUST ONE receipt at the end of each calendar year. Your end-of-year IRS receipt would include a listing of all your gifts, dates, check numbers, etc, along with your total giving for the year. Typically you could expect to receive this IRS receipt, from the ALM office, by the 10th of January, for the prior calendar year.

If you choose this option, it will simply save ALM a 50-cent stamp each time you send in a gift. **TO INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE, please include a note with your next gift, saying something like, “Yes, annual receipt.” Or, if you prefer receiving the individual receipts, no problem whatsoever. Include a note, “Keep individual receipts.” It’s that simple!**



May I say again... THANK YOU!

John (for Sharon and the rest at ALM)



Question: *I keep asking God to solve a big problem that I'm facing. I thought He promises to come to the aid of His children but I don't think I see Him doing anything for me. Why?*

Answer: We could spend a lot of time trying to answer your question, which many of us have also asked from time to time. But for today, let's look briefly at one principle which might be pertinent to your situation.

Let me use an illustration - As our children were growing up, we tried to instill in them an important message... enjoyment of privilege requires acceptance of responsibility. They needed to finish their tasks, act respectfully, etc., before they received certain benefits.

In a similar way, our Father places conditions on certain provisions and blessings.

Make no mistake: God's gift of **salvation** is a free gift, not based on our obedience to a set of rules. While we were still sinners, He loved us and sent His Son to die for us (see Romans 5:8). But, at salvation, God does not become our heavenly "slot machine" ready to dish out whatever we want, whenever we pull the prayer lever. No, many of God's promises are conditional, accompanied by responsibilities He requires of us.

Let's look at some promises with their corresponding requirements (and you can find many more of these in the Bible). We

might ask, "How am I doing in holding up my end of the bargain?"

Delight yourself in the Lord... and He will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)

Those who **hope in the Lord** ... will renew their strength. (Isaiah 40:31)

If any of you lacks wisdom, **he should ask God** ... and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)

The Lord will fight for you ... **you need only to be still.** (Exodus 14:14)

If we confess our sins ... he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil ... and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

If my people... will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways ... then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (II Chronicles 7:14)

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. (Malachi 3:10)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God... and the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him... and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

But seek first His kingdom... and all these things (food, drink, clothing) will be given to you. (Matthew 6:33)

*Written by
Sharon Charles*



Lay Christian Counselor Training

**Six Monday evenings
October 1-November 5, 2018
7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**\$120 per person or \$150 per couple
(textbooks included)**

Designed for those who wish to be more-effective people helpers within the Christian community.
Please register no later than
SEPTEMBER 10th by calling the ALM office.

Open Arms Childbirth Class

**Five consecutive Thursdays at 7:00pm
October 4 - November 1, 2018**

Taught by an experienced childbirth educator, this class covers the same information offered in a hospital course, but includes a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will connect with other expectant couples and gain many practical helps as you prepare for your labor and delivery. There is no cost. Please register by contacting the ALM office (see contact information below).

Contact Information

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