

OUR FAITH CHALLENGE
General Ministry Fund - 2008

With the completion of our church's Building Project, we have now assumed a very significant mortgage payment into our General Ministry Fund Budget. The projected final cost of our Building Project will not exceed \$6.5 million with a final mortgage balance (at the conclusion of our 3-year Sacrificial Giving Emphasis in March 2009) of approximately \$2.5 million, resulting in an annual mortgage payment in 2008 of approximately \$200,000.

TOTAL GIVING - Total annual giving to Our Savior's has increased significantly the last five years during our Building Project from an average of \$884,000 for 1999-2002 to \$1,289,000 for 2003-2007—a 45% increase!

GIVING TO THE GENERAL MINISTRY FUND - However, as people have been giving so significantly to our Building Fund the past five years, the portion of the total giving that people have designated to our General Ministry Fund has decreased dramatically—from a high of \$904,000 in 2002 to \$658,000 in 2007.

REDUCING MINISTRY EXPENSES - To compensate for this drop in General Ministry Fund giving during the past five years, we have reduced our annual General Ministry Fund expenses by significantly reducing staff and cutting back on other ministry expenses. This explains a drop in our General Ministry Fund expenses from our high in 2002 of \$878,000 to our current budget of \$670,000.

THE FAITH CHALLENGE WE FACE - With us now assuming our significant mortgage payment of \$200,000 into our General Ministry Fund Budget, our new total General Ministry Fund Budget expenses are nearly back to the pre-building days—\$870,000 for 2008. This means that in 2008 we need a 35% increase in our General Ministry Fund giving to fully fund our ongoing ministry.

THE SOLUTION - The need of the hour is for each of us to prayerfully seek God and, by faith, to increase our giving to the General Ministry Fund. The best long-term solution is to reduce the cost of our mortgage through the fulfilling of our Building Fund pledges. For those of us who have fulfilled these pledges, it is crucial that we continue to do what God has taught us to do in recent years—give sacrificially—and that we redirect our giving back into the General Ministry Fund. Only in this way will we be able to maintain our current level of ministry staff and ministry activities. Please pray about what God would have you do—we can trust Him that He will honor such steps of faith!

GOD CAN BE TRUSTED!
The Absolute Priority of Putting Your Trust in God
February 24, 2008

INTRODUCTION

In Your Bible:
Hebrew 11:6

A Revolutionary Spiritual Truth:

God wants you to _____ Him completely

and when you do

God will _____ for you completely!

Proverbs 3:4-9 (TLB)

If you want favor with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, 5 then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. 6 In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success. 7 Don't be conceited, sure of your own wisdom. Instead, trust and reverence the Lord, and turn your back on evil; 8 when you do that, then you will be given renewed health and vitality. 9 Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, 10 and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines.

I. GOD SAYS: "TRUST IS A MUST!"

A. If you want to be successful _____,
you must trust God with your _____.

Galatians 3:1,11,13

All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."... Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because "The righteous will live by faith."... Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.."

B. If you want to be successful _____,
you must trust God with your _____.

1 Peter 5:6,7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

C. If you want to be successful _____,
you must trust God with your _____.

1 Peter 5:5b

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

D. If you want to be successful _____,
you must trust God with your _____.

Proverbs 3:9,10 (TLB)

Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income, and he will fill your barns with wheat and barley and overflow your wine vats with the finest wines.

Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

II. DO YOU TRUST GOD?

III. GOD CAN BE TRUSTED!

A. God's _____ is _____

Hebrews 13:5-6

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

B. God's _____ is _____

1 Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

CONCLUSION