

Do you love me?



Feed my sheep.

“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’”

For almost 60 years, Presbyterians have tried to share Christ’s love with others through **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This offering began after World War II, when leaders from across the faith community in the United States were impelled to a common response to the devastation they saw, especially in Europe and Asia.

Networks of partners in the United States and around the world were able to mobilize a vast array of resources quickly, allowing those nearest to the situation to draw on the resources of all. As we began to learn that certain kind of needs could be predicted, the church created agencies specifically to manage our responses to such disasters, eventually becoming **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**.

One of the earliest lessons we learned was that the public focus on a disaster almost always fades long before the effects of the disaster. Maintaining the focus on whatever needs remained unmet when the public attention turned elsewhere became a hallmark of Presbyterian disaster response. It seldom made the headlines, but we believed it was the response that Christ called us to.

As we examined the conditions that people had to overcome to rebuild their lives, we recognized that for many of our brothers and sisters around the world, development ministries that helped communities identify and address their long-term needs are an important part of our response.

There was a growing awareness in the 1960s and ’70s that many kinds of injustice made the lives of millions of poor people within American society and throughout the world more difficult. To respond both to the problems the injustice created, and, when possible, to the injustice itself, the church created two development organizations: **The Presbyterian Committee for the Self-Development of People** and the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**.

Through these three programs, each receiving approximately one-third of the offering, we partner with people through the long process of rebuilding after disaster or of bringing wholeness and hope to relationships long broken by injustice and inequity.

The message of the loving and generous God is one the world thirsts for, and thanks to your support of One Great Hour of Sharing, it is a message we extend to a world of hurting people. Your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing will join the gifts of millions of other Presbyterians. Together they send a message of hope to people in need throughout the world. Your gifts are a powerful, tangible witness to the healing love of Christ for all people. They also open us up to the power of that love as they help us recognize in our neighbor the face of Jesus.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Offering collected on Easter Sunday

April 4, 2010