

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DAYTON, INDIANA

2008 MISSIONS COMMITTEE YEAR END SUMMARY OF MINISTRY WORK

INTRODUCTION

These highlights for Missions are a joyous report.

The Church Missions effort for 2008 was successful in all areas. Even with an economic slowing, the Holy Spirit chose to abide with us, and He guided the members of the Memorial Church. The Church funded 10% of the total church budget toward Missions. The 2008 budget pledged was fully funded at year's end. Praise God!

Remarkably, the role of young adults and children in Missions continues to grow. Missions committee staff encouraged young adults and children to participate, especially in ministries like Smile Train.

The root of this Mission effort is a group of committed Christians at Memorial Church. The Holy Spirit abides where He chooses. He most certainly chose the Missions effort that has involved, fully or partially, most of the church membership throughout 2008.

SUMMARY

Food Pantry and Kid's Closet both were blessed and well managed beyond expectations. During the last half of 2008, poor family needs grew rapidly and stayed high. The Church rose SOLIDLY to meet the need.

In some cases, some of these needy women, who were served at Memorial, returned to the Church. They asked to help with volunteering helping others as well. This unexpected service from people, who have little, shows the love of God sometimes returns through others to serve us who were the servants.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...I needed clothes and you clothed me."

By the end of the 2008 year, God honored all Mission activities and there was no significant deficit at year-end for Missions effort.

In particular, the budget for the Church was originally \$174,603.00 with about 10% of that amount to Missions, approximately \$19,500.00.

"Well done, good and faithful servants! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your Master's Happiness."

KIDS CLOSET AND FOOD PANTRY

In particular, Kid's Closet grew its ministry under Julie Boles supervision.

For instance, in one case during the year, 55 families were served -- comprising of 181 people. In addition, in the fall before school started, back to school supplies were distributed and exhausted.

Monthly needs, also, increased during the year for Food Pantry. As an example Carol Frantz, Carol Bull and their volunteers during only three consecutive Saturdays provided food and articles to 32 families comprising of 137 individuals.

YOUNG ADULTS CONTRIBUTION - SPECIAL MENTION

A special mention of the role of young adults in the Mission effort is appropriate. On any given Saturday or other mission activity day, these young adults and older children periodically lent a hand.

For instance, Clara and Hannah helped their mother, Julie Boles. On another time, you might see Michele and Emily Spray participating. There are many more cases. The family participation with the children in all Missions surely pleases God and should be encouraged in the future.

In September, the Smile Train offering request, for children with facial disfigurements, was cleverly scheduled during the Dayton Fish Fry. The Smile Train offering collected money for the second year of its activity.

This ministry was discovered by Clara Boles and shared with her sister, Hannah. In turn, Hannah, with Session approval, began this offering last year and, again, this year. The Mission Committee is glad that young people do great and innovative works for God. It is important that we acknowledge this.

The Smile Train letter of October 17, 2008, from its President Brian Mullaney, personally praised this effort and thanked the Church. Our 12-year-old young woman, now 13 years, and her Smile Train team were given a letter receipt for \$1,344.06, received 10/15/08.

LAFAYETTE URBAN MINISTRY (LUM) SUPPORT

The Church continued to support LUM with financial resources and heavy Christmas Jubilee Support on December 13, 2008. This wonderful Christmas ministry remains a joy to do for many members of the church.

People volunteered quickly and money for presents and other needs were met quickly. The original budget of \$5,000 was exceeded. Cindy Bull reported a good success because of the prompt and faithful member support. 20 families with 40 children were served.

Aside from Jubilee, the Church continued to send separate operating monies to LUM.

OTHER MISSION MINISTRIES

Memorial Church continued support of Habitat for Humanity with member participation and financial resources.

The other minor ministries that Church supported remain mostly unchanged from last year. These include the following:

- Souper Bowl of Caring
- Cookie Walk
- Gideon's International
- Domestic Violence Ministry
- C. A. S. A.
- One great hour of sharing
- Homeward Bound Walk
- Pentecost Offering
- Peabody Home
- Hannah Food Pantry
- Siloam Eye Center
- Hunger Hike
- Triennium
- Blanket Sunday
- Christmas Joy Offering
- Presbyterian Disaster Relief
- Penny Harvest

PER CAPITA

The Church continues to cooperate with Synod and Presbytery by supporting these functions with allocated funds based on church per capita recommendations.

For 2008, the Mission Committee recommended to Session to continue support for per capita toward the Geneva Center and Shared Mission Support.

MISSION PEOPLE

The Mission Committee leadership provided the basis for success this year. Julie Boles, Carol Frantz, Carol Bull, Patty Hicks, Cindy Bull, Judy Ryan, Deacon, and other monthly meeting attendees provided effective planning and management.

Moreover, a multitude of volunteers made this work a joy. The list of dedicated helpers would be too long for this report.

Further, Mission Committee successfully and consistently communicated needs and events throughout the year. For example, the 2008 'Minute for Missions' Schedule performed twenty 'Minutes for Missions' to draw resources, prayers, and volunteering for each planned activity.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. TEST ME (emphasis) in this", says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the flood gates of heaven and pour our so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

God has clearly demonstrated that to those who step out in faith, in turn, He will faithfully honor them.

GOD'S PROVISIONING

The Mission Committee has, again, boldly stepped forward. The 2009 budget was set higher because of the faithfulness of the members and God's blessings during 2008. It is hoped that this offering will allow Memorial Church to be a model of faith for the community and Presbytery as was the church in Thessalonica.

Paul's commends the church, "...he (God) has chosen you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction...you become imitators of us, and of the Lord, in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with joy, given by the Holy Spirit. And so you become a model to all the believers... your faith in God has become known everywhere."

This year in Missions has been another affirmation of our Christian faith. May His Presence never leave us.

To all involved, it was not a job, but a ministry, in which many fine Disciples of Christ labored joyfully as channels of His Love.

Amen.

Joe Pease, Elder
Missions Chair