

WESTBROOK CHURCH ELDER UPDATE

The Apostle Paul was unmatched in his ability to appreciate and encourage. In his second letter to the Corinthians, he applauded and appreciated that church's desire and willingness to provide gifts for their Jewish brothers and sisters. "Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so." *2 Corinthians 8:10*. From that appreciation, he urged them to "finish the work."

In that same spirit, we want to thank and encourage you, Westbrook, for your incredible generosity. In 2009, you have already given over \$1.9 million to carry on the ministries of Westbrook in Lake Country and around the world, and by meeting our Route 121 challenge to pay for sanctuary, classrooms and lobby. Through November, more than \$1,200,000 had been provided out of the \$1,400,000 general ministries budget; generous folk have given \$160,000 out of the \$212,000 for Global Outreach, and an additional \$537,000 had been provided to the Route 121 Journey. Because of your generosity, Westbrook has touched the lives of tens of thousands through the support of nearly 30 missionary families around the world, and countless hearts have been changed in Lake Country. During this Great Recession, Westbrook has joyfully met this obligation without borrowing in either 2009 or 2010. What an incredible blessing!

In 2011, we will simplify our giving and our budgeting. We will have a single category to support our global and domestic outreach and our general ministries. We will no longer have a separate "Faith Promise" gift category, but will continue to generously support missionaries throughout the world as well as further identify and extend our influence and our local ministries that touch Lake Country and Southeast Wisconsin. We know this is a bold step, but count on those who had seen supporting Faith Promise, as well as the General Operations, to continue

their generous giving. The giving envelopes which will be available beginning in 2011 will only include two categories for designation: one for those of you who have committed to supporting the Route 121 Journey to reduce our debt, and the other for general ministries which will now include our global and domestic outreach. We expect this giving to not only support our current ministries, but also to include funding for Greg Marshall's role as our Director of Community Relations, the addition of a Youth Pastor, and expanded ministries support. We are confident that our Lord has great plans for Westbrook in 2011 and beyond, with your help.

Paul wrote in *2 Corinthians 9*, "There is no need for me to write to you about the service [this giving] to the saints. For I know your eagerness to help and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians telling them that since last year you and Acacia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action." (*2 Corinthians 9:1 and 2*) In this same spirit, we urge Westbrook to finish strong in 2010. While there have been many generous gifts, we are far behind in our support of Faith Promise. Our missionaries around the world, doing incredible work with great sacrifice, need our support to meet their obligations. But more than that, we need to start 2011 in a strong position. Therefore, as we close out 2010 and enter 2011, we urge each of you to:

- Give generously of your time, talent and treasures.
- Invite others to share in the Westbrook community.
- Become involved in a Life Group, or if involved, invite another to join you.
- To be a dedicated prayer warrior for Westbrook, for your brothers and sisters in Westbrook, and those that we reach around the world through our global workers.

Thank you for all your sacrificial giving in 2010 and for your continued life in the Spirit in 2011. May you enjoy a Blessed and Peace-filled Advent Season, Serving the King of Kings.

The Westbrook Elders