

Dear Church Family,

What a wonderful summer thus far. God has blessed the SEP summer camp with some exciting breakthroughs for our youth. I wish we could have camp more often throughout the year as it is such a time of transformation for so many!

Four members of our missions team joined us for 3 days at SEP in Big Bear Lake to prepare them for the SEP camp we are sponsoring for 100 youth in the Philippines who have never attended SEP before and would not be able to afford it. Our mission trip is fast approaching and is scheduled for September 12-Oct. 1. If you are interested in joining us in serving, please see Myrna Paulino for details.

We had 5 more people at camp this year than last year - 9 campers and 4 staff this year compared to only 2 campers last year and 6 staff members. Our auction fundraiser in June produced \$1265. but our 50% subsidy rose to \$1800. plus another \$605. in extra expenses.

The HQ conference is only a week away as I write, and we will be taught by 3 of the best teachers on the theme of spiritual formation - teaching us all how to become spiritually accountable to each other and most of all to God. This is desperately needed in our churches as we face more and more complicated trials in our society today. Also, FYI, we will be assuming locally most all of the conference expenses which formerly was covered by the 5% congregational apportionment listed at the bottom of the report. You will notice in this mid-year financial report that we have had considerably more outgo than income during May and June due to many of these expenses with July being even more critical, so your help is seriously needed to keep things balanced..

I am also very excited about what God is doing in our congregation preparing us for far greater service. I have heard many encouraging comments on how the Book of Romans is helping us to better understand and explain God's incredible plan to save and deliver us from sin now in our daily lives, not just in the coming Kingdom of God. Please be praying that God will guide us as we seek to follow His lead. It is such a tremendous blessing to know that He is our Lord and Master, directing our church and every moment of our lives, and it's not up to us to "make it." As we invite Him into our lives every day, just like the hand enters the glove, we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us!!!

God bless each and every one of you as you yield to Him and put Him first in your lives!  
Love, Pastor Mel