**United Thank Offering Bulletin Articles for August 2017 (offering 1 per week)**

**August 6**

You may have already heard that UTO has granted a total of $1,119,182.57 to new and expanding ministries in 2017. With a focus on Evangelism and Reconciliation, there were many new and exciting project requests, 10 more than last year. Your gifts funded 34 Domestic and Foreign Grants, 11 Young Adult and Seminarian Grants, a Gift to Missionaries, and an Internship for a young laywoman to pursue a career in the church. Thanks to all of you who helped to make this possible through your prayers of thanksgiving and gifts of gratitude to God!

The rest of the story is that 33 domestic and foreign requests for worthy and qualified ministries were turned down simply due to a lack of funds. Will those not funded lose heart? How much creativity and promise of new mission has our church lost?

Your help is needed. Would you reconsider what your gratitude can accomplish? If you usually drop pennies in your Blue Box when you experience joy in your life, how about adding a nickel, a dime, or a quarter? If you give a check each year, how about a check both spring and fall? If we do this together through the United Thank Offering, it could mean a new place for inner-city homeless people to take showers and wash their clothes, an elevator for elderly and disabled members to access their church and its bathrooms, or even a new church or school in an unserved community somewhere in the world. It has been happening for over 125 years – let’s keep it going! Pray about it. And thank you again!

**August 13**

Chicago, 1886; The Triennial Meeting of the Women’s Auxiliary of the Board of Missions: “Ida Soule, a delegate from Pittsburgh…..made a helpful suggestion for a special offering. After counting the offering from 500 women at the Holy Communion service, she reached a total of $82.71. Assuming the amount was so small because no one knew *where* it would be spent, she asked if a worthy recipient could be designated in advance of the next Triennial offering. Julia Emery asked her to write a letter to be printed in the ‘Woman’s Work’ section of *The Spirit of Missions.* This was done, suggesting an Auxiliary offering, our Thanksgiving offering.” The rest is history. Today you can join this rich tradition of new or expanding church ministry by dropping a coin in a Blue Box or writing a check designated for the United Thank Offering! (Story by permission of Anne Bass Funk, from the Redbook of Episcopal Church Women)

**August 20**

How to live a life of gratitude for daily blessings? It is unbelievably easy! Just breathe a quiet prayer of “Thank you, God!” as good things come to you throughout your day. To make it even more special, share that goodness with others and drop a coin or bill in your United Thank Offering Blue Box. It may become part of a grant for a van to carry someone to a clinic for medical care, or to a church in a faraway place with no transportation, or even a motorbike to make it possible for a priest or deacon to make rounds for services in a jungle or desert somewhere. Amazing things happen when we share the love of Jesus!

**August 27**

Perhaps you did not know that each coin or bill dropped into a Blue Box or any check designated for “UTO” dropped into an offering plate in the Episcopal Church goes into the United Thank Offering. In fact, every penny of this special offering is granted at the end of every year. Not one cent of your gift is spent on administration! This is a great way to be Jesus People and spread the gospel right from your pew. These funds are designated for new and exciting church ministries or expansion into new missions throughout the world. If you would like more information about this program and the grants given out, contact your diocesan, parish or mission UTO Coordinator, or visit the website of the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church.