2016 Sharing Calendar

Both joy and compassionate urgency infuse God's great love for this world, and should likewise infuse our love for others shown through One Great Hour of Sharing. This special Sharing Calendar reminds us of the abundant blessings we have received, as well as the suffering in the world that we can help address through this offering. Each day suggests a donation of units. Choose an amount for these units that is most appropriate for your household.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Education, Children	Church World Service helps make schools in Kenya safer through their "School Safe Zones" program. Give one unit for every safe school your family members attend.	Because of foreign assistance, deaths of children under age 5 have dropped from 12.6 million to 6.6 million since 1990. Give two units to make that number even smaller.	Girls are often severely excluded from education systems, yet educated girls are key to reaching many other developmental goals. Give two units in honor of significant women in your life.	Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me..for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. —Mark 10:14 Walk the extra mile with children around the world by giving two units today.	Millions of youth are illiterate in the world's poorest countries, yet education is critical to developing better job skills, health, and future. Give one unit if you can read these words.	More than 60,000 Syrian babies have been born in exile and are in danger of being categorized as stateless. Give one unit if you enjoy the benefits of citizenship.	Since 2014, over 57,000 unaccompanied children have fled violence to the U.S. Give one unit for children you care for, and one for those who cared for you as a child.
Disaster Relief, Refugees	It is estimated that over 1.5 million persons have been internally displaced in Nigeria, many because of religious persecution. Give two units if you are free to attend church without fear.	About 45% of the world's refugees reside in countries with per capita incomes below $3,000—countries least able to afford them. Please help! Contribute one unit.	Church World Service helps provide shelter for thousands of displaced persons at a refugee camp in Tanzania. Give one unit for every time you've been to camp and had a safe place to sleep.	Give counsel, grant justice… hide the outcasts, do not betray the fugitive..be a refuge to them." —Isaiah 16:3–4a Give one unit on behalf of displaced persons around the world today.	It is estimated that 9 million Syrians have been forcibly displaced since 2011. Write at least one letter to congress on their behalf (examples can be found at refugees.org) and contribute one unit for each letter.	Church World Service works with many congregations to welcome more than 7,000 refugees to the U.S. every year. Give two units to celebrate the last time you were hospitable to others.	Conflict in South Sudan has forced more than 2 million people from their homes since 2013. Contribute one unit for every time your family has moved.
Poverty	46.2 million U.S. Americans live in poverty. Help address poverty issues worldwide by giving two units.	One quarter of all humans live without electricity (approximately 1.6 billion people). Give one unit for every item you have plugged into an outlet at your house.	Nearly half the world's population (3 billion) live on less than $2 per day, and over 1.3 billion on less than $1.25 per day. Give two units if you will spend more than $2 today.	Children, let us not love in word or speech, but in truth and action. —1 John 3:18 Take action today. Say a prayer and give as many units as you feel led.	Church World Service's Innovative Energy Technologies program has helped create self-sustaining communities that are now less susceptible to poverty. Give one unit for every energy efficient appliance in your home.	More than 1 billion children live in poverty around the world, and 22,000 children die every day because of it. Give one unit for every regular paycheck that your household collects.	Signs of poverty include inadequate income, housing, food, fresh water, opportunity, power over one's life and prospects, human dignity. Stand up to poverty by contributing three units.
Hunger	Acute malnutrition affects 34 million children worldwide and often overlaps with conflict and war. Give one unit for every nutritious meal you will eat today.	More than five years after the earthquake in Haiti, Church World Service still supports agricultural production and food security programs for over 5,000 people there. Give one unit per variety of fresh produce in your kitchen.	49 million Americans struggle to put food on the table, and one in five children are at risk of hunger (among African Americans and Latinos, that number is one in three). Give two units if your family had enough to eat today.	"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..". —Matthew 25:35a Give a unit to feed the hungry today.	Hunger causes cognitive and physical stunting, and a variety of other health problems. It constrains economic growth and perpetuates poverty. Contribute one unit for every kind of canned food in your pantry, and consider donating a few to a local shelter.	Hunger is the number one cause of death in the world. Consider skipping a meal today and praying for the hungry in our world. Then give three units to feed others.	Your generous gifts given through this special offering will make a difference in the lives of hungry, hurting, and impoverished persons around the world. Give five final units in solidarity and celebration.

Sources: www.SyrianRefugees.eu, Refugees International (www.refugeeintl.org), Church World Service, International Displacement Monitoring Center, UNICEF, Action Against Hunger, United Church of Christ, Poverty USA, DoSomething.org, OXFAM International, and The World Bank.

Daily Giving Devotion

- At a time appropriate for your household, read the theme scripture for One Great Hour of Sharing, 2016: Ruth 1:1–22.
- Invite each member of the household to describe one instance of how they have shared with someone else since the last daily giving devotion.
- Read the day's entry in the sharing calendar. Discuss the situation described and its relationship to your household.
- Consider your contribution for the day and add it to your offering box.
- Pray for the people and situations highlighted in the sharing calendar, and for the people you will meet in the coming hours:

  Dear God,
  Thank you for your love and mercy, your compassion and grace. Thank you for the many blessings you have given to us. [Each member of the household names at least two each day]. We pray that you would show us ways that we might share with others, and walk the extra mile in your name. Give us generous hearts that overflow with gratitude and joy.
  Today we pray especially for [the day's highlighted group]. May our One Great Hour of Sharing gifts be a blessing to them, and remind us all of the ways that you are working in our world and in our lives.
  In Jesus' name we pray.
  Amen.
- Remember to take your offering box to church on the day when the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be received.

"Sometimes you and I are the channels of God's love and grace to the world in need."—Mark Pickett, OGHS contributor