



A Special Pastor's Letter

Dear Friend,

Last week I took you on a little inside tour of what happens through ICC on a continual, week-by-week basis. Every week we have new people who find strength for the journey. Having a couple dozen new faces on Sunday is not an uncommon happening! Something good is definitely going on.

The momentum of continued growth has challenged our leaders to explore ways to finally complete our building project within the next 6-9 months. This will provide the much needed space for all ages of our children's ministry as well as lobby area for adults meeting and greeting each other outside the auditorium. With the new office complex completed, our staff will no longer need to share office space and remain in rather crowded arrangements. Now is the time for ICC to capture the moment and finish our building.

I'd like to talk to you about something very easy to understand but often not openly discussed. Ministry requires operating funds — MONEY. Our budget is built upon our belief that we can meet proposed ministry goals through the ongoing, regular giving of our congregation.

In order to continue doing what God is obviously blessing, it will take some serious commitments from all of us. The most basic necessity for ICC is our operating budget. Without these basic, day to day operating funds we could not function. Each one of you who willing gives is what God uses to keep ICC open and growing because we all know it takes money to operate. Remember when I spoke on the "tithe"? It is God's way to finance ministry.

Many of you give financially whenever you come to church. It is easy not to think about ICC when we are not here seeing what is happening. When you miss a week or two of coming and do not contribute on those weeks, what happens? Basically, it means our budget is not met and we must decide what areas of ministry needs to be cut back or postponed. Should it be our student program that ministers to over 100 students weekly? KidZone that disciples about 125 children a week? Maybe our subsidizing of the Celebrate Recovery program that gives hope and healing to broken and hurting people needs to be put on hold.

All of us who lead at ICC believe that what we offer is the most basic and needed of ministries. We often say "No" in order to continually say "Yes" to our most important and results orientated ministries. We have already had to say "No" to some camp scholarships for students and "No" to new discipleship material for KID CONNECTION and "No" to several other areas that we normally say "Yes" to.

May I ask you to consider this: If you are a regular giver, will you commit to give even when you are not here? Believe me, this would make a huge difference if we all would do this.

Maybe you have never been regular in your giving but you are beginning to see the importance of supporting ICC financially. Will you pray about and consider what God would have you do ...on a regular basis?

I never want to have to focus Sunday morning time on money issues. I think it is wrong for our church, at least right now. The last thing that new people need to hear is me crying for money. That is not ICC!

The Elders, staff and other key leaders are in the process of determining the best avenue to complete the building. Yes, the leadership senses that we have the momentum for completing the project. However, our confidence to recommend the expenditure of a significant amount of money can be found only as our regular giving becomes more regular. We can do this ...if we only will. Next week I'll show you why I know this to be true.

Thanks for reading this,

John R. Mitcham