100 Bible Passages That Encourage Christian Giving & Generosity

By: Brian Kluth, president of the Christian Stewardship Association

Did you know...

The percentage of income that Christians give to God's work has been declining for 26 years (depending on the church or denomination, Christians now give $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ to $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of their income to God's work)!

Larry Burkett of Christian Financial Concepts estimates only 5% of Christian give 10% or more!

Barna Research reports that although 17% of Christians say they "tithe", only 3% actually give 10% or more of their income to God's work!

90% of churches have no active plan to teach biblical financial or giving principles to their congregation!

85% of pastors feel unequipped, uncomfortable and untrained to teach biblical financial and giving principles!

The average church budget in America DECREASED 15% this past year!

In light of these alarming statistics, here are some encouraging ideas and practical ways a church or ministry can use Scripture passages to teach and encourage God's people in faithful Christian giving and joyful generosity:

Each week, have a giving verse in the bulletin.

Show a giving verse on the screen (overhead or video projection) while receiving the offering.

Read one giving verse each week before receiving the offering.

Use verses in bulletins, newsletter or written materials to encourage giving.

Before receiving the offering, have a lay people person choose a "favorite verse" from this list and have them give a brief testimony (1-2 minutes) on how God taught them to be a faithful giver.

Reference appropriate verses or use key verses as theme verses for funding initiatives (building drives, missions emphasis, special offerings to help the needy, annual stewardship campaign, etc.).

Use one or more of these verses to write article an article in a church newsletter, Christian magazine, ministry periodical or newsletter that will encourage biblical generosity.

Use these verses to help prepare a sermon or teaching lesson.

Passages with Brief Descriptions (actual verses are listed in the next section)

Gen 14:19 (Abraham's give of 10%)

Gen 28:20-22 (Jacob decision to give 10% to God)

Exod 35:4-29 (Moses and the people's gifts to build the tabernacle)

Lev 27:30 (Tithe of everything is the Lord's)

Lev 27:32 (Every tenth animal is the Lord's)

- Num 18:21 (Tithes support ministers of God)
- Deut 12:5-7 (Tithes, special gifts, freewill offerings)
- Deut 14:22-29 (Set aside a tenth to learn to revere God)
- Deut 28:8 (God's blessing)
- 2 Chr 31:2-12 (Hezekiah generosity & giving instructions)
- Neh 10:35-37 (Nehemiah's giving instructions)
- Neh 12:43-47 (Faithful giving to God's ministers)
- Neh 13:11-13 (Nehemiah's rebuke & the results)
- Mal 3:7-12 (Holding back tithes & offerings is stealing from God)
- Matt 23:23 (Jesus' affirmation of tithing)
- Luke 11:42 (Jesus' affirmation of tithing)
- IKing 17:8-16 (Elijah and the starving widow)
- Deut 8:18 (God gives people ability to produce wealth)
- Prov 3:9-10 (Honor the Lord with your wealth & firstfruits)
- Exod 36:3-6 (Moses restrains people from bringing offerings)
- Mal 1:6-14 (Malachi's rebuke for bringing bad offerings)
- Hag 1:4-11 (Haggai's giving challenge)
- 1 Chr 29:2-9 (David's generous gift & giving challenge)
- 1 Chr 29:11-17 (Everything we have and gives comes from God)
- Luke 6:38 (Give and God will see others give to you)
- 2 Cor 8:2-21 (Rich generosity in the midst of extreme poverty)
- 2 Cor 9:5-15 (God loves a cheerful giver)
- Deut 28:12-13, 43-45 (Blessings & curses for obedience)
- Ps 50:9-12 (God owns everything)
- Prov 11:24-25 (Generosity is the pathway for more)
- Prov 18:9 (Slackness in giving is the same as destroying things)
- Prov 22:9 (Generous man will be blessed)
- Prov 28:22 (Stingy man is eager to get rich, but gets poverty)
- Prov 28:27 (Give and have enough, withhold and be cursed)

Matt 6:25-34 (Don't worry, but seek first the kingdom of God) Mark 12:41-44 (Rich people giving and the widow's mite) Deut 16:10 (Give in proportion to the blessings the Lord has given you) Deut 16:16 (No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed) Deut 16:17 (Each person should give in proportion to the way God has blessed them) 1 Cor 16:2 (On the first day of each week, give according to God's blessing) 1 Tim 6:6-11 (Cautions about the materialism and the love of money) 1 Tim 6:17-19 (Instructions to be generous and willing to share) 1 Sam 30:24 (Those who stay with the supplies share with those on the front lines) Matt 6:19-21 (Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth – heart & treasure linked) Heb 6:10 (God is not unfair, He will not forget the help you gave) Isa 32:8 (Noble man makes noble plans) Acts 2:44-45 (Believers had everything in common) Acts 4:34-37 (No needy persons. Sale of lands and houses.) Rom 12:13 (Share with God's people who are in need) Heb 13:16 (Don't forget to do good and share with others) I Jn 3:17 (Do you see brothers in need – help them) Luke 18:22-25 (Rich man turns away from Jesus) Gal 6:6 (Support financially those who teach you the Word of God) Matt 25:35-40 (Helping the least of the brethren is helping Jesus) Acts 20:35 (It is more blessed to given than to receive)

Written by: Brian Kluth, president of the Christian Stewardship Association (www.stewardship.org)

The verses listed above have been put into an abbreviated format (100 Scripture passages) so they can individually be used in church bulletins, put on an overhead, or read before receiving the offering.

(Date used:_____) Gen 28:20-22

Jacob made a vow (to God), "If God will be with me and will watch over me...all that You give me I will give You a tenth."

(Date used:_____) Exodus 35:5

From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering.

(Date used:_____) Exodus 35:21

Everyone who was willing and whose heart moved him came and brought an offering to the LORD for the work.

(Date used:_____) Exodus 35:22

All who were willing, men and women alike, came and brought gold jewelry of all kinds: brooches, earrings, rings and ornaments. They all presented their gold as a wave offering to the LORD.

(Date used:_____) Exodus 35:29

All the men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD...had commanded them to do.

(Date used:_____) Lev 27:30

A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

(Date used:_____) Lev 27:32

The entire tithe of the herd and flock-- every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's rod-- will be holy to the LORD.

(Date used:_____) Num 18:21

"I give to the Levites (ministers) all the tithes...in return for the work they do while serving (the Lord).

(Date used:_____) Deut 12:6-7

Bring your offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings...because the Lord your God has blessed you.

(Date used:_____) Deut 14:22-23

Be sure to set aside a tenth...so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.

(Date used:_____) Deut 14:27-29

Do not neglect the Levites (ministers) living in your towns...so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

(Date used:____) Deut. 28:8

The Lord will command the blessings on you in your storehouse and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you."

(Date used:_____) 2 Chr 31:5

The Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything.

(Date used:_____) 2 Chr 31:6

The men...brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the LORD their God, and they piled them in heaps...When King Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the LORD and blessed God's people.

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(Date used: _____) 2 Chronicles 31:12

God's people faithfully brought in the contributions, tithes and dedicated gifts.

(Date used:_____) Neh 10:35-37

"We assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the LORD each year the firstfruits of our crops... will bring to the storerooms of the house of our God...offerings...(and) tithes.

(Date used:_____) Neh 12:43-44

(God's people) offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing...could be heard far away. Men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and tithes.

(Date used:) Neh 12:47

All (of God's people) contributed the daily portions for the singers, gatekeepers...Levites (ministers).

(Date used:_____) Neh 13:11-12

I rebuked the officials and asked them, "Why is the house of God neglected?" Then I called them together and stationed them at their posts. All (God's people) brought the tithes...into the storerooms.

(Date used:_____) Malachi 3:7-9

Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me.

(Date used:_____) Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

(Date used: _____) Malachi 3:11,12

"(God says to those who bring him tithes and offerings) I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land."

(Date used:_____) Matt 23:23

"Woe to you, teachers of the law...You give a tenth...But you have neglected the more important matters-- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

(Date used:_____) I Kings 17:13 8-16

Elijah said to (the starving widow woman), "Don't be afraid...first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry'...She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family.

(Date used:____) Deut 8:18

Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

(Date used:_____) Prov 3:9-10

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

(Date used:_____) Exodus 36:3-6

The people continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning. So all the skilled craftsmen who were doing all the work on the sanctuary left their work and said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the LORD commanded to be done." Then Moses gave an order..."No man or woman is to make anything else as an offering for the sanctuary." And so the people were restrained from bringing more.

(Date used:_____) Mal 1:6-7

"A son honors his father, a servant honors his master. I am your Father and Master, yet you don't honor me...you despise my name." "Who? Us?" you say. "When did we ever despise your name?" "When you offer polluted sacrifices on my altar." "Polluted sacrifices? When have we ever done a thing like that?" "Every time you say, 'Don't bother bringing anything very valuable to offer to God!"

(Date used:_____) Mal 1:8-10

(God's ministers tell people) 'Lame animals are all right to offer on the altar of the Lord-- yes, even the sick and the blind ones.' And you claim this isn't evil? Try it on your governor sometime-- give him gifts like that-- and see how pleased he is!... I have no pleasure in you," says the Lord Almighty, "and I will not accept your offerings."

(Date used:_____) Malachi 1:11

"My name will be honored...from morning till night. All around the world people will offer...pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name shall be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty.

(Date used:_____) Malachi 1:12-13

(Ministers dishonor God by telling people) God's altar is not important and encouraging people to bring cheap, sick animals to offer to God. "You say, 'Oh, it's too difficult to serve the Lord and do what he asks.' And you turn up your noses at the rules he has given you to obey. Think of it! Stolen animals, lame and sick-- as offerings to God! Should I accept such offerings as these?" asks the Lord.

(Date used:) Malachi 1:14

"Cursed is that man who promises a fine ram from his flock and substitutes a sick one to sacrifice to God. For I am a Great King," says the Lord Almighty, "and my name is to be mightily revered among the people of the world."

(Date used:) Hag 1:4

"Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while (God's) house remains a ruin?"

(Date used:_____) Haggai 1:5-8

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways...build (My) house...so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored."

(Date used:_____) Haggai 1:9-11

"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?"

declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands."

(Date used:_____) 1 Chr 29:2-3

(King David said to God's people) "With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God—gold...silver...bronze...iron...wood...onyx...turquoise...all kinds of fine stone and marble-- all of these in large quantities. In my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided.

(Date used:) 1 Chr 29:5-8

(King David said to the leaders) "Who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?" Then the leaders of families...officers...commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds...and the officials...gave willingly. They gave toward the work on the temple of God gold...silver...bronze...iron. Any who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the LORD.

(Date used:_____) 1 Chronicles 29:9

The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

(Date used:_____) 1 Chr 29:11-12

Everything in heaven and earth is Yours, O LORD. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

(Date used:_____) 1 Chron 29:13-14

(David prayed to God) "God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand."

(Date used:) 1 Chron 29:16

LORD our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.

(Date used:_____) I Chron 29:17

(David prayed to God) "I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these (offerings) I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you."

(Date used:_____) Ezra 2:68,69

Families gave freewill offerings toward the rebuilding of the house of God.According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work.

(Date used:_____) Luke 6:38 TLB

If you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give-- large or small-- will be used to measure what is given back to you.

(Date used:_____) Luke 6:38 NIV

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will

be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 8:2,3

Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 8:5

They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 8:7

Just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-- see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 8:9

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 8:10,11

Last year 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.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 8:12

If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 8:20,21

We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 9:5

I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 9:6

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 9:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 9:8

God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 9:10

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 9:11

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 9:12

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

(Date used:_____) 2 Cor 9:13

Men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

(Date used:_____) Deut 28:12

The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.

(Date used:_____) Deut 28:13

The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.

(Date used:____) Ps 50:10

Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills...the creatures of the field are mine... the world is mine, and all that is in it.

(Date used:_____) Prov 11:24-25

One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

(Date used:_____) Prov 18:9

One who is slack in his work is brother to one who destroys.

(Date used:_____) Prov 22:9

A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor.

(Date used:_____) Prov 28:22

A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him.

(Date used:_____) Prov 28:27

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

(Date used:_____) Matt 6:25

(Jesus said) "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

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(Date used:_____) Matt 6:26

Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

(Date used:_____) Matt 6:27,31

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

(Date used:_____) Matt 6:33,34

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things (food, clothing, drink) will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

(Date used:_____) Mark 12:41

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury.

(Date used:_____) Matt 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. (42) But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. (43) Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. (44) They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything-- all she had to live on."

(Date used:_____) Deut 16:10

Celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you.

(Date used:____) Deut 16:16

No man should appear before the LORD empty-handed:

(Date used:_____) Deut 16:17

Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.

(Date used:_____) 1 Cor 16:2

On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.

(Date used:_____) 1 Tim 6:6-8

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

(Date used:_____) 1 Tim 6:9

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

(Date used:_____) 1 Tim 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

(Date used:_____) 1 Tim 6:17-19

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

(Date used:_____) 1 Sam 30:24

The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike."

(Date used:_____) Matt 6:19-21

(Jesus said) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Date used:_____) Matt 6:21

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Date used:_____) Heb 6:10

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

(Date used:_____) Isa 32:8

The noble man makes noble plans, and by noble deeds he stands.

(Date used:_____) Acts 2:44-45

All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

(Date used:_____) Acts 4:34-35

There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

(Date used:_____) Acts 4:36

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

(Date used:_____) Rom 12:13

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

(Date used:_____) Heb 13:16

Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

(Date used:_____) I Jn 3:17

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

(Date used:_____) Luke 18:22-25

When Jesus heard this, he said to the rich young ruler, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

(Date used:_____) Gal 6:6 TLB

Those who are taught the Word of God should help their teachers by paying them.

(Date used:_____) Gal 6:6 NIV

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

(Date used:_____) Matt 25:35-40

I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?'..."The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

(Date used:_____) Acts 20:35

(Remember Jesus' words when he said) "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

This information was compiled by: Brian Kluth, President Christian Stewardship Association (CSA) CSA is America's leading provider of products, resources, and training events that help churches and ministries encourage Christian generosity, please visit CSA's website or call 414-483-1945.

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