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*****“… You were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.”*

2 Corinthians 8:10 (NIV)

Wrap it up! You may be hearing that around the house. When the gift is purchased and ready to go under the Christmas tree, it’s time to “wrap it up”. That phrase is often used meaning it is time to finish something.

The Gift to the King Offering this year is going to the Iloilo Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They have about 80 people attend each Sunday morning and the rented meeting space is full. This was the first church planted by CP missionaries in the Philippines. There are now two churches and three missions in the Philippines, but the “mother” church is the Iloilo CP Church. It was actually started in the garage of CP missionaries Daniel and Kay Jang when they first arrived in the Philippines. The church has been meeting in rental property for years and the Missions Ministry Team (MMT) has been raising money for a building for the Iloilo CP Church for as many years. The good news is last year, after raising money from CP offerings over the years, we were able to buy a piece of land in Iloilo City. It has a great location and has the lot size Iloilo CP Church requires for their building. It’s time to wrap it up!

We are stepping out in faith this year and praying for $55,000 in donations to the Gift to the King Offering. That is about 40% more than we normally receive for the Gift to the King Offering. If we are able to raise the funds we can build an adequate structure on our land that will meet the needs of the Iloilo CP Church.

In 2 Corinthians 8 Paul is talking to the Corinthian Christians about generosity. He has challenged the Corinthians to help the Christians living in Jerusalem. Paul is asking for donations. In his letter he reminds everyone that they were the first to care, they were the first to donate. Then he goes on and says it is time to wrap it up. It is time to finish what they started. We would like to see this project finished and we know that the Gift to the King Offering has the ability to wrap this project up. May the gifts under our Christmas trees inspire us to be generous and wrap up our best for God’s glory in the Philippines.

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