

Give Generously According To Your True Capacity

Earlier this month I was delighted by the generosity that I witnessed at Reunion as people responded to requests to give to the Reunion subsidies fund, oblation, Mission Centre Ministries and Outreach International. Why did people give so generously? I believe that, in part, it was because they were made aware of needs and saw that by giving financially they could make a difference. My hope is that this generosity will ripple through the Mission Centre.

At this present time there is a very serious need for us to increase our giving to **World Ministries Mission Tithes** if we really want to enable the church to fulfil its mission here in the British Isles and throughout the world.

As President David Schaal said at the 2010 World Conference, “Brothers and Sisters, “We need to pay our tithing!”

Statistics don’t always give the full story but I think that these figures are worth our consideration:

- Twenty per cent of envelope contributing members give about \$45 (£30) per week to World Ministries Mission Tithes.
- Eighty per cent of envelope contributing members give about \$5 (£3.50).

Whilst these figures are based primarily on the USA church I believe that figures for the British church would not be that dissimilar.

The number of contributors is declining which means that fewer people are bearing an ever-increasing share of the responsibility for funding the mission of the church.

Presiding Bishop Steve Jones says in the latest edition of Herald, “So let me be clear...\$5 is not enough to fund the church’s mission. And, for most of us, it cannot honestly reflect God’s generosity in our lives.”

While I would concur with Steve that many of us need to consider our capability to increase our giving, I also am aware that there are many who need to *start* giving to World Ministries Mission Tithes. We cannot abdicate responsibility to someone else. Each one of us has a responsibility to give generously according to our true capacity.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ our tithing response is one of the important ways we express our love for God. At the recent World Conference President Steve Veazey shared these thoughts:

If tithing does not increase, we will have no choice but to further reduce the World Ministries budget, which will impact the number of ministerial field staff and resources for mission all over the world.

So let me ask you some questions:

Do you want the mission of this church to grow?

Are you willing to make a financial commitment to increase your giving to help make this a reality?

Worldwide the church has about 17,800 contributors. If each person were to increase their giving to World tithes by just £1 a week this would raise around £926,000. Just think what a difference could be made with that amount of money. **My hope is that the members of the British Isles Mission Centre will feel challenged to increase their giving to help further the mission of the church throughout the World.**

Is the call to give generously for everyone? I believe it is. It would appear that those who give most generously as adults are those who started to give as children. So, if you have children or youth in your family or congregation, please take opportunity to encourage them to give an offering to both local and world ministries.

Over the coming year there will be a regular article, probably bi-monthly, attached to the News Update on different financial matters. These will be written by me or one of my assistants, Derek Judd and David Frost, and will be on such topics as giving by standing order, investing wisely and descriptions of the various church funds. But please don't feel that you need to wait for these articles. If you wish to discuss any topics related to financial matters please contact me.

Andrew

Andrew Fox
British Isles Financial Officer