

Local Church

A Channel That's Always Flowing

Matthew 25:29 — “For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.”

On March 23, 2021, the 400-meter freighter Ever Given got stuck in the banks of the Suez Canal, blocking the passage of all ships trying to cross the canal. The Suez Canal was conceived by Ferdinand de Lesseps, a French businessman and diplomat, and took ten years of work (between 1859 and 1869) to be completed. More than one million Egyptians worked on its construction.

The Ever Given incident had major consequences, as ten percent of international maritime trade passes through this route. Just about 420 ships, loaded with 26 million tons of goods, remained blocked during the days the vessel was grounded. Losses exceeded \$38.4 billion, approximately \$400 million an hour.

Suez is the fastest shipping route to the Middle East and Asia from Europe. An alternative route would add up to 15 days of sailing and increase the cost of transport between fifteen and twenty percent.

Sometimes a similar problem happens with our faithfulness. It is possible that the channel of our donations is blocked by our infidelity, distrust or because we want to give our offerings only to local projects. Through regular and un-targeted offerings, resources can reach every part of the planet, bringing salvation to all peoples.

See the following quote from Ellen White:

The Lord does not propose to come to this world, and lay down gold and silver for the advancement of His work. He supplies men with resources, that by their gifts and offerings they may keep His work advancing. The one purpose above all others for which God's gifts should be used is the sustaining of workers in the harvest field. And if men will become channels through which heaven's blessing can flow to others, the Lord will keep the channel supplied. *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 36

When you decide that a given percentage of your income should be given regularly as a Promise offering, you may think that you're giving too little. However, if we all do the same thing, a steady stream of resources will water the gospel seed that has been planted by our faithful missionaries. God will bless what we give, and our offerings will go far and surround the world with the message of Jesus' love.

Appeal: Let us ask God that nothing blocks the channel through which His blessings pass through us.