

# Fund for the Needy



“There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.” Deuteronomy 15:11 (NIV)

The Lord required His people to be generous to the poor. The reasoning behind the instruction was the reminder that it was the Lord who was giving them the land; therefore, they were to share what they had. The reality is that as long as this world continues to turn, there will be those less fortunate who need our help.

The important principle in this passage is that the land comes from God; we are not owners but caretakers, therefore we are to be “openhanded” with what we’ve been entrusted with in order to alleviate the burden and stress of those in need.

The Greater Sydney Conference runs a charity that gives us the opportunity to provide for those in need. The aim of the Fund for Needy Persons (FFNP) is to restore independence by helping people back on their feet again. Funds are used to help resolve crisis caused by accommodation problems, abuse, unemployment, illness or death. The charity is maintained by the generosity of members who give regularly and when the annual offering is collected. This festive season as we reflect on all we are blessed with, take a moment to consider those in need this Christmas.

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## Appeal

Ask God to help you be openhanded with your offering this morning as we bring much need relief to those under personal and financial stress.

## Prayer

Dear God, as we celebrate this Christmas, help us be generous with our loved ones and those in need. Amen.