



We read in James 1:18, *"Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."* This verse follows the one that begins *"Every good and perfect gift comes from above..."* a verse which we have used before in our 1-1-1 Dollar for Missions campaign. James 1:18 is fulfilled every time a church body is formed by the dispensing of the means of Grace: His Word and Sacrament.

There is no clearer statement of why Mission 1-1-1 exists than this verse. God is the Giver and Grower of first fruits. We are in His plan first as recipients, then as participants. Through His grace, we merely pay it forward.

*"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."* Philippians 1:6