

Capital Campaign Newsletter

Greater Liberty Baptist Church

6/9/2013

Edition 3, Volume 3

Message from Pastor

"Sacrificial Giving"

Greater Liberty Church
Family,

Sacrificial giving is the kind of giving that is done at great personal cost to the giver. It is possible to give without suffering any loss. Indeed we do it all the time. When a family donates a bag of old clothes to the Salvation Army, or when a multi-billionaire gives an impressive sounding six figure contribution, they feel no loss. Because it is in their best interest to disregard those things any way. (This kind of giving is fine. It is certainly better than throwing old clothes or money away). But there is nothing distinctively Christian about it.

Sacrificial giving by definition is the kind of giving that is done at great personal cost to the giver. Consider 2 Samuel 24:24. David wrote *"neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which cost me nothing."*

The one great biblical example of generosity is Jesus' gift of Himself to make atonement for sins, which was done at unimaginable cost to the giver (1 John 3:16). Obviously our greatest sacrifices are not even in the same league with Jesus unique sacrifice. But we Christians are imitators of our Lord, and for that reason we give our very best, that which it pains us to lose. As we pray for the Capital Campaign, please pledge if you have not. While we cannot give the same amount, God honors our giving.

Please remember the Lord does not look at the size of the gift but the heart of the giver. God bless you in your giving and God bless the Greater Liberty family.

~ Pastor Mabry



Prayer Focus for June

As we plan and work towards erecting our family life center, it's important that we remember our focus and our goal, which can be found throughout many Scriptures. As we began this journey, we looked at Exodus, Chapter 25, verses one through eight. In this passage, God tells Moses and the children of Israel to build the tabernacle.

This process began by God choosing a leader and speaking to the leader; Moses. Our present day leader, in 2013, is Pastor Mabry. God spoke to Moses and told Moses to gather the people and have the people bring an offering. Everybody, every family was to be represented by an offering. So, then we learn two very important things concerning the building of the tabernacle or adding on to the church; first, we learn that God chooses a leader and God gives that leader the vision to lead His people.

Second, we learn that God requires every man, woman and child to take ownership of the process by contributing towards its ultimate goal of raising the funds. In verses three through seven, we find out what God calls for the people to bring as an offering.

When we read those verses, we see that God asks for the things of value. He begins by asking for the gold and for the silver, for the fine linen and shittim wood. God is asking for the people's best. You and I may wonder why God would ask for their best or for their valuables. Verse eight brings the answer to our attention. God asks for their best because what they are about to build is for God.

God does not want our junk. He simply wants our best. God simply wants your best. God is not concerned with whether you give \$5 or \$5,000. He is concerned that you do your best.

We must remember that what God is doing in Greater Liberty and what God is doing through Greater Liberty is His best. If then He is willing to give us His best, should not you and I be willing to give God our best?

Continue to pray for the process and join us on the first Wednesday of each month for corporate prayer.

Inside the Numbers

As we hit mid-year of 2013, it is incumbent upon us and prudent for us to ask **“How Are We Doing?”** with our capital campaign pledges and supplemental projects,

Background - Greater Liberty Baptist Church (GLBC) members overwhelmingly approved a plan to renovate our sanctuary and construct a family life center at a projected cost of about \$2 million. We adopted \$500,000 as a minimum intermediate fundraising goal before groundbreaking. A structured plan, which featured a volunteer shared sacrifice pledge program as its ‘backbone’, was presented and enthusiastically adopted. Evidence of membership enthusiasm for and generous response to the plan is borne out in the \$92,759 we raised during the nine months of our 2012 campaign. As perspective for comparison, that collective standard which we set for ourselves was an average of \$10,307 per month – in spite of challenging economic circumstances! From a calendar perspective, that pace would have put groundbreaking at mid-May in 2016.

“How Are We Doing?” - We introduced this as what we hoped was a rhetorical question which would continue to answer itself with: “Quite well, thank you!” But even a swift glance at our current numbers tells us a very different year-to-date (YTD) performance story of some concern.

Specifically, through June 2, 2013 we have raised \$30,363 from all sources. That represents an average of \$6,073 per month for the first five months of this year -- \$4,234 per month less than the standard we set for ourselves last year. Our sterling performance in 2012 reduced our original \$500,000 goal to a remainder of \$407,241. That was great “feel good” news. Our YTD total through May has further reduced that to a new remainder of \$376,378. If we project our current giving (\$6,073/mo.) as our continuing rate from June forward, we would not reach our groundbreaking plateau of \$500,000 until August 2018. We would, effectively, delay groundbreaking by a full 2 ¼ years! We would like to think that what we are seeing is a temporary lull from which we

will see a strong rebound. Let’s make it so!

An unexpectedly strong performer among our 2013 supplemental activities was our **“GOT COINS?”** campaign which raised about \$3,000. It is an activity which invites participation from all ages and we were especially pleased to see the generous input from all – especially from the very youngest among us. Through May (42% of the year), we have collected \$577 which is just under 20% of our total in the nine months of 2012. This is a call to arms for our contributors of all ages!

What Can We or Should We Do Differently? Better? - Our analysis shows that in addition to payments being slower, there are fewer members pledging in 2013 than in 2012. Absent any solid data to explain why, we have discussed anecdotal feedback from several member sources and want to speak to some of your impressions.

“I Didn't Know We Were Supposed To Pledge Every Year” - As introduced in our 2012 kickoff, it has always been our intent that the spirit of ‘shared sacrifice’ and self-determined member pledges would be both the heart and backbone of the capital fundraising campaign. We shared a 9-month grid to help members arrive at an amount reasonable to their desire to give and to their personal circumstances. At our 2013 kickoff, we shared a 12-month pledge grid for the same purpose and followed with a recap in the capital campaign newsletter. Unless circumstances conspire to dictate a different/better approach, we plan to continue this philosophy

“Why Can't You Just Use Last Year's Pledge Card?” - Three hallmarks of our campaign are that: (a). We make no assumptions about your circumstances (b). Impose no member pledge amounts and (c). Take no interest in individual payments except as required by church officers who aggregate all your contributions to prepare your year-end tax summaries. Besides, since member circumstances can change,

you should be in control of how it affects your cash flow

“I Don't Want to Set a Pledge Goal and Be Embarrassed by Not Meeting It - See the explanation in [2-c] above. There is no reason for embarrassment since GLBC does not practice individual judgment of member payments and your pledge is a “need to know” only between you and the church officer(s) responsible for recording it. As part of an aggregate amount, it is important to our ability to project our realistic expectations at a given point in the pledge period. It would be most helpful if each of us pledged at whatever level is desirable and reasonable to us individually

“Since I Misunderstood, Is It Too Late To Pledge for 2013?” Absolutely not!! We welcome both your belated pledges and your supportive participation in our capital fundraising campaign by whatever means. There will be numerous opportunities starting with our City Barbeque 25% rebate promotion* on Monday, June 10 and our 5th Sunday Sing/Praise program on June 30. Please watch the Sunday church bulletin and observe

announcements in Sunday morning worship services. We have developed and continue to work on exciting and innovative ways to “move the needle forward” on our progress towards groundbreaking. {* Please request City Barbeque flyers from an usher **today** for yourself and for family and friends who may be persuaded to support our cause by buying from City Barbeque **tomorrow** June 10th

Any Other Questions?

Concerns? - We are concerned about any questions or concerns that you may have and would like to identify and work through them with your help. And we would like to thank those members who have submitted both fundraising projects and suggestions. Some of these are already being implemented or are in development. Please continue to submit your ideas and questions as they help the focus of our efforts.

Upcoming Fundraisers

“Feed the Spirit” Cookbook

The “Feed the Spirit” cookbook is an official project sponsored and promoted by Greater Liberty Baptist Church. We anticipate that it will be an outstanding signature project for our “Building on the Rock” Capital Campaign fundraiser.

The cookbook will be a professionally produced, high quality presentation of favorite recipes submitted by you and other supporters. It will include a professionally designed cover, distinctive recipe categories, a table of contents, an index of recipes, an index of contributors, helpful hints, photos, illustrations, etc. All of this is designed to make it an attractive and helpful item in your kitchen – a product for which you can be a proud co-author! We also hope to include a brief pictorial and written history of our church, along with an architectural drawing of our planned family life center expansion. Cookbook orders are still being accepted.



City Barbeque

Please join us on for this special fundraising event on Monday, June 10th at the Hyde Park, Blue Ash and Eastgate locations. 25% of your purchase will be donated back the church. Please be sure to your flyer, it must be presented at the time of order to receive credit for the sale.

It's good all for Dine In or Carryout orders. Check out City Barbeque menus at www.citybbq.com. We look forward to you participating in this tasty fundraising event!

Capital Campaign 5th Sunday Sing

“Take Me to the King”.
Sunday, June 30th at 3:30pm

Greater Liberty’s Praise Dance Ministries – S.P.A, SWAT, Heaven Sent, Distinctive Praize and Inspirational Hands of Praise, with music by the Women’s Ensemble Praise Team. We invite you to join us for afternoon of praise, worship and dance!

Speak OUT! The Art of Worship

Friday, August 16th at 7:00pm.
Hosted by the GLBC
Distinctive Praize

Come join us as for a night of praise and worship through song, dance, poetry by young adults from Greater Liberty and guest from local churches throughout the city. We will uplift and magnify the Lord!

Building on the Rock Walk-a-Thon



Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 7th, we will once again put on our walking shoes for the 2013 Building on the Rock Walk-a-Thon.

We introduced a new walking route (from the church to Mariemont), with 3 different levels. We had an awesome turnout last year and hoping for the same in September.

Sign-ups for walkers and volunteers will kick off in August.

Did You Know?

- The goal for the Building on the Rock capital campaign is \$500,000.
- The first pledge period was April - December, 2012. Subsequent pledge periods will begin in January and end in December. We will have yearly pledge periods until we reach our goal.
- There is not a minimum pledge amount. You should give according to how God has inspired you to give. Exodus 35:21-24
- Additional pledge cards are available in the vestibule. After filling out the card, please put it in the box which is on the table. The pledge process is a useful tool as it helps us anticipate how much money we will collect.
- Funds collected for the Benevolent Fund, Scholarship Fund, Building on the Rock and the former Catch the Vision capital campaign, are not included in our general operating account. They are separated and not used for our monthly expenses.
- Contributions made via your envelopes to Building on the Rock, tithes and offerings are tax deductible and will be included on the end of the year statement you receive. We cannot keep a record of the amount of coins deposited in the jars.
- If you forget to bring your blue envelope, you can include your pledge in your regular envelope. Be sure to write the amount you wish to go towards your pledge. Write the amount on the line marked "Vision". Next year our envelopes will be revised to read "Building on the Rock".
- You may write one check to cover your tithes, offerings and pledge. Simply follow the procedure outlined above and denote the amount for each category on your offering envelope.

Additional questions?

Contact a member of the Capital Campaign

Committee: Barbara Evans, Ann Freeman, Bill Freeman, David Johnson, Dennis Matthews, Montroue Miles, Calvin Peeples, Sterling Price, Shannon Solomon, Shirley Thompson, and Genevieve Wilson

Feed The Spirit Cookbook



Greater Liberty Baptist Church is proud to offer a collection of recipes from many outstanding cooks. This is the signature project for our "Building on the Rock" capital fundraising campaign.

Cookbook Order Form

Number of Books: _____ Total: \$ _____

Sold By: _____

Purchased By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone () _____

Email: _____

