



# Depth Perception™

Commentary from Design For Ministry™  
Los Angeles • Milwaukee • Philadelphia

## Time for the Offering 5 March 2007

2007 brings the launch of at least two resources designed to strengthen the offering as an act of worship. The well-known musician Ken Medema was involved in both. Both his website ([kenmedema.com](http://kenmedema.com)) and ours ([designforministry.com](http://designforministry.com)), gives you access to these excellent and sing-able worship resources. In particular, look for *The Offering as Worship*. You will find small group bible studies, prayers, connections to worship service design, recorded and sheet music, guitar chords, lyrics on PowerPoint slides, and so much more.

The importance of this effort to breathe strength back into the offering cannot be overstated:

- The offering reminds us that we are living in a rhythm of receiving from God and responding to God.
- The offering is a witness to the discipleship quality of living a generous life.
- The offering places all participants in the ancient tradition of gathering with the faith community and presenting one's firstfruits, one's proceeds, one's requests and bequests.
- The offering turns the congregation into a storehouse from which charity and mercy can be dispensed to those in need.

So much of the offering's grandeur has been lost in the modern philanthropic approach toward which we turned. And the great problem is that most philanthropically-minded persons were taught to give in a congregation with its weekly offering time. From where will the next great givers come, if not from faith communities?

I believe our ability to continue to offer support for great human need is tied to strong congregations that teach generosity as a worshipful response to a giving God. Nothing teaches this better than a wonderfully-conducted offering.

-mark l vincent



Mark Vincent

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