

OUR FAITH, OUR CHURCH FAMILY, OUR FUTURE

SEVERAL ONGOING GOALS WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH...

GOAL #1 B INSPIRE A PERSONAL, GROWING BIBLICAL FAITH

Colossians 2:7a B *Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught.*@ (New Living)

GOAL #2 B PROMOTE GENEROSITY

2 Corinthians 9:6 B *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*@ (NIV)

GOAL #3 B BUILD AN ACTIVE FAITH

Hebrews 11:8 B *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*@ (NIV)

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH IN 2018:

#1 B ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL ENDURANCE

James 1:3-4 B [3] *For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. [4] So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.*@ (New Living)

#2 B STRENGTHEN OUR CHURCH FAMILY UNITY

Acts 2:44 B *All the believers were together and had everything in common.*@
(NIV)

#3 B FINANCE OUR LOCAL WORK

2 Corinthians 8:7 B *Since you excel in so many ways, you have so much faith, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us, now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.*@ (New Living)

#4 B HONOR EVERY SERVING MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Philippians. 2:25a & 30 B [25a] *Epaphroditus, my brother in Christ, works and serves with me in the army of Christ. When I needed help, you sent him to me. ...[30] He almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to give me the help you could not give in your service to me.*@ (New Century)

What we don't want to do... PRESSURE ANYONE TO GIVE MONEY

2 Corinthians 9:7 B *You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully.*@ (New Living)

What we do want to do... SHOW HOW EVERYONE CAN GIVE SOMETHING

1 Peter 4:10 B *God has given each of you a gift from his variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*@ (New Living)

What we can expect (negatively)... DISTRACTIONS BY SATAN

Three basic distractions:

- [1] Pain.
- [2] Immaturity.
- [3] Selfishness.

What we can expect (positively)... FEELINGS OF JOY

LESSONS FROM THE FEEDING OF THE 5000
The Only Miracle Recorded in all Four Gospels
(Matthew 14, Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6)

LESSON #1 B GOD EXPECTS US TO GENEROUSLY GIVE OUT OF OUR RESOURCES
AND TRUST HIM FOR THE RESULTS

Mark 6:34-37 B [34] *When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. [35] By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. >This is a remote place,= they said, >and it's already very late. [36] Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.= [37] But he answered, >You give them something to eat.= They said to him, >That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?=@ (NIV)*

Three typical responses when facing a problem...

- [1] We procrastinate.

Mark 6:35a B *By this time it was late in the day...@ (NIV)*

- [2] We pass on responsibility

Mark 6:36a B *ASend the people away...@* (NIV)

[3] We verbalize the impossibility of the situation.

Jesus tells them to *Agive them something to eat@* (vs. 37a)

Mark 6:37b B *A...That would take eight months of a man's wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?@* (NIV)

LESSON #2 B DO WHAT WE CAN WITH WHAT WE HAVE AND COMMIT OUR EFFORTS TO GOD

John 6:9 [Andrew] B *AHere is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?@* (NIV)

LESSON #3 B EXPECT GOD TO MULTIPLY OUR GIFTS

Mark 6:42-43 B [42] *AThey all ate and were satisfied, [43] and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish.@* (NIV)

LESSON #4 B GOD WORKS THROUGH US, NOT INDEPENDENTLY OF US

LESSON #5 B JESUS USES CIRCUMSTANCES TO TEST US PERSONALLY AND AS A CHURCH

John 6:5-6 B [5] *AWhen Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, >Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?=[6] He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.@* (NIV)

Ephesians 3:20-21 B

[20] *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*@ (NIV)