

January 28, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Enclosed is your contribution statement for 2009. I continue to thank God for your faithful support of the Chapel Hill Bible Church! In particular, thank you for your wonderful response to the needs of our church last month. We faced the possibility significant lay-offs of our church staff very quickly. Your generous gifts provided time to discern our path more graciously.

In these times of change and challenge, there can be much confusion - in our world, in our lives and in our church - including the church's current financial situation. Below is a recap of financial milestones in recent months:

May 2009: With the 2009-10 budget approval, discretionary costs had been trimmed to the bone, and several very important items were not funded or had been adjusted significantly:

1. Staff salaries reduced by 5%, and no funding for staff retirement
2. Missions funding reduced by nearly 10%
3. No budget for a lead pastor (the search process had begun but the lead pastor was not expected to be in place until spring/ summer 2010)
4. No funds set aside for major repairs to our facility, which will soon be needed now that the building is almost ten years old

It was anticipated that we would need to reduce staff to provide funding for these items. Since this was also a time of such significant transition, church leadership was moved to wait until after December 2009 to determine what and how significant these budget changes needed to be.

December 2009: Contributions through November were 19% below target. If giving continued at the same rate, we would have been unable to afford current staffing levels past January (that is, immediate changes would have needed to be made with no notice to those affected). This was shared with the congregation in early December, and the Lord provided miraculous giving, leaving us only 2% below target the 2009-10 budget through December (see above for items not funded in this budget).

January 2010: Your generous December contributions allow us to adjust the budget over several months and to provide more transition time for staff whose roles may end or change, but overall giving continues to be significantly below budget. Changes will need to be made for us to hire a new lead pastor and remain financially solvent.

So where does this leave us? The elders and deacons are working to address this complex issue, and **personnel reductions are being considered. Please keep leadership and all those supported by our church in your prayers as we seek God's will in these difficult matters.** Talk with me, those on your ministry teams, staff, deacons or elders to learn more.

As I noted last year, I continue to see the hand of our Lord guide us - through challenging financial times AND through many positive things that are occurring in our church. Despite some decreases in some numbers (such as overall giving), ministry is growing and many are engaging in new and exciting ways through the church, ministry teams and church leadership.

Again, thank you for your giving, support and prayer for the Chapel Hill Bible Church.

Your servant,



Margaret Faircloth
Treasurer