



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

October 2021

This particular letter is being sent only to you who have contributed financially to Abundant Living. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! I've had a number of inquiries about the one-day **ExtraGive Program** scheduled for Friday, November 19. I am asked if it actually benefits ALM, for them to give through that program. Let me explain the basics.

In one day, last year (2020), the *Community Foundation* received contributions totaling over \$13.4 million, all designated (by the donors) toward a large number of nonprofit organizations, both religious and secular. This Foundation is not a religious or government entity. The nonprofit organizations pay no fee for participation. The Foundation exercises no control over ALM, although it verifies our nonprofit status and approves our Financial Report.

Additionally, certain major sponsors of the program (listed in the block below) create a "Stretch Pool" which, last year, totaled over \$730,000. This Stretch Pool is distributed proportionally among all the participating organizations. **It seems the question of interest is, "How much does the Stretch Pool actually benefit ALM?"** Good question.

The nonprofits pay a 4.99% administrative fee to receive their designated funds. Meanwhile, last year's *Stretch Pool* was about 5.46% of the TOTAL raised. So... let's imagine that you, last November, gave \$100 designated to ALM. ALM paid a \$4.99 administrative fee to receive the funds. Meanwhile, the *Stretch Pool* added \$5.46. **So, ALM netted \$100.47 from your \$100 gift.** Not real significant but... every little bit helps. We've also discovered that some individuals PREFER giving through this program, and would probably not otherwise make any contribution to Abundant Living. Our participation in *ExtraGive* facilitates their giving. We so appreciate the generous gifts of ALL who support ALM's ministry!

Please give me (John) a call if you have further questions about this *ExtraGive* program.

NOVEMBER 19
EXTRAGIVE.ORG

On November 19, donate online at [ExtraGive.org](https://extragive.org) and your generous gift will go even further thanks to the Stretch Pool and Prizes from the Community Foundation and our extraordinary sponsors.

Help us go the EXTRA mile together!

The instructions are pretty simple:

1. On Friday, November 19 (midnight to midnight), go to the website **ExtraGive.org**.
2. Click in the SEARCH field (top right, by the symbol of a magnifying glass). Search for **Abundant Living Ministries**.
3. Submit your gift by credit card. An email receipt, for tax purposes, will be sent by ExtraGive.
4. That's it! ExtraGive will forward your gift, PLUS the amount from the Stretch Pool, to ALM.



Question: Our culture seems to be careening towards greater immorality and Godlessness. I feel fearful, wondering what the future may hold, particularly for Christians. What encouragement can you offer to an anxious child of God?

Response: There are, very definitely, many social and spiritual issues impacting believers today. Rather than trying to dissect each one, let's remind ourselves of a few **basic** Biblical instructions. Let's **keep it simple**. Consider the following six words... three two-word reminders from God, that can help keep us calm, no matter what issue or situation is swirling around us.

Be Courageous.

I Corinthians 16:13 NIV states, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; *be courageous*; be strong." Courage is the opposite of fear. Scripture says that God does not give His children fear, but rather power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Ask the Lord to fill you with a gracious boldness when bombarded by opponents of the gospel. Memorize Scriptures about faith. Read biographies of Christians who bravely stood for righteousness in spite of opposition. Encourage fearful folks you meet to turn to the Bible for the hope they are seeking.

Stand Firm

Luke 21:19 NIV promises, "*Stand firm*, and you will win life." When all kinds of conflicting opinions come at us from both Christians and non-Christians, it is a good idea to get back to the solid foundation of Scripture. Jesus Himself predicted that tough times would come, but He reminded us to "*stand firm*." **Less** time watching news, browsing social media, and getting sucked into arguments... and **more** time memorizing and meditating on God's timeless instructions are very-beneficial practices for believers these days.

Look Up

Jesus said, "Now when these things begin to happen, *look up* and *lift up* your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:28 NKJV). Rather than looking *downward* at all that is wrong with the world... focus your thoughts *upward*. Read about heaven. Envision the wonders that await us there. Picture living with Jesus and being reunited with loved ones. Talk with your spouse and children about what our eternal home will be like. Meditate on God's love and care for His children. Remember that He is watching over you 24/7. Take advantage of opportunities to share this hope with people you meet who are obviously consumed with fear about the state of the world.

These reminders are powerful... **Be courageous. Stand firm. Look up!** Hang onto these simple commands when your heart starts to pound and your mind becomes anxious. Remind yourself that the Lord never leaves or abandons His children. He can be trusted to see all of us through every trial. He will carry us safely to heaven. Hanging onto HIM is certainly the best way to peace and calm!

*Written by
Sharon Charles*



Four Consecutive Thursdays January 6 - 27, 2022

Covering the important information offered in a hospital course, *Open Arms* adds a distinctively-Christian perspective. You will enjoy meeting other expectant couples as you gain practical help in preparing for a great labor and delivery. There is no cost for this course.

Register by contacting the ALM office.

Contact Information

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