

RUNNING ON EMPTY

An AAA mechanic was called to the aid of a disabled vehicle, stopped along the side of a busy highway. After looking the vehicle over, he determined that the car was out of gas. He told the driver the problem, and began to reach for the spare gas that he always carried, when he was stopped cold by the driver's question: "Will it hurt the car if I drive it home with no gas?"

All of us know that cars simply won't move without gas. But somehow, many of us seem to assume that the church will move without our tithes and offerings. That task is equally impossible. Our offerings keep the heat and lights on. They pay the people who keep our building clean, who lead us in music every week, who keep our office organized and running, who share the word of God with us on Sunday mornings. Our offerings go around the world, supporting missionaries and ministries in the United States and beyond. They purchase our Sunday School literature and care for our children. From the biggest tasks to the smallest, our regular tithes and offerings are essential to keep our churches running.

Denominations work the same way. A steady stream of tithes and offerings is needed to do all of our tasks, from answering the phones at the regional and national offices to sending missionaries to every corner of the earth and everything in between. As each of us participates in giving to United Mission, we are providing the gas that helps us serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our world.