### 2 Corinthians

## Chapter 8

1Brothers, we want to tell you about how God’s loving care has been shown towards the congregations in Brothers, we want to tell you about how God’s loving care has been shown towards the congregations in <span class="placename">MacedoniaBrothers, we want to tell you about how God’s loving care has been shown towards the congregations in <span class="placename">Macedonia</span>. 2Although they’re undergoing many trials and difficulties, their great joy and deep poverty brought out the richness of their generosity.  
  
3For as they were able (and I testify that it was more than they were able to do) 4and of their own accord, they kept begging us to [allow them to] share in donating to the fund for the Holy Ones. 5And it wasn’t just as we had hoped they would do; first they gave to the Lord, and then they gave to us (as it was God’s Will).  
  
6So this led us to encourage Titus (since he was the one who initiated it) to complete the collection among you also.  
  
7Therefore, because you’re prospering in everything – in your faith, words, knowledge, eagerness, and in our love for you – may you share your prosperity through similar [acts of] loving kindness.  
  
8I’m not saying this to pressure you; [I’m saying this] because these others have been so eager, and because I want to prove the genuineness of your love.  
  
9Of course, you know of the loving care that was shown by our Lord Jesus the Anointed One... Even though he was ‘rich,’ he became poor for your sakes in order to make you ‘rich’ through his poverty.  
  
10This is my opinion on the best way to handle it:  
  
Last year, you were the first ones who wanted to give, and you even started contributing. 11So now, finish what you started, and bring all of that eagerness and willingness to a climax. Just give from whatever you have on hand; 12for when [people] are already willing, it’s best to accept what they have rather than what they don’t have.  
  
13Understand that I’m not trying to make it harder on you than for the others, 14because everything balances out. If you can give more right now, it’ll make up for those who can give less. And if others can give more than you, it’ll make up for those who can give less.  
  
So, everything balances out.  
  
15As it’s written:  
  
 ‘Those who gathered more didn’t have too much, and the rest that gathered little didn’t lack.’ [Exodus 16:18]  
  
16Now, thanks to God that He’s put the same earnestness [that I have] for you into the heart of Titus, 17for he’s responded to your encouragement and he’s decided to return to you quickly.  
  
  
18We’re also sending a brother along with him whose praise in the good news has spread throughout all the congregations. 19He’s the one who was appointed by the congregations to be our traveling companion, and who’ll actually distribute the gifts that are so willingly being donated for the glory of the Lord.  
  
20That way, we can avoid having anyone complain about us over the generous contributions that are being handled by us. 21For we’re planning ahead to do good things – not just in the sight of the Lord, but also from the viewpoint of men.  
  
  
22And of course:  
  
We’re sending along our brother who’s proven to be zealous so many times and in so many ways, but who’s now even more eager because of his greater confidence in you. 23Now, if there are any questions about Titus, [let me say that] he’s my partner and co-worker for your interests.  
  
Or if [there are any questions] about [the rest of] our brothers, [let me say that] they’re apostles to the congregations and a glory to the Anointed One. 24So now, prove your love for them – [the love] that we’ve been boasting about to the congregations.