



First United Church
435 21st Street West
Owen Sound, ON N4K 4E5
Email: office@firstunited-os.com

Web: www.firstunited-os.com



**THE FOLLOWING IS A LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA – MISSION & SERVICE FUND**

February 10, 2011

Thank You Dear Friends:

Once again, you have blessed the work of our church with your generosity. This year gifts to The United Church of Canada through the Mission and Service (M&S) Fund totalled **\$29,760,784**. Your gifts on the offering plate, through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), from the United Church Women (UCW), and your gifts sent directly for M&S are truly making an ongoing and tangible difference in people's lives.

In 2010 many of you reached out to brothers and sisters in areas in the world struck by disasters. Your emergency donations to Haiti and Pakistan reached almost \$4 million. Thank you!

We also know you gave generously to your congregations both in weekly offerings and in special gifts for new projects. You donated both time and money to local outreach programs and to Extra Measures projects. You made gifts to other church funds and to The United Church of Canada Foundation. Many have remembered the church in their will. United Church people are generous indeed!

This year's emergencies reminded us we are only able to ask for help in crises and deliver your gifts effectively when we have a strong annual Mission and Service Fund. Furthermore we can only support our ongoing ministries and develop and maintain trusted partnerships when givings to M&S are strong. Your gifts fund the ministry and mission we do together in Christ's name and as the United Church.

A special thank you goes to all the official and unofficial Mission and Service Fund Enthusiasts who champion the work we do together as The United Church of Canada and who work within their congregations to lift the need for financial support to carry on God's mission in the world. In your local church you shared stories of need and of triumph. You did the difficult job of asking. Your work vitally important and we thank you.

Thanks goes also to those who facilitate contributions to the church: our church treasurers, PAR and M&S treasurers, office administrators, committees and the UCW who support our church's work through M&S throughout the year.

The 2010 M&S amount exceeded 2009 gifts by about \$836,616. We are thankful for the generous and sacrificial gifts that we receive from so many committed members of our church.

Our Mission and Service Fund goal for 2011 is **\$30,200,000**. Please continue to serve in 2011 with your generous gifts and promotional efforts. The work of The United Church of Canada is as important as ever. Society would be poorer without our voice; our partners' work would be diminished without your gifts. We all benefit from the support we offer each other.

Blessings to your congregation. And thank you again for your renewed support of the programs and mission of the wider United Church.

Sincerely,

Doug Flanders
Director, Major and Planned Gifts
Philanthropy Unit
1-800-268-3781
ms@united-church.ca