

# A Thanksgiving OF INDESCRIBABLE GIFTS



In late November, people across America will gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a time to count our blessings and focus on those things for which we are truly thankful. Here at the WMU Foundation, we give thanks for those who came before us and laid the foundation for the work we are honored to conduct. The endowments we manage would not be possible if not for our generous and loyal donors, and many of them owe their existence to past WMU leadership.

In 1988, national WMU marked its centennial by establishing the Second Century Fund, a visionary initiative aimed at fostering women’s leadership development both in the United States and internationally. This fund stands as a testament to WMU’s commitment to empowering women, helping them recognize their potential and nurture their leadership capabilities through a biblical lens. As we reflect on this important purpose, the words from 2 Corinthians 9:15 come to mind: “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

The Second Century Fund is more than just a financial resource; it embodies a legacy of Christian service and a forward-thinking mindset that has been a part of WMU’s work for more than 136 years. By investing in the leadership potential of women involved in Christian ministry, WMU provides women with access to leadership training not only for individual growth but also for advancing God’s kingdom. This work is putting the mission of WMU into action: making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

Second Corinthians 9:15 serves as a poignant reminder of the divine gifts of gratitude and generosity. It highlights the importance of recognizing and celebrating the blessings we receive and using them to uplift others. For the Second Century Fund, this verse encourages us to acknowledge the privilege of education and leadership opportunities and our responsibility to extend this support to women who are currently serving their local, associational, state, and national WMU organizations, as well as serving in their churches. By providing resources and support, the Second Century Fund helps break down barriers and enables women to become equipped to advance the kingdom of God.

As we celebrate this season of thanksgiving, let us offer thanks for the women who saw a need and created the Second Century Fund. Indeed, “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!”

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**PEGGY DARBY** serves as president of the WMU Foundation and is thankful to the WMU women who invested in her by nurturing her love of missions.