



2009 Sharing Calendar – *Where is your treasure?*

Both urgency and joy pervade the work of One Great Hour of Sharing. This calendar highlights some of the challenging situations we address when extending care to God's treasured people in the U. S. and around the world. Each day suggests a donation of "a unit" in coins or bills. As a household, decide together what unit is best for your situation.

"We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee." -- Marian Wright Edelman, lifelong advocate for children

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," said Jesus (Matthew 6:21). God treasures you! Give one unit for each year you've known that God loves you.	More than one billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Give one unit for each time today you washed your hands with clean water.	37 million U. S. Americans live in poverty, hunger, and hardship. Give one unit for each meal you have eaten today.	Worldwide, an area larger than Ireland is deforested each year, contributing to topsoil erosion and climate change. Give one unit for each tree around your church or home.	Seeds and simple farming tools help families in Sierra Leone and Angola feed themselves and recover from years of civil war. Give one unit for each plant inside your home or church.	In one year, 2.9 million people died from AIDS, impoverishing many families and orphaning many children. Give one unit for each child in your neighborhood.	You offer compassion to people in need through One Great Hour of Sharing. Give one unit for each time this week you have been shown compassion.
Life expectancy in Swaziland is 32 years; Liberia, 41; Sudan, 50; Afghanistan, 44; U.S.A., 78. Give a unit of thanksgiving for each family member or church member aged 50 years or more.	A cow, which helps struggling Asian farmers increase crop yields and get produce to market, costs about the same as a digital music player. Give one unit if you own an iPod, CD player, or radio.	The opportunity and ability to work in a safe environment is a blessing. Give one unit for each hour you or an adult in your household worked for pay today.	Almost half of the girls in the world's poorest countries have no access to primary education. Give one unit for each year of formal schooling you have had.	Yearly, a half million women die from treatable complications of pregnancy / child-birth. Give one unit for each mother with infant(s) in your church or neighborhood.	"You are children of the Lord your God. ... It is you the Lord has chosen ... to be his people, his treasured possession" (Deut. 14:1-2). Give one unit in thanksgiving for your treasured possessions.	Not everyone has a place to sleep at night. Give one unit for each bed in your home.
More than 1 in 4 adults cannot read or write. Two-thirds of these are women. Give one unit for each teacher you have treasured.	Each day almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes – one every five seconds. Give one unit in thanksgiving for each child in your family or church.	17.7 million people worldwide, 99% of them in Africa, are infected with river blindness, which is treatable with modern medicine. Give one unit for each pair of contacts, eyeglasses, and sunglasses your family owns.	"Micro-loans" of \$100 help people in developing countries to start small business enterprises and their families to become self-sufficient. Give two units in thanksgiving!	One tsunami alone in this decade killed approximately 400,000 people and displaced 1.6 million. Give one unit for each time you peacefully visited the ocean, a lake, or a pond this past year.	Two million children die from diarrhea yearly in the developing world. The cost of one movie ticket plus popcorn could provide oral re-hydration therapy for 11 children. Give one unit for each movie you have seen this month.	Worldwide, 126 million children ages 5-17 labor in hazardous work with adverse effects on physical or mental health, moral development, or safety. Give one unit for every board game or video game your family owns.
In developing countries, 980 million people live on < \$1 per day. Yet, the proportion of people living in this extreme poverty has decreased over the last 15 years. Give three units in thanksgiving for this progress.	Blankets sometimes provide refugees their only protection from weather, carry their few remaining possessions, and give some privacy in crowded refugee camps. Give one unit for each blanket your family owns.	Every three seconds a child dies of an illness preventable with simple medicines or immunizations which their families could not afford. Give one unit for each vaccination your family has received.	The average distance women in developing countries walk each day to fetch water is 3.6 miles. Give one unit for each time a household member rides in a car, bus, train or plane to a destination today.	Worldwide, about 39.5 million people live with HIV. Give two units for each person you know who works in health care.	Half the population of the developing world lacks basic sanitation. Give three units in thanksgiving if your home, school, or workplace has a clean restroom with running water.	One Great Hour of Sharing brings relief, help, and hope in Christ's name throughout the U.S. and the world. Give one unit in honor of your pastor(s), church staff, and Christian Education teachers.

Sources: Church World Service, Church World Service: Fifty Years of Help and Hope, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's The 2008 World Factbook, U.S. Census Bureau, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Labour Organization of the United Nations, Presbyterian Hunger Program PC(USA), The Carter Center

Sharing Calendar (continued)

Daily Giving Devotion

- At a time appropriate for your household, read the day's entry in the Sharing Calendar. Discuss the situation described and its relationship to your household.
- Read Matthew 6:19-21, the theme scripture for One Great Hour of Sharing 2009:
Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Invite each member of the household to describe one experience or person they have treasured since the last devotional reading.
- Consider your household's Sharing Calendar contribution for the day, and add the contribution to your treasure chest coin box.
- Offer a prayer for the people and situations highlighted in the Sharing Calendar, and for the people your household will meet in the coming hours:

Generous and loving God, we thank you for your love and care for us. We treasure the blessings you have given us. [Name some of your household's blessings and gifts.] You call us to love your treasured children as you love them. Today we offer a gift to One Great Hour of Sharing and pray especially for [the day's highlighted group/country]. We ask that you would strengthen them, bless their lives, provide them with the assistance they need, and show them your love. Help us to see the needs around us today/tomorrow, and to show your love through our actions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- Remember to take your treasure chest coin box to church on the day when the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is given.