

Good Morning,

As part of our annual Stewardship Campaign, I am here to talk about why I give to MCC. You have heard from a few speakers before me about all the wonderful programs and activities that we support at MCC to reach out to this congregation, our local community and communities across this nation and across the world. And these are all good reasons to support and give to MCC.

But I also give for a deeply personal reason. When I give to MCC, I think about my father. I called him “Naina” which means father in my language. You see, Naina’s father learned about Christ from Christian missionaries from America in the early 1900’s. With their support and encouragement, Naina studied and received an undergraduate degree in the 1940’s. That was a remarkable achievement in British-ruled India at that time.

My father went on to work at Indian Railways – a good steady government job. But his passion was the work he did for the church and the time he spent to study the Bible. I remember when he came home on pay day. With 9 children, there were many expenses. But he and my mother would first pray together, give thanks, and separate our tithe for church. They then managed with what remained. There was always enough.

But later, troubles came our way. There were floods and we lost everything. Because of a brave neighbor, my siblings and I were rescued that night from the rising waters. We struggled during those days. We struggled a lot.

But my father would never forget to give first to the church. I remember days when he would walk to church to save a few more rupees on transportation so he could give more. You see, Naina never forgot that it was the work of the church that shared the love of Christ to his parents, to his siblings, and to him. In turn, he and my mother supported the church to ensure that all 9 of us grew up with values rooted in love, peace, and justice. He knew that his time and treasure would work through the many lives that the church touched.

When my father passed away in 1994, he knew that he did his best to enable do God's work. I give to MCC because I want to be like my Naina. I want to know that I have done what I can to give God's love a channel to work through – this church! I know the work at MCC reaches our communities locally and across the world. We don't know what challenges our children and our grandchildren will face. But knowing that they are rooted in values of love, peace, and justice reassures me. Working for something greater than ourselves gives me the comfort that the work of God will never cease. And we all have a part to play in it. This is why I give to MCC.