

CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is important about the Christ's Birthday Observance?

- **Project Prayer**

Each day in December, a selection of states and countries with a Church of God presence are assigned to pray for the ministry of the church around the world.

- **Offering**

The Christ's Birthday Observance Offering is collected the Sunday before Christmas as a gift to the Christ child. The money collected touches nearly every ministry in the Church of God.

2. Why should our church participate in the Christ's Birthday Observance?

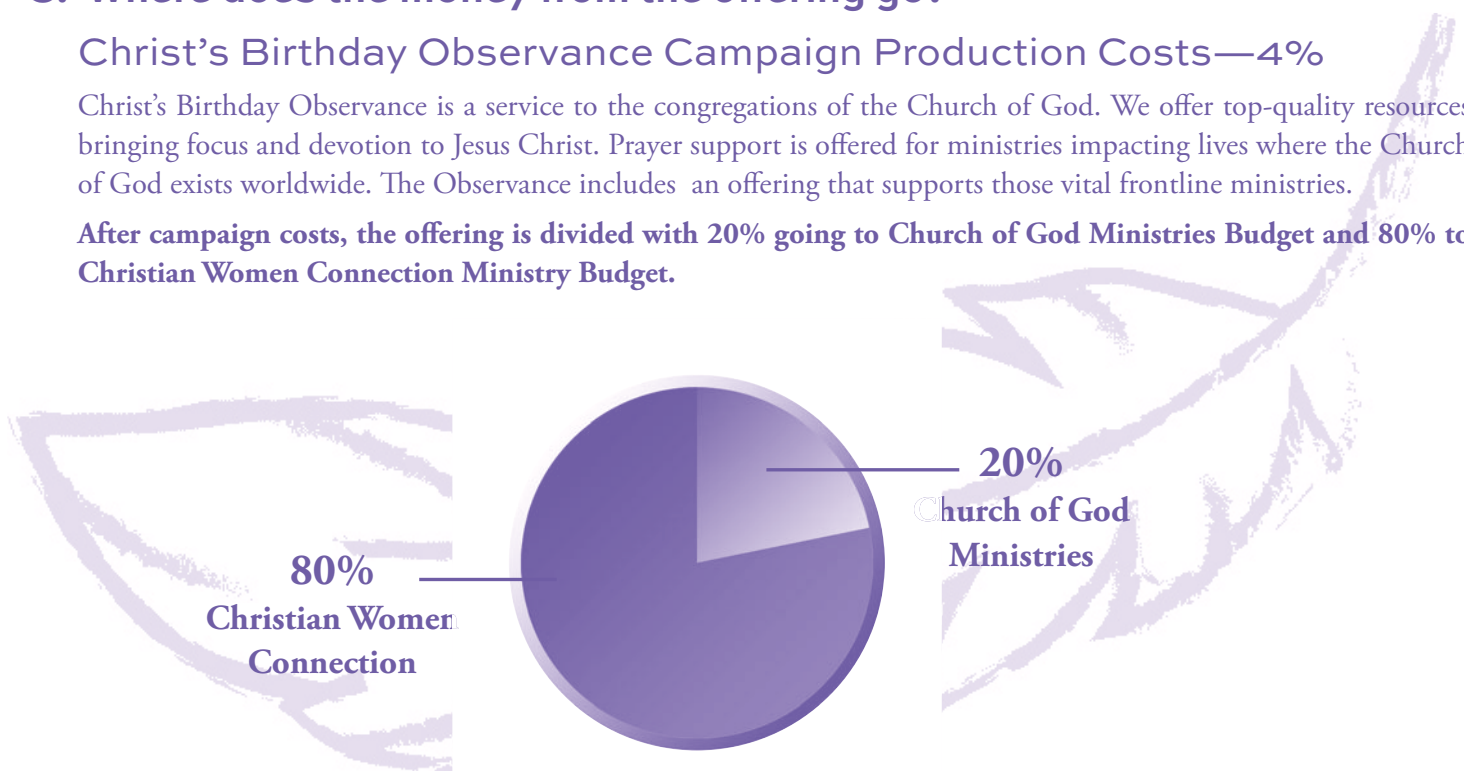
- Focus on Christ during the season of Advent (which is often overtaken by commercialism).
- Share the story of Christ's birth.
- Celebrate Advent in concert with Church of God congregations around the world.
- CBO has deep roots in the Church of God. The Observance, which began in 1949, continues to be one way that Church of God congregations come together for the benefit of the kingdom.
- In addition to prayers and devotions CBO offers an opportunity to give to the combined ministry efforts of Christian Women Connection and the Church of God in the largest offering in the Church of God.

3. Where does the money from the offering go?

Christ's Birthday Observance Campaign Production Costs—4%

Christ's Birthday Observance is a service to the congregations of the Church of God. We offer top-quality resources bringing focus and devotion to Jesus Christ. Prayer support is offered for ministries impacting lives where the Church of God exists worldwide. The Observance includes an offering that supports those vital frontline ministries.

After campaign costs, the offering is divided with 20% going to Church of God Ministries Budget and 80% to Christian Women Connection Ministry Budget.



Church of God World Ministries Budget—20%

GLOBAL STRATEGY: Global Strategy works to walk alongside the local church globally as it gives life in more than 90 countries around the world.

- **Disaster Relief & Restoration** - Collectively responding to human suffering and pursuing the restoration of all that is broken.
- **Global Table** - Bringing together the Church of God around the world in 2023.

CARE: Clergy Advocacy & Resource Effort - CARE seeks to address economic challenges facing early-career pastoral leaders through free finance and compensation coaching for the pastor and the congregational board.

CHAPTER 4 INSTITUTE - An immersive, cohort-based leadership experience that challenges leaders to reimagine how the church might earn its place as an essential ally—alongside local government, community-based organizations, businesses, and others—to change the story in their communities.

CHRISTIANS BROADCASTING HOPE - Broadcasting the hope of Christ in 10 languages around the world.

LEADERSHIP FOCUS - Online ministry development tool designed to equip and strengthen leaders in the Church of God.

CHURCH OF GOD FOUNDATION - Offers gift planning and management support for endowments, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts, and wills/bequest planning—all to encourage lifelong stewardship.

PODCASTS

- All That to Say—fearless conversations with fresh minds on the front lines of what matters.
- A World of Good—stories from and about people who love Jesus, care about the church, and travel the world.

Christian Women Connection Budget—80%

MISSIONS: Global and Local

- Operation of ‘Linen Chest’ – provides housewares, clothing, appliances to career missionaries around the globe, as well as supplies for the Missionary Apartments in Anderson, IN
- Hunger & Disaster Relief Fund – funds provide resources worldwide – food, housing for homeless after disasters, clothing, medical and community development for the most devastating situations
- Missionary financial support
- Missionary projects (e.g., schools, churches, health services/clinics, job skills training programs)
- Support of Domestic anti-trafficking efforts and domestic violence abuse shelters

EMPOWERMENT: Spiritual Formation, Education, Leadership Training

- ARISE program provides leadership, support, and empowerment to commissioned, licensed, and ordained women in the Church of God
- ARISE Academy, a new online education program for women clergy or ministry leaders
- Linen Chest provides first-year college assistance for missionary teens
- Special Grants are given to support domestic and overseas women pursuing ministry education

- Development of resources - literature, videos, and devotionals (includes Suicide Prevention resources)
- Annual development of Christ’s Birthday Observance advent programming

CONNECTION: Relationships, Events

- Conferences, Conventions, and Retreats to connect and equip women around the globe
- Connection with teens and young women – internships, IYC, NIYC, and Young Influencer program
- Website and social media connecting women around the globe
- Membership and Annual Planning Guide for groups
- Friday Connection weekly e-newsletter – publishing regular news, project updates, and resources for women of the Church of God

FUTURE INVESTMENT: Fund Development, management, general

- Investment in Leadership and Governance team with global Board of Directors representation
- Investment in stewardship of resources
- Investment in technology for continued and future connecting of women and resources around the globe the Church of God