GET REAL WITH MISSIONS

OPEN: I have five questions for you:

1) Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the answer to man's sin problem?
2) Do you agree that mankind will spend eternity in Heaven or Hell?
3) Would you agree that Jesus charged His church with the responsibility of taking the Gospel message to the lost at home and around the world?
4) Would you agree that a portion of our income should be used to accomplish this task?
5) Are you giving to missions on a regular basis through your local church?

Romans 10:14-15a (NLT) – [14]But how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? [15]And how can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?...

- Every believer is a missionary (either you are one or you need one) and we are commanded to proclaim the Gospel message.
  - Some believers leave the secular workforce to dedicate their time and effort in making disciples of Christ.
    - ✓ We call these people "vocational missionaries"…they are the "sent ones."
    - ✓ We hand pick our missionaries and support them with our prayers, finances and our friendship.
    - ✓ We choose to partner together.

- You can meet our missionary team on our website: www.fblex.org . **(Pull up webpage)**

  - ✓ 28 missionary families, 3 local ministries, church planting in the Carolinas and helping with mission trips and special projects.

- ✓ Add that up (see missions budget) and our investment is $200,000 (this does not include MANNA or designated $ for mission trips).

- ✓ This is outside the "General Budget" that keeps FBLEX growing and going…this is where our tithe goes.

- ✓ Above our tithe we give an offering to missions.

- ✓ We call it "Faith Promise Missions" or on your envelope "Missions." By faith we promise God $ weekly or monthly, however you decide to give it.

- ✓ Our annual "regular missions" goal is $200,000; $3,846 a week, or if you will permit me to round up to a number I can remember $4,000 a week.

- ✓ You may want to know how we are doing…2 months into the year or 8 weeks of giving.

    - We are averaging **$3,252.50** a week in missions.
    - We are running a deficit of **$<593.50>** a week; **$4,748** for the year.
    - If we continue this trend we will come up approximately $30,000 short for the year.
    - We must do better!

- ➢ One of the things I try to do is to increase my missions giving from year to year.
    - ✓ What would it take for us to get to $4,000 a week?
        - 200 givers at $20.00 a week? **or**
        - 100 givers at $40 a week **or**

        - 5 givers at $100 = 500
        - 25 givers at $50 = 1250
        - 50 givers at 25 = 1250
        - 100 givers at 10 = 1000

        175 givers **4000**

→ Point is, we can all do something.

- ✓ We can take money out of our general church fund and direct it toward missions but we want you to have privilege of deciding how to invest your eternal dollars.

→ Support your local church with your tithe and give an offering to missions.

Philippians 4:15-17 (NLT) – [15]As you know, you Philippians were the only ones who gave me financial help when I first brought you the Good News, and then traveled on from Macedonia. No other church did this. [16]Even when I was in Thessalonica you sent help more than once. [17]I don't say this because I want a gift from you. Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.

→ Invest in missions and God will reward you now and in eternity!

Pastor Ralph Schneck
Message Notes
First Baptist Church of Lexington
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