



A Generous Pledge for a Glorious Future
Selected Scripture
April 13th, 2014

Introduction:

2013 and 2014 finds many of our families struggling to find jobs and adjusting to new jobs. Last year was a very tough year for many in our congregation and for our ministry budget. Yet, in spite of all of this, we were good stewards of our resources and today we find ourselves as a church \$30K above budget for the first 16 weeks of the year. You as a congregation are to be commended. So, while we were cutting back on our expenses, we were expanding in baptisms. Last year, Clements was in the top 25 Churches in the state of Alabama with 75 people being baptized. It was an amazing year.

I would also like to go on record by bragging on our staff. We have the greatest staff around. Again last year, our staff did more with less. Our annual staff salaries overall remained the same in order to keep the budget from increasing during the year of 2014. I think this church ought to know that their staff makes sacrifices for the overall benefit of this church.

Definition of Generosity:

Generosity is at its core a lifestyle. A lifestyle in which we share all that we have, are, and ever will become as a demonstration of God's love and a response to God's grace.

If ministry is the vehicle for accomplishing our mission, then finances are the fuel. As a pastor, I am responsible not only for my own spiritual disciplines but also for the way I teach others to pursue theirs. I am not a fund-raiser; I am a pastor, a pastor who loves his people enough to teach them to be generous to the kingdom of God.

Gordon MacDonald:

"As the leader of his church, every pastor must learn to teach his people to give, or he will forever be limited by his inability to move beyond the constraints of his own insecurities or preferences."

I. Generosity is about Attitude

Four Attitudes of Generosity:

- 1. Generosity is an attitude of joy (II Corinthians 8:1-2)**
- 2. Generosity is an attitude of the supernatural (II Corinthians 8:3)**
- 3. Generosity is an attitude of enthusiasm (II Corinthians 8:3b-4)**

Letters of Encouragement:

Dear Pastor Tim:

Even though this gift puts a strain on our finances, we believe that God will continue to provide for us as he always has. We thank God and Clements Baptist Church for the spiritual influence you have had in our family. We pray that our church will reach its goals by 2024 or before. We sure want to be a part of it.

Dear Pastor Tim:

I love my church! I love my pastor! I love my staff! Even though this has been my worst year financially I still want to help my church at this time. I'm trusting God to meet my needs. I am a better person and certainly a more generous person today as a result of my church and leadership.

Dear Pastor Tim:

We received your encouraging letter requesting support for our "No More in 24 Vision". We just want to let you know that we find it an honor to support such a great ministry. We're fortunate to be part of this church and God's family at Clements. Thank you for challenging us each week.

Dear Pastor Tim:

Tithing and faith based giving is new to me. But I'm trusting in God and I want to do even more. This will be a great challenge for me. Count me in!

Dear Pastor Tim:

I am so grateful for this opportunity to be involved. This church means more to our family than you'll ever know. My kids were saved here. My husband also turned down a job promotion in another state so we could stay at Clements Baptist Church. We are looking forward to the future.

- 4. Generosity is an attitude of spiritual discipline (II Corinthians 8:5)**

Five Results of Generosity:

- 1. It increases our love for Jesus (II Corinthians 8:7-8)**
- 2. It makes me more like Jesus (II Corinthians 8:9)**
- 3. It strengthens my faith (II Corinthians 9:6-8)**
- 4. It causes others to thank God (II Corinthians 9:11b-12)**
- 5. It exalts the glory of God (II Corinthians 9:13)**