

# BEING THANKFUL

Many of you are unaware that when Rachel and I came to this church we recognized that your tithes were not meeting your obligations. We also knew that this would not make it possible for you to pay what you were offering in your salary package. After the vote we met with leadership and lowered the salary package \$7,000 and then Rachel and I decided that we would not take the auto mileage of \$2,000. Not sure when you get a job that you agree to a \$9,000 cut. But, if you want to be where God wants you it is surprising what you are willing to do. We did this because Rachel and I over our years with God know this - God is faithful to those who have faith.

Our church received a gift of \$50,000 that was to be used for budget purposes and the day to day running of the church. That was not a coincidence. God knows our needs and supplies our needs. The money could have been a memorial for a new parking lot or for other repairs but GOD knew what we needed was working capital to get us through these years. It has been rough for all of us and our churches but God has always been there. We still have about fifteen thousand left of that money for our budget purposes.

God's question to us is how much faith, do we have? Will we be faithful to the resources God has given to us? Our budget will be bigger than what we anticipate coming in through offerings. The business minded would say, you are nuts' the spiritual will say our God will provide. Our part in all of this will be to continue doing what we are doing. Seeking the lost and feeding the faithful with the word of God. If, and we will, continue doing these things we will be blessed and our needs will be supplied.

We also need to remember that as a church we are to give to God. We as a church cannot expect our needs to be met if we do not remain faithful in giving back to Him through our tithes. Our budget will reflect that truth and all I ask is that you look and see what God can do. We will be blessed because he promised to open the floodgates of heaven for us if we give to Him. That is a promise for individuals as well. Read Malachi chapter 3.

This Thanksgiving remember God's love and faithfulness to you and to His church. Let us also remember and be thankful that for the last hundred years there have been those who have remained faithful to God. They have been a voice in the wilderness sharing the truth of Christ to their (our) little world here in Butler county. Thankful that in our church we have men and women, young and old who are faithful to Him and will remain faithful no matter what the world might throw at us. Faith in God and His promises.

We have a lot to be thankful for and rest assured that God is not done with us yet. God is just beginning to do a new and beautiful thing through us here at Central Baptist Church. Hold onto the faith that you have and increase it each and every day. Have a blessed holiday with your family and friends.

~Pastor Steve and Family