

2011

DEBT ELIMINATION



PAYING FOR THE WALLS
SO WE CAN REACH BEYOND THEM.

March 13, 2011

Dear GMC parents and guardians,

We would like to share with you what is happening in Promiseland and Route 23. As our church has taken on the challenge of the Debt Elimination Campaign – Paying For The Walls So We Can Reach Beyond Them, the children will join us on this journey. Over the course of four Sundays (March 20th & 27th, April 3rd & 10th), we will teach our children about good stewardship, giving, and tithing. For the Promiseland kids, this will be integrated into their current curriculum, whereas the Route 23 kids will have four complete lessons on these topics.

We will challenge our children to commit to tithing after they have learned about it. To make it fun to tithe, our team is designing two oversized piggy banks, one for the Promiseland room and one for the Route 23 room. This will allow the children to have a way of giving their tithe right where they meet.

We encourage you to help your children understand the biblical principle of tithing and help get them started. You might want to make a tithing piggy bank with your children - this could be as easy as painting an empty pickle jar. As they receive money, help them do the math and put ten percent aside for their tithe. To make the math easier, especially for the younger ones, consider giving them ten pennies instead of a dime, and so on. On Sunday mornings, they can then put their tithe in our oversized piggy banks as an offering to God. This is a tremendous opportunity for children to learn to tithe at a young age.

On our fourth teaching Sunday (April 10th), we will send home a commitment card. If your children choose to sign the card, they will commit to tithing on money they receive for a period of three months. It is important to us that you understand that we do not expect you to simply give your children extra money to bring to church. Instead, if you are able, give your children opportunities to do chores or special tasks for which they can earn a little money. We understand that there are chores each member of a household does without receiving any financial compensation; we are not attempting to change that. This is not about how much money your children receive or give during the next three months or how frequently they have the chance to earn money – **it is about giving God ten percent faithfully whenever they do receive money.** Our focus is on instilling spiritual discipline into our children while they are young so that it remains with them as they grow and mature in Christ.

As a parent, you will be your children's greatest cheerleader, encourager, reminder, and role-model for tithing. With your support, this three month challenge can turn into a life-time habit, and your children can experience God's blessing on giving from an early age!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dale or Steffi Cole either by phone at (574) 273-0139 or by email at eladdnuiffets@yahoo.com.

May God bless you and your family,

Your Debt Elimination Campaign Children and Youth Team



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March 13, 2011

Dear GMC parents and guardians,

We would like to share with you what will soon be happening in the youth Sunday School classes. As our church has taken on the challenge of the Debt Elimination Campaign – Paying For The Walls So We Can Reach Beyond Them, the youth will join us on this journey. Over the course of four Sundays (March 20th & 27th, April 3rd & 10th), we will teach our teens about good stewardship, giving, and tithing. We will challenge our young people to commit to tithing after they have learned these important lessons.

This is a tremendous opportunity for our youth to learn to give at a crucial point in their lives. We encourage you to help your teens understand the biblical principle of tithing and help get them started. If they have already begun to tithe, it is our prayer that these lessons will further deepen their commitment to the Lord. They can put their tithe in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, just as you do.

On our fourth teaching Sunday (April 10th), we will send home a commitment card. If your teens choose to sign the card, they will commit to tithing on money they receive for a period of three months. It is important to us that you understand that we do not expect you to simply give your teens extra money to bring to church. Instead, if you are able, give them opportunities to do chores or special tasks for which they can earn money. We understand that there are chores each member of a household does without receiving any financial compensation; we are not attempting to change that. This is not about how much money your youth receive or give during the next three months or how frequently they have the chance to earn money – **it is about giving God ten percent faithfully whenever they do receive money**. Our focus is on instilling spiritual discipline into our children while they are young so that it remains with them as they grow and mature in Christ. This is especially relevant for our teenagers as they take ownership of their personal faith.

As a parent, you will be your children's greatest cheerleader, encourager, reminder, and role-model for tithing. With your support, this three month challenge can turn into a life-time habit, and your teenagers can experience God's blessing on giving from an impressionable age!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dale or Steffi Cole either by phone at (574) 273-0139 or by email at eladdnuiffets@yahoo.com.

May God bless you and your family,

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