

Inspiring . . . and More

In Corinthians 8 vv 1 and 2, Paul says: *“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty well up in rich generosity.”*

There is always the opportunity to put a certain “spin” on why people do what they do. Maybe all too often we tend to question motives. Do people do what they do in order to draw attention to themselves or to encourage and inspire others? Good question.

In the verses of Corinthians 8, the apostle Paul begins to address the Corinthian church by making a comparison to the actions of the Macedonian church. In an effort to collect some financial resources to assist the hard-pressed Jerusalem Christians, Paul says that the Macedonian Christians responded with “rich generosity.”

But now in talking about their generosity was Paul bragging about them? Hardly.

After all, what was so unique about the Macedonians is that their “rich generosity” flowed out of their “extreme poverty.” Paul mentions the Macedonians to the Corinthians in order to inspire them and encourage them to take similar action.

Inspiring and encouraging others. This is such an essential part of the **Inspire Phase** of the **“Building Hope for the Future” campaign**.

We will be inspired in study of the Word as we discover His will for our lives. We will be inspired in prayer as we watch God soften our hearts to fall in love with Jesus. We will be inspired in worship by His grace, as we bring our gifts and respond in service and care for each other...just like the Macedonians.

When we know God’s heart ... remember Jer 29:11... “plans to prosper... not to harm...plans to give hope and a future” we can trust Him with the future.

How might the actions and faith of others encourage you today?

How might you encourage others through your actions and faith?

It is our prayer that God will use such inspiration and encouragement to bring about “immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine”.