

The Impossible Became Possible!

To say our Missions Conference was a success is a serious understatement. Our theme this year was Mission Possible. “And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible” (Mark 10:27). “Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth” (Mark 9:23). We were challenged by missionaries representing Paraguay, The Philippines, Houston’s Hispanics and Normandy, France. Dr. Charles Keen exhorted us to believe God and see the impossible become a reality.

We support our missions by the Faith Promise Plan. This is when God’s people promise to give God an amount of offering above their normal tithes and offerings as God provides. Two years ago our commitment totaled 113 thousand dollars and our people exceeded their commitments. Last year our commit was 120 thousand and our people again exceeded their commitments. Much has happened since last year. The economy has had a shakedown and many people in our church (as all over America) were affected. I still wanted to believe God for the increase, so in my heart I was thinking it would be great if our people would commit 130 thousand dollars to missions. In light of our present economical environment, this would exceed many expectations.

As the conference progressed, the spirit was sweet, but really not much emphasis had been given to our commitments other than the normal challenge. We reminded the membership that the commitments were between God and His people. As of this writing, the deacons have informed me that our Faith Promise Commitment of the membership of Christchurch is now 176 thousand dollars! Our people promised to give 47 thousand dollars more than I prayed for – in this year of recession! What are we learning?

1. God wants to answer our prayers abundantly!

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20). We should never be surprised when God answers our prayers beyond our asking.

2. God honors faith.

Jesus said, “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” (Mark 11:24). Like a looming mountain before us, the Great Commission stands as a fortress that cannot be ignored! But Christchurch refuses to stand by without caring. “Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?...” (Lamentations 1:12). So by faith, we became determined to do our part and then some. The people of Christchurch have developed the spirit of Epaphroditus, of whom Paul said, “Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me” (Philippians 2:30). Epaphroditus was willing not only to do his part, but the part of those who were not yet in the yoke of our Lord in giving. This is what Christchurch has done; they have increased their giving to supply needs they recognize and even those needs which others are not accepting.

3. Getting the message of Jesus is the most important task in the world.

In the first part of the twentieth century there was an outstanding missionary to Calabar, Nigeria named Maisy Dow. This young Scottish lady became so sick while in Africa they sent her back to

Scotland to die. The captain of the ship taking her home cabled the family saying that they could not possibly make it back and she would be buried at sea. Through the prayers of her family and church, she miraculously made it home, but her health had deteriorated to the point that she was forbidden to return. Her heart never departed Calibar. While in Scotland, she recounted some tender and touching memories that display the intrinsic nature of missions: "The native king had two sons. They were royal princes indeed. I knew them very well, for they attended the mission school, where I taught them to read and write. I shall always remember the day when their father decided they were to see the world. Their simple native garments were replaced by modern European attire, and eventually they wished us good-bye. They traveled throughout the Mediterranean; they visited the great places of antiquity, and eventually reached London." Miss Dow paused, and her eyes sparkled with delight as she narrated some of the strange antics of the two princes. Intrigued with the trains, they did many unheard-of things as they traveled from one place to another. Maisy continued, "Then, one morning, as I walked through the village, I was amazed to see one of the princes sitting outside his mud hut. He sat cross-legged on the ground, and as I drew near, his white teeth flashed in a smile. 'Hello Prince; so you have come home again.' 'Yes, White Mother, I have come home again.' 'Tell me,' she inquired, 'what did you think of the big world?' 'Ah, White Mother, I saw many wonderful things. I saw ships which carried people across the big sea! I saw big engines which ran upon rails; I saw great cities where the huts reach up to the blue skies. Yes, I saw many wonderful things; but I have come home again. Shall I tell you why? White Mother, although I saw many wonderful things in the big world, I never saw or heard anything so wonderful as that which I saw and heard in our school house.' " Miss Dow, asked the prince what he considered to be the wonderful thing she had taught him. She said, "He seemed like a black philosopher as he put his hand to his chin, and carefully considered my question. 'White Mother, the most wonderful thing I ever heard was that the great God who lives above the blue sky, had a Son called Jesus. And Jesus loved us so much that He died to save us. Yes, that is the most wonderful thing I ever heard; and I have come back to hear more about Him.' "

This is what Missions Conference is all about.

- Pastor Pope -

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