



Christmas Offering 2020

The Christmas Offering will be received during regular
Sunday Services on December 20 and 27, 2020.

COVID-19: Coronavirus has interrupted nearly every aspect of 2020. Little did we know when we entered 2020, at the dawn of a new decade, that every aspect of our lives and world would change in 2.5 months. However, after March 15 and the stay-at-home shut down order began, our lives, businesses, family and even church changed.

Our day-to-day existence was altered and our church worship and connection went fully digital. As you read this, you don't need to be reminded. COVID-19 also radically changed our ministry directives for not only church services but also our ministry efforts, our mission focus and our plans for 2019 Christmas offerings funds.

Without a doubt, you could say that nearly every dollar was used in 2020 for COVID blessing and COVID relief. Our Christmas offering funds were even enhanced with regular Westbrook Mission funds and additional gifts by generous people at Westbrook.

2019 UPDATE



GUM Cuautitlán **Congregation**

Early in the pandemic our congregational pastor in Mexico City, Pastor Erasmo, and his wife Veronica were diagnosed with COVID-19. Christmas offering funds were used to assist them with their extensive hospital expenses and medical needs.



GO Ministries: **Dominican Republic**

As is true in many under resourced countries, the DR was hit especially hard during the pandemic. An urgent call was put out by GO President Brook Brotzman to assist with a food shortage.

Westbrook's gifts were used to feed 50 families for one week. Pastor Elvis and his family are faring well through this time and are being used by God to help comfort the hurting.

2019 UPDATE

US Church Plants

While Westbrook families continued to generously support and fund our weekly need through tithes and offerings, many US churches and especially church plants struggled. Two particular ministries were blessed through our Westbrook Christmas offering.

Kingdom Covenant Church in the south loop of Chicago and Verve Church (you remember Vince Antonucci and Verve, don't you?) were blessed. Verve was especially hit hard as Las Vegas has been tremendously impacted through this season. Tourism in Las Vegas and so many casino employees have been devastated.



Media Upgrades

For sure, keeping and using Christmas Offering at Westbrook is low on the priority lists. However, media upgrades have been on our wish list and driven our push to upgrade our online worship opportunities—some funds from our 2019 Christmas Offering were used. Funds were used not only for Westbrook media upgrades but also GUM media ministry upgrades.

2019 UPDATE

Project Hope

On top of the pandemic challenges, our nation has been reeling in civil and racial unrest. We have all watched in horror as lives have been unduly taken and protests in some cases have turned violent. The violence and the rioting have taken a heavy toll on the nation's stability and has impacted businesses and churches.

One church in Little Rock, Arkansas, The Church of Christ at Lewis Street, was fire-bombed on May 30, 2020 during the riots and protests following the death of George Floyd. In partnership with the Solomon Foundation, churches all across the country are helping Lewis Street rebuild. Westbrook has been blessed to aid in that.



COVID Relief & Blessing

Finally, extensive funds from our Christmas offering were used to provide relief and blessing for families, individuals, and businesses impacted by this pandemic.

2020 Offering Goal: \$67,000

2021 INITIATIVES:

Make A Way Offering:

Our weekly need at Westbrook is \$20,500. These offerings provide for our facility, staff, ministry obligations and regular monthly mission support. Our weekly need over two Sundays is \$41,000.

Enduring Impact:

Westbrook's continual ability to provide blessing gifts and financial resources to meet the immediate needs of people and ministries has been an outstanding component of our Christmas offering appeal. As you can see from the updates listed, many of these needs were due to crises resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic. Your faithful gifts at year-end provide resources at the ready when needs arise.

Mosaic Global Initiative:

One of our big vision ministries that we have been talking about over the years is planting churches and partnering with ministries in every country represented at Westbrook. This vision continues and our Christmas offering funds play a major part in providing resources for the fulfillment of this God sized dream. While the challenges of 2020 slowed the process of engaging in new works, we pray that 2021 will be a year that new opportunities present themselves. Reaching people for Christ is our goal.

Debt Reduction:

Any gifts above our stated goal will go directly to pay down our debts. Westbrook looks with anticipation to the day when we will be debt free, which will free up monies to do significant and meaningful ministry to our community and our world.

Please prayerfully be a part of
these exciting initiatives.

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