



**Video Update – December 2015**  
**Willy Reimer, CCMBC Executive Director**

Well, Christmas is just around the corner and, I don't know if you do this in your family, but I know my wife and I often spend some time in the month of December considering our year-end giving, as we ask the Lord, "Where are the places that we need to consider giving?" – sort of to go over and above our regular tithing to our local church.

And I was struck by the story of Agabus in the book of Acts. In Acts chapter 11 verse 27, it says:

*During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. This they did, sending their gifts to the elders by Barnabas and Saul (Acts 11:27–30).*

That passage has always struck me in profound ways because the giving that the disciples did was done in response to a prophetic word, not an actual need that was happening at the time.

And so, I know Gwen and I sit down and go, "God, where do you want us to give?" and the natural human thing is to give in response to need. That's much easier, it's sensible, it's logical. But I also believe the Spirit leads us to give according to his leading, and not according to the need that perhaps we see right in front of us. Because the Spirit obviously knows what the needs are around the world, around our neighbourhood, around our country.

And so I would ask you this Christmas season to pray and to ask the Lord how to give.

Now I can present need for you: as a Canadian conference, we have more ministry opportunities than we have resources, both human and financial.

The church planting opportunities across Canada continue to come our way as we work together with multiple denominations to see Canadians reached with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our whole leadership development and church development side of ministry also has more requests for ministry services than we have people to provide response to those requests. And that is an investment in the lives of leadership and developing leaders, and helping churches be on mission as they work through renewal and redevelopment of their mission, their structures, their organization.

And so, my big ask for you this Christmas season is to pray, and to let the Spirit lead you in your giving. The Lord tells us through his Word that he loves a generous and cheerful giver. And that's what I invite you to: the joy of giving this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas!