

Here's an update on two of six ongoing questions posed at our 2009 member meeting March 29th. Let's revisit them with comments from the meeting minutes (*in italics*) and additional thoughts.

1. In what ways are we a fruitful, sustainable, Kingdom-advancing congregation for current and future generations?

- a. *"We have faith in God. We have programs to provide for teaching our children and we feed our congregation spiritually to move them forward. We need to come to church regularly. This building is a gift from God."*
- b. Some small groups that meet regularly.
- c. Discipleland for nursery through Grade 8.
- d. Monthly Bible Study for Grades 9-12 who in turn help with Discipleland monthly.
- e. Worship service teaching the words and worship of God for everyday life.
- f. Encourage and experience intergenerational and family relationships.
- g. Many generous givers covering most of our current congregation expenses.
- h. Families nurturing their children in the Faith.
- i. Desire to do, and doing some outreach in practical ways locally and globally.
- j. Working toward developing a new generation of leaders.
- k. A dedicated weekly prayer team praying through individual, local and global issues.
- l. We are working on a logo design that conveys our congregation's identity.

2. How are we balancing our support for internal activities and relationships with external, local and global ones?

- a. *"We are not balancing them well. We are internally focused, not externally focused. We don't have a solution how to change the balance."*
- b. All members are involved in internal activities and relationships and ministries...some in external ones.
- c. **Local:**
 - i. We advertised our **Easter Service** and could with Christmas or others.
 - ii. We are "**Grow(ing) a-Row**" of vegetables by the church for the Food Bank.
 - iii. Tentative plans to invite the local community to **marriage** and **balanced living seminars** (problem solving, communication skills, consumer tips).
 - iv. Ongoing service opportunities with **Grow Regina Community Garden** development (see Karen).
 - v. Consider a fundraising project for Healing Hearts **native leadership development** in N. Central.

d. Global:

- i. Our Canadian congregations have been asked to help support our African Congregations. So far \$7,000 has been raised and sent to the following areas: \$3,000 for Liberia (including Togo and Benin) – from the Vancouver congregation. \$1,500 for Kenya –from the Victoria and Huntsville congregations. \$1,500 for the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo) – from the Toronto East congregation and \$1,000 for Malawi – from the Moncton, Fredericton and Saint John congregations.
- ii. Examples of how our congregation can become involved include East African **National Pastor Travel** (isolated Tanzanian congregations unvisited for 5-6 years \$1,500) and **New Pastor Training** conferences (\$2,000). In addition, **I**, and if possible, **Amy** have been asked to assist in East African Pastor Training **conference teaching** with the national office supplementing funds raised locally (e.g. airfare up to \$2500 each).
- iii. African December **Youth Camps** need more funding-Red Deer and Crossfield already contributing.

Five-year-old Madelyn, at her own initiative, prays...every night: "God, don't help us any; just help the poor people".¹ Could I encourage us to ask God for discernment as to how to respond to these opportunities and to which? Are you personally drawn to any of them? Someone has already suggested fundraising activities. Any ideas?

Eric

Next month: **How are we doing at identifying and developing emerging leaders in our congregation?**

¹ Dave Toycey, *the power of generosity: How to Transform Yourself and Your World*, (Toronto: Harper Collins, 2005.), 22.
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