

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!

IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE
Practical Principles for Building Trust

March 2, 2008

SV202

INTRODUCTION

In Your Bible:
Proverbs 18:10-12

A Lesson Many People Need to Learn:

*God wants you to trust and honor _____ financially
so that He might
trust and honor _____ financially!*

I. WHO OWNS EVERYTHING I HAVE? _____ **DOES!**

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

**II. WHAT AM I TO GIVE BACK TO GOD?
THE _____ **AND _____ **PORTION OF MY INCOME!******

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.”

Genesis 14:20

Then Abram give Him a tenth of everything.

Genesis 28:22

And of all that You give me, I will give to You a tenth of everything.

Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tithe...but you have neglected the most important matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

III. WHY AM I TO GIVE?

BECAUSE YOU CAN'T _____ **GOD!**

1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

A. Earthly _____

B. Heavenly _____

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

C. Godly _____

G. Timothy Johnson:

Some say: “Dedicate the heart and the money will follow.” But our Lord put it the other way around: “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” If your treasure is dedicated, your heart will be dedicated. If it is not, it simply won’t. It is as simple as that.

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.

IV. HOW AM I TO GIVE? _____!

2 Corinthians 9:7

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work.

V. WHEN AM I TO GIVE? _____!

CONCLUSION