

Ministering God's Love



Cultivating Faith

THE KING'S VOICE

AUGUST 2015

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Do you trust God?

By: Dorene Fcrtl

Several years ago I had a sudden surprise when the law firm that I worked for began cutting back on staff and salaries. I found myself making a choice; either tighten the belt and live on a lesser salary and keep the job... or search elsewhere. I did both, stayed employed while I was looking, but it taught me a lesson; I can live on less than I thought without too much effort by tightening my belt a little here and there (along with some creative budgeting).

Can you live on 90% of your income? Ok, now you know where I'm going with this article. When money is discussed the defenses and pre-conceived ideas pop up in your thoughts instantly, there is even the possibility that your blood pressure begins to rise! I am asking you to read on, *without* pre-conceived ideas; put them aside for a few minutes, go on...try it!

In the Old Testament, God instituted the concept of giving to

the Tribe of Levi in order to sustain the Tabernacle and the Priesthood. Most of the giving was not in money because they lived in a bartering society. God's people were faithful to bring a percentage of the firstfruit of their labor to the Tabernacle. For some it was animals, others it was crops, etc. The ministers who gave their life in service to God in the Tabernacle were sustained by this giving.

Some say this concept was for Old Testament believers, and doesn't have a place in our church today. In the New Testament Jesus met a Pharisee going into the temple with some dill, mint and cumin in his hand – he was giving a percentage of his herbs (very proudly and publicly, may I add!) and Jesus spoke to him and called him a hypocrite. The Pharisee was a hypocrite because he made such a big deal of publicly giving herbs, but ignored more weightier matters such as justice, mercy and faith.

Jesus said you *should* practice justice, mercy and faith, *without* neglecting the tithe. Jesus was also clear that he did not come to abolish the Old Testament laws, but to fulfill them. We can't pick and choose what we want to believe...murder and lying and stealing are wrong – we don't abolish those laws, why should we abolish the concept of giving to God? Feeding the hungry, comforting those who mourn, spreading the Word of God, helping the needy, teaching our children, maturing young Christians, taking care of our Priest, keeping on the lights, supporting missions...these things we believe in, they are right for us to do, and they require money.

"God doesn't really need our money; he owns the cattle on a thousand hills so he doesn't need my offering," someone said once. The last part of that statement is correct, but

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what a wonderful thing it is that the God who gives us everything is allowing us to generously give a small portion in return in order to further His Kingdom. We do we believe it every Sunday when we say ‘all things come of Thee, O God, and of Thine own have we given Thee,’ don’t we?! The Apostle Paul calls giving an “act of grace.” He wrote to the Corinthian church about the Macedonian Christians who were giving out of extreme poverty; he told the Corinthian church that they had an abundance of faith, knowledge, and love, and he asked them to consider excelling in this act of grace (giving) also. He finished the thought by reminding them that the Lord Jesus Christ, though He was rich, yet for their sake became poor, so that they, through His poverty, might become rich. In other words, Christ gave *everything*, showing us His generous, extravagant love – we in turn should want to share what we have with others.

I am the first to agree

that the message of “giving” has been abused by many a preacher in many a church. I’ve heard the ‘begging rhetoric’ and it raises the hair on the back of my neck. God will deal with that – of this I am sure. However, we can’t throw the baby out with the bath water. The concept of giving *is* Scriptural, both in the Old and the New Testament.

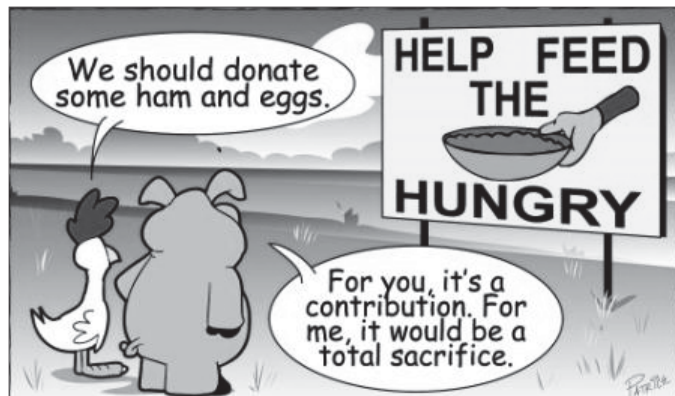
I talked to someone recently who is a staunch tither, this is a person who writes the tithe check to the church before paying bills or getting groceries. I wanted to know his views on giving to God. Was it an obligation? Was he afraid of not obeying? Had he been bullied into it? How did he come to the place where a bigger house, better car, fancier vacation, larger retirement, and nest egg was less important than giving to God? I was fully expecting him to say, “the love of money is the root of all evil” or something along those lines. His answer surprised me. He simply said, “I trust God.” I

raised an eyebrow; how does trusting God and tithing go together? He explained that he trusted that if he gave to God what is His, that God would take care of him and that all that he needed would be provided. He didn’t give with the motive of ‘getting’ God’s blessings, but he did say the blessings of God were an automatic byproduct of giving (and not necessarily monetary blessings, but blessings of joy, peace, contentment). He considered it blessed to give, and he could live on 90% of his income because he knew that God would take care of him.

So here is another question for you: Do you trust God? How *much* do you trust Him? God said (Malachi 3:10) to bring in the tithe and *test* Him in this, and He would throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to contain it, and



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?



Wednesday Night Bible Study

After completion of the Wednesday night Bible study on the book of Genesis, we will take a few weeks off for vacation, and start a new weekly study on Wednesday, 8/12/15 from 7 – 8 PM, followed by Eucharist or Compline as usual. A guest speaker will provide a historical overview of Women in the Bible on the 12th, followed by the detailed study led by David Biggs on subsequent weeks.

Why have we chosen this subject? For many reasons, including the acknowledgement of women's critical role in God's plan for his people, and to provide balance in the story of the Bible, which is dominated by the men in a patriarchal society. Make no mistake that women have found ways to influence biblical history as wives, mothers, and daughters. And by simply including their stories in the priceless space of the Old or New Testament, handed down orally at first and then committed to the written word, it is clear that our faith's founding fathers considered them to be a significant part of the lessons for their communities. And since all of us today have mothers, or wives, or daughters, we still have lessons to learn from them as well.

The study will cover two women in each session, hoping to find ways to contrast and compare their stories. We intend to provide a 360 degree view of each woman regarding their time and place in history, an understanding of the culture in which they lived, their family dynamics, their role in the Bible narrative and their impact on our faith today. Scripture reading will be assigned as homework, and after an overview lecture on each woman, an emphasis will be placed on discussion and a comparison to our own times.

So we hope that you can arrange to attend. The Genesis study was an overwhelming success, and we hope to see even more come and join us.

David Biggs

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Good Morning Everyone,

I ran the contribution statements through June 30th and emailed them out to you. If you did not receive it, please let me know. If you do not have an email set up yet in our system, Yours was printed and is on the table in the hall for you to pick up. I hope you have seen my new office!! It is not done yet! I am saving up money to buy new pergo floors to make it look outstanding. My changes are a result of Mother Carolyn's inspiration after she fixed up her office.

If you want to join one of our ministries like readers or ushers please let a Vestry member, me or Mother Carolyn know. As always, it is my pleasure to be your church administrator!!

Sincerely, Chris Benton

TEN SIMPLE WAYS YOUR CHURCH CAN SERVE FOSTER FAMILIES

Foster care is a Church problem, not a state child welfare problem. It is a Gospel issue first, not a government issue. The Church has both the duty and privilege to speak on behalf of and stand for the sake of those who cannot speak and stand for themselves because that is *exactly* what God has done for us through Jesus. That's the Gospel.

Kids in foster care are not the government's kids, they are God's kids and therefore the Church's responsibility. In response, many families choose to submit to the laborious and often painstaking process of

becoming licensed foster homes so that abused, neglected and marginalized kids can have a safe, nurturing and Jesus-centered place to find refuge and be loved. The work these families do is full of unbelievable difficulties and unspeakable joys. On a daily basis they carry both the weight of brokenness and the hope of redemption on their shoulders and in their hearts. They live, breath, cry and walk out the Gospel in the vulnerable lives of these young kids while exposing their

marriages, their children and their community of friends to a warfare unlike any other. It is a calling - a hard, beautiful, worthwhile calling.

But not everyone is called to be a foster parent. As a matter of fact, most people in the Church won't ever bring a child into their home for any extended period of time. But this does not mean they, and the Church as a whole, don't have an essential and necessary role to play in the lives of these foster families and the children they are giving their

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Ladies night out

Thank You to all the ladies who came out to enjoy Christ the King's ladies night out!!! TWENTY-SIX women attended this wonderful night of fun and fellowship at Fred's. Please enjoy the picture below.



1) ORGANIZE A MEAL CALENDAR

It's fairly standard practice for small groups, support groups, women's ministries, etc. to organize a meal calendar for a family when a new baby is born. Do the same for a foster family when a new child is brought to their home.

2) SCHEDULE LAWN CARE

Do whatever you can to relieve any amount of burden you can from the family - like organize a team of people in the church who rotate mowing foster families lawns while they have children in their homes.

3) CERTIFY BABYSITTERS

It is illegal to leave a foster child with a babysitter that is not (in most cases) CPR certified and background checked. This means most families struggle to find babysitters. Host CPR certification classes at the church. Have sitters ready for families!

4) CONDUCT DEDICATION CEREMONIES

Most churches celebrate Parent/Child Dedication ceremonies during the year. Do the same for foster families. When they bring in a new placement pray for them in front of the church and have the body commit to support them!

5) HOST DATE NIGHT CHILDCARE

Once a quarter or every semester (or even once a month) the church can hire certified babysitters for a Friday or Saturday night and allow foster families from the church and community (hint: outreach!) the chance to go on a date!

6) DELIVER CARE PACKAGES

Most placements occur with little to no notice. Often times within hours. Have things like diapers, gift cards, baby supplies, and other necessities ready to go to be dropped off to a family immediately after receiving a child.

7) STOCK A SUPPLY PANTRY

In conjunction with the care packages develop a supply pantry that stores items like diapers, cribs, strollers, car seats, baby equipment, bikes and other things that families may immediately need upon a child placement.

8) BUILD A RESPITE CARE TEAM

Certified babysitters can watch a child for a short period of time (generally less than 48 hours). When extended breaks are needed or travel plans require it, respite care providers are needed. These are extremely hard to find. Have a team at your church ready!

9) FACILITATE SUPPORT GROUPS

Foster parents live in a unique world of state regulations, bio-parent visits and licensing guidelines as well as experience the emotions that come along with loving vulnerable children. Give them a place to connect, share experiences and encourage one another.

10) PRAY

Pray for them. They are engaged in a spiritual battle over the lives of incredibly vulnerable children. They are standing on the frontlines and in the gaps for these kids while willingly placing themselves in the path of the Enemy's attacks.

Financials for May 2015

...He will provide the devotional for you? Can I challenge you to give God a 20% test? Trust God, see what happens!

Office needs your help

If you are interested in answering the phones during Mother Carolyn's office hours, Please let her know. Even if you could only help for a couple hours in one day... any help will be appreciated!!

Chris is going on Vacation

06/07/2015 - Sunday	
General Fund	2415.00
Flowers	30.00
Facilities Rental	175.00
Missions	80.00
total	\$2,700.00

06/14/2015 - Sunday	
General Fund	1288.00
restricted	300.00
Diocese Assistance	1250.00
total	\$2838.00

06/21/2015 - Sunday	
General Fund	1562.00
Restricted	200.00
Facilities Rental	30.00
Flowers	30.00
total	\$1822.00

06/28/2015 - Sunday	
General Fund	1022.01
restricted	50.00
total	\$1072.01

GRAND TOTAL FOR June	\$8,432.01
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We are going to have our annual back to school bash... Sunday August 16th. We can start taking donations of soda, chips and school supplies now.

Welcome to the Episcopal Church
10:00 a.m. Tuesday mornings, starting July 7th

The 10 AM Tuesday morning bible study is taking a break for the summer. During this time, we will be offering a short DVD-based course in everything Episcopal. Some of the topics include:

- * History of the Episcopal Church
- * Anglican History
- * Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer
- * Welcome to the Episcopal Church
- * What it means to be an Episcopalian
- * Baptism: Sacrament of New Birth
- * Sacraments: Participating in Signs of God's Grace
- * Do this for the Remembrance of Me

If there is enough interest, we will offer this series at a convenient time for those who cannot attend during a weekday. Please let me know, if you are interested in attending.

This Class is for anyone who is interested in learning more about being Episcopal

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
						B – Jessie Beck B – David Biggs
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Bishop Hugo		No Bible Study B – Mike Green	No Bible Study this evening		A – Mother Carolyn & David Biggs	A – Ana & Santos Zamora
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am Bishop Hugo		Bible study 10:00am A – Angel & Rich Heist	CTK presents: Woman of the Bible 7:00pm			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS And B-T-S Bash A – Pam & Mark Schrader		Bible study 10:00am	Woman of the Bible continues 7:00pm	Vestry Meeting 6:30pm		B – Marilyn Springthorpe
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am	A – Carolyn & Tony Lowery A – Leisa & Elvon Hospedales	Bible study 10:00am	Woman of the Bible continues 7:00pm		A – Isabel & John DeTringo 50 YEARS!!	
30	31					
Christian Ed & Adult class 9am Holy Communion 10am B – Angel Heist		Bible study 10:00am				

M I N I S T R Y S C H E D U L E

Ministry area	August 2, 2015	August 9, 2015	August 16, 2015	August 23, 2015	August 30, 2015
Celebrant	Bishop Hugo	Bishop Hugo	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn	Mother Carolyn
Deacon in Training	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville
LEM2	Isabel Detringo	Jim Royal	Wade Griggs	Martha Griggs	Bob Springthorpe
Acolyte - Server	Elizabeth Hospedales	Neila Heist	Sydney Sharrow	Elvon Hospedales	Liam Borden
Acolyte - Cross/bells	Jacob Heist	Liam Borden	Mitchell Parrish	Clive Borden	Clive Borden
Acolyte-Collection	Nathanial Heist	Clive Borden	Alexander Parrish	Joey Beck	Nathanial Heist
Acolyte –Gospel	John Beck	John Beck	John Beck	John Beck	John Beck
Old Testament	David Biggs	Ed Tatlian	Wade Griggs	Martha Griggs	Bob Springthorpe
New Testament	Veda Dwyer	Paige Sharrow	Susan O'Brien	Andrea Borden	Mike Green
Prayers of the people	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville	Bob Dinnerville
Greeters./ushers	Betty & Claire	Wade & David Biggs	Terry & Cheryl	Jack & Debbie	Jack & Wade
Pre k (paid)	Debbie	Colleen	Debbie	Colleen	Debbie
Elementary SS	Off for the Summer				
Prayer Team	Wade & Lisa	Meghan & Cathy	Isabel & Marilyn	Isabel & Lisa	Jim & Wade
Altar Guild	Lisa & Christina	Claire	Claire	Claire	Diane & Carolyn
Vestry Counters	Josh & Wade	Josh & Wade	Josh & Wade	Josh & Wade	Josh & Wade