



AUGUST 2013

First LIFE

FROM THE PASTOR...



This month I am ceding my regular column to our Church Administrator, Jerry Rodgers.

Please read these important words carefully and consider how you may respond.

Phillips

I have to talk with you about something. It's our budget. I hate to do this when everything else is going so well, but it's gotten to the point where it simply has to be addressed. The hard facts are that we have fallen so far behind that we are facing some real tough decisions in the next few weeks as we begin the budget process for the upcoming 2013/14 budget. We are currently over \$56,000 short of our budget goal this year, after falling over \$80,000 short last year. We are borrowing money on our bank credit line to meet payroll and operating expenses. No responsible person or group should continually borrow money to meet regular, ongoing expenses.

What are we going to do? There are four options as I see it. First, we could try to cut ministry expenses. However, we have already done this. We reduced ministry budgets last year and there is little to be gained with further cuts. In order to save significant money we would have to eliminate some ministries all together. Second, we could cut our personnel budget. Layoffs are a real option, but a hard option. And think about this: if we lay off support staff positions our ministerial staff will have to spend more time with administrative and clerical duties and less time with the hands-on ministry to which we are called. The third option is to cut missions. The church operates the same way the Bible calls us to manage our personal budgets: we tithe our offerings to missions. We teach individuals to give a tithe even when money is short. We say, "You won't miss what you give. God will bless your obedience and faithfulness and will return to you many fold what you

give His causes." Since we teach individuals to tithe we do not want to reduce our church tithe to missions. Finally, the fourth option is for our members to tithe (give 10%) of their income to the general budget of our church. This would solve our financial woes and would bless enormously each person who chooses to tithe. Those are the four choices I see. Choose which one you think is best: discontinuing some ministries, laying off staff, reducing missions, or beginning to tithe and experiencing God's blessings individually and as a church. Should you choose to begin tithing I need to know of your choice right away so I can communicate it to the Finance Committee or else the cuts will begin to take effect. If enough do this cuts can be avoided and our church will suddenly become the most powerful expressions of God's grace anywhere in this country. Oh, if everyone of us would simply trust God and tithe... Would you prayerfully consider this?

Jerry Rodgers,



IN THE PULPIT...

August 4 - 10:30am

Great Sentences of the Bible:
Whoever finds me will kill me.
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

August 11 - 10:30am

Great Sentences of the Bible:
- Rendell Higgs

August 18 - 10:30am

Great Sentences of the Bible:
I saw the Lord.
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

August 25 - 10:30am

Great Sentences of the Bible:
I did as I was commanded.
- Dr. Phillip Reynolds

**WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS**
Wednesdays 6pm
Prayer and Bible Study

