



Christmas for Columbia County

INTRODUCTION

At Branches, we want to respond to Jesus' command to be generous and continually find opportunities to meet the needs of those who live in our community. One of the ways we do that is through partnering with other organizations who are already meeting those needs.

Through Be Rich, we were able to partner with three organizations meeting extraordinary needs in our community. Michelle's Love supports single parents undergoing cancer treatment by cleaning their house, providing babysitting, buying groceries, and even paying mortgages! Riverside Community Outreach serves all aspects of foster care in Columbia County, including DHS workers, foster children, foster parents, and even biological families! And Columbia Pacific Food Bank provides 1 in 5 people in Columbia County with food, serving over 11 tons of food every week! This Sunday we were able to celebrate the generosity that YOU extended by delivering 3 checks for \$4770 to each organization! That is a total of \$14,300 that our church gave to our community! We also celebrated committing over 280 hours of service, back into our community! How awesome is that!?

All of this is in response the generosity extended to us by God our creator, and Jesus our savior. Not out of obligation, but out of gratitude!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. What is the difference between giving cheerfully and giving out of compulsion?
2. Read Phillipians 2:2-8. Talk about what it meant for Jesus to leave heaven, become human, and live among us. What does that compare to?

3. Read John 13:34-35. How can we love others like Jesus has loved us? What can you do this week to start loving radically?

MOVING FORWARD

Be Rich is not the only time of year we should be giving, serving, and loving. Christmas isn't the only season for us to give. Following Jesus means we are committed to a lifetime of giving, serving, and loving. How can this group make sure that giving, serving, and loving is a regular rhythm through out the entire year, not just during the holidays? Can you adopt a family, neighborhood, single parent, ministry, organization or mission as a group to give or to serve or to love regularly? What makes the group's heart beat and how can you join together to make a difference?