

# The Periodic...

(A somewhat regular but mostly irregular publication)

Advent 2013

## GIVE TEAM UPDATE

From the very beginning of our life as a church we decided that we would teach biblical stewardship and tithing. I mentioned in a recent sermon that God does not mandate us (in the New Testament) to give a particular amount to the work of the church and his kingdom. In the Old Testament there was a mandated amount ranging from 10% to 25% depending on the year and what all you included in 'offerings to the LORD'.

In the New Testament though teaching shifts from giving as response and obedience to the law, to giving as response and thankfulness to what God has done. First we are to give out of our poverty and dependence on God not out of our own self-sufficient abundance, (Mark 12:41-44). Second we are to give generously from our heart not just blind obedience, (2 Corinthians 8:1-15). Third we are to give cheerfully and with joy, not begrudgingly, (2 Corinthians 9:6-15).

As part of the cultural DNA of St. Timothy's we have always wanted to take giving seriously, understanding it as a spiritual practice & discipline. But we wanted this not just to be the DNA of individuals within the church, but also of the church itself. If we are going to encourage members to give trustingly, generously and joyfully then the church ought to give trustingly, generously and joyfully. Part of this teaching means that even when things feel scarce, that we do not have enough, we trust in His love and faithfulness, His care and generosity to us and we give generously and cheerfully. And each year we have been faithful in doing this.

This year, we have decided, will be no different. We have always committed to give 10% of the money given generously to the church by you, back out to the community for kingdom ministry. We try to make sure some money stays local and some international. We also try to make sure it goes to different 'types' of ministries, from mercy care for the poor, church planting, evangelism, to education and creation care. You can see from the chart on the left what this looks like.

Following through on this faith commitment may put us in a small deficit position for the year and while we do not make this decision lightly we make it based on two factors. First, we made a commitment to be generous with what God gives us, and he has always been generous with us, and those we support should not be the ones to go without. Second, we proclaim faith and trust in a generous God, that he always pays for what he orders. Malachi 3:6-12 warns against robbing God and not trusting him. But it also promises that if we trust him, we will learn that we cannot out give this generous God.

## Give update:

At our most recent council meeting we agreed where some of our tithe would go in terms of outreach:

### Mercy:

\$2000 to The Harvest Project  
\$1000 to Mission Possible  
\$400 for Christmas hampers for families we know in the community

### Creation Care:

\$2000 to A Rocha

### Church Planting:

\$2000 to The Table Church  
\$2000 to Mountain Valley Mission

### Education:

\$4000 to Kids 4 Kids  
\$1000 for Naome from Rwanda for her university studies

### Evangelism:

\$150 To The Trinity Mission (daily office)  
\$500 to Sharyn Thompson (Wycliffe Bible Translators)  
\$500 Jane Holloway (YWAM)

### Practical Helps:

\$1000 to Sutherland church for A/V

*\*In addition to this we also give 10% to the work and ministry of the Anglican Network in Canada.*

## Side Note:

If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2014 it would be really helpful if you would, so that we can finalize the budget for next year.

Thanks