

October 7, 2009

Dear Church Family,

We serve a good God! I am writing this letter asking for your continued prayer and obedience to God's leading. First I want to praise the Lord for the new opportunities he continues to give us as a Church to minister Christ's love in this community. Currently new believers are growing in their new faith through the ministry of Celebrate Recovery, small group bible studies, Sunday Schools and one on one mentoring. I believe we are in a period of Spiritual Harvest. It is a real blessing to be part of helping people find Jesus as their Lord and Savior and helping them grow in their relationship with God. Our God is blessing us with many ministry opportunities to people seeking God's direction. Please pray that we do not miss these opportunities.

Recently in one of my messages the focus was on Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." To be poor in spirit is to live with the understanding that we are in desperate need of God's leading in every area of our lives. I believe the current condition of the local and state economy is causing many to seek the Lord's direction in their lives, some for the first time. This is a crucial time for us to live out our mission of helping people find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and reproduce that relationship into the lives of others. People must see God's love lived out in our lives. To see that mission work we as believers must each contribute with our time, talent and resources.

In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:1,2 the Apostle Paul puts it this way: *"So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."* Will you pray that we would be faithful as a body of believers? This is an exciting time for ministry. People are hungry for God. This is also a difficult time for ministry. The church continues to have expenses, and it has become increasingly hard to meet those expenses. It is important that each of us remember that God blesses and uses every contribution.

It is expected that the coming year will continue to challenge us financially. Please pray for me, the church board and the finance team as we no doubt will need to make some difficult decisions.

In His Service,

Pastor Phil Hortop