

THEOLOGY OF GIVING – MARANATHA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” 1 Corinthians 10:31

Maranatha Christian Schools is committed to doing ‘all things’ for the glory of God – this includes how the school and its community engage in its development efforts. By providing a Biblical framework for giving and development, it is the school’s aim to encourage, inspire, and lead the community to participate in God’s amazing plan and ever-expanding kingdom.

Our Theology of Development has four foundational commitments and five implications that flow from them.

FOUR FOUNDATIONAL COMMITMENTS

1. God owns all things and needs nothing

a. Key Scripture:

i. *“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is the Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands, nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.” Acts 17:24-25*

b. Based on these Scriptures we believe:

- i. Everything belongs to God, our Creator.
- ii. God is not dependent on our service or our resources to accomplish His work.
- iii. This includes the ministry of MCS and everyone who serves and supports it.

c. As a result, we commit to working and ministering in ways consistent with this understanding and trusting God completely for our every need.

2. God is rich in love and extravagantly generous

a. Key Scripture:

i. *“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19*

b. Based on these Scriptures we believe:

- i. God is our sole Provider – everything we need for life and ministry comes from His hands.
- ii. No one can out-give God.
- iii. We are the recipients of His gracious giving – especially the gift of salvation unto eternal life through Christ Jesus.

c. As a result, we commit to working and ministering in ways consistent with His generous nature, and trusting that He will provide for our every need.

3. Everything we have is a gift from God and He has entrusted us as stewards, not owners

a. Key Scripture:

i. *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8*

b. Based on these Scriptures we believe:

- i. God has endowed and equipped us for the very special work of the faithful steward of all his creation.
- ii. We must fight our natural desire to claim ownership over the things God calls us to steward.
- iii. We are all on a journey of faith to become a more deeply committed steward of every thing in our life and work.

- iv. This stewarding includes our co-workers, our leaders, our staff, our students, our ministry partners and our board.
- c. As a result, we commit to be used by God to help one another on our journey as we seek, together, to be more faithful and obedient stewards of the good things of God.

4. Our work in all of our development programs and practices is to help connect people to God's calling to be faithful stewards.

- a. Key Scripture:
 - i. "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11
- b. Based on these Scriptures we believe:
 - i. We are called by God to minister to our partners throughout MCS, and specifically those who are led to support us financially.
 - ii. We are called to trust God that if we are faithful in this calling, He will supply all of our needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
 - iii. As bearers of God's image, we follow His lead by faithful and consistent giving of our time, talents, and resources as directed by Him
- c. As a result, we commit to always put ministry over money, seeking to be faithful in our work of being used by God to help His people live out their stewarding responsibilities by generously funding the work of MCS as led by Him.

FIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR LIFE AND WORK

1. God alone is the 'fundraiser' at MCS.

- For us this means that we rely upon God for all our fundraising initiatives and resources according to His will.

2. We believe our work is to be used by God to bring transformation into the lives of our ministry partners, not merely transactions for our financial benefit.

- For us this means that fundraising God's way is ministry.

3. We desire that our partners financially support MCS out of an alignment of our work with their passion and not out of our own attempt to persuade them to do so.

- For us this means each member of our community will have the opportunity to pray how he or she can be led to participate in God's work at MCS.

4. Because we know the Owner and are called to serve the Owner, our desire is to be a blessing to our ministry partners and carry out our work with the highest level of skill and excellence of which we are capable.

- For us this means that fundraising God's way should be conducted with excellence, authenticity, and great care and concern for those we serve.

5. Prayer is our greatest development tool and we will exercise it faithfully.

- For us, this means that wholeheartedly seeking God's wisdom and discernment through prayer will result in His will being accomplished through all our fundraising efforts with faithfulness and diligence.

We believe God has called us to this ministry as stewards, and as we trust in Him and seek to be obedient to that call, we are confident that He will bless MCS, and all who serve and support it, with his joy and abundance.