



A Worldwide Church of God Congregation

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Dear Church Family,

God has been very gracious to us this first quarter of 2008. Many of the crises that weighed so heavily upon so many just before Easter have been or are being resolved. We are also most thankful to God that with the recession setting in across our nation and financial crises are everywhere that we are very close to meeting budget being only 2K behind. Your fervent prayers for a good second quarter are seriously needed as last week's offering was the lowest week on record in 3 years at \$548. We need an average of \$4K each week to make budget. You can see why prayer and faith are the 2 key elements in doing God's work!

I would like to thank those who have been exceptionally generous. God pays attention and responds to our generosity as He did with Cornelius in Acts 10:1-2. Sacrifice is like a sweet smelling savor to God as he says in Numbers 15:3. We are also taking measures to be even better stewards of the finances God gives to us. Our rent has been rising to almost double since we started at our present location. With the recession looming on the horizon and some of our members losing jobs, this may be the time to re-evaluate our present rental outgo. We have a place that will save us around \$10,000. a year in our rent and will provide more classrooms in a very uplifting environment and it will also include additional facilities we don't have today, is conveniently located and within a mile of where we meet today. I want to discuss this with our audio team as this may also allow us to have our own sound system that does not have to be reprogrammed each week. The pastor at the possible new location said that Saturday was pretty much empty and available although he has 2 and sometimes 3 services on Sunday. Your prayers for God guidance would be most appreciated.

I am most excited about doors God is opening for us in outreach in a school right in our neighborhood. Also, we have around 14 of our members who are considering serving on staff at SEP this summer!!! WOW!!! That gives me chills just to think about it!!! There is no better place for our young people to be than at SEP camp each summer. God is doing wonderful things there and helping to prepare our church leaders of tomorrow!

Finally, as we will discuss today in the sermon, let us seek to pray often - at every opportunity possible. Jesus said he wants His Father's house to be called "a house of prayer for all nations." Mark 11:17 and Isa. 56:7. This coming Thursday is the National Day of Prayer for our nation. Family, please pray that God will teach us to pray as He would have us to pray so that we might be the beautiful instruments in God's hands that He loves to use to help finish His work of preaching the gospel to all nations (Matt.24:14) here on earth so that He might return real soon!!!

With deepest love and affection for each one of you!

Pastor Mel