



Then he called his disciples and said to them,  
“Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than  
all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of  
them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of  
her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

— Mark 12:43-44

On a recent visit to one of our agricultural programs in Myanmar, I was surprised to learn that the local community cooperative had resolved that 30 percent of its profits would be used as an endowment toward start-up capital costs for a new agricultural program in a different area for a neighboring village. As a result of increased harvests and income due to the success of their organic farming efforts, the community was content with meeting their minimum subsistence needs and, although still within poverty levels, opted to share their bounty with others instead of continuing to make greater profits to share within the community.

All of this was by their own initiative; an initiative that is surely encouraged by the parable of the poor widow who offers up all of her assets toward God’s mission.

During this Lenten season, let us reflect on how we share our bounty.

— **Nagulan Nesiah**