

Minute for Mission Skit

Speaker: I'm here today to ask that you all get behind the One Great Hour of Sharing offering again this year. We did okay last year, but I know that we can do a lot better.

Inquirer #1: (*Standing up from the congregation*): Wait a minute. Before you go any farther, I have some questions. I know that you always say that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering goes to programs that help those who are poor and oppressed. But that's just not specific enough for me. What in the world are these programs?

Speaker: Well, um. Let's see. There are three programs funded by One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The offering is divided pretty much equally among them.

Inquirer #1: That's still not specific enough. I think I know about the Hunger Program, but the other two, what are they?

Speaker: Self-Development of People gives grants to low income people that have worked out a plan to address their specific problems. For example, a grant went to the community of Pocahontas, in the southeast corner of Virginia to set up a Christian action center to help in community development. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has three programs. It steps in when there are catastrophes such as Hurricane Andrew, the earthquake in California, or the floods in the Midwest. It also works with refugees, in some cases helping them organize camps and in others assisting individuals or families to resettle in another country. Finally, it supports church-based efforts at community development.

Inquirer #2: Well, since you're answering questions, I've got one for you. How does the money get to where it's supposed to go? I don't want any food rotting on the docks!

Speaker: I guess that's a really important aspect of the work that the Presbyterian Church does. As much as possible, it works through the churches and church-related organizations in the countries where the help is being sent. And since they understand their own culture and bureaucracy better than we do, aid given this way is usually more effectively used. The other advantage in working this way is that it strengthens the witness of the local church.

Inquirer #3: I'm convinced that giving to One Great Hour of Sharing is something we ought to do. But what I want to know is, how well did we do last year?

Speaker: Last year our church gave _____; that's around \$_____ per person.

Youth: _____? A meal at McDonald's costs (*more than almost as much as*) that! That's not much!

Speaker: As I was starting to say, we did all right with our One Great Hour of Sharing offering last year, but there's a lot more we can do. Each week between now and Easter, you'll be hearing or reading about how the offering is used. Listen and read carefully, pray about it, and come prepared with your offering on Easter Sunday.