



QUARTERLY UPDATE

glen ellyn bible church

Helping people find and follow Jesus

a note from our senior pastor

JULY 2016

Several times a year, we send giving statements (included) and an update from our leadership to help you stay mindful about how your generosity is helping to accomplish the mission and vision of Glen Ellyn Bible Church. We hope these quarterly updates inspire you about what inspires us, helps you to grow in the grace of giving, and informs you of opportunities to ENGAGE with another and the world as we follow Jesus together.

I believe that few events are as inspiring to witness as a baptism. Hearing someone's heartfelt testimony of how God drew them to repentance and overwhelmed them with his love, and then witnessing the physical representation of our dependence upon Jesus' burial and resurrection, as someone is submerged and then raised out of the water, is powerful (Romans 6:4). I was thrilled over the last several months that the Lord has drawn several children, students, and adults to salvation, and we have shared as a community in their baptisms.

Our prayer as leaders (staff and elders), is that the Lord would add to our number daily those who are being saved, just as God did when the church was starting out (Acts 2:47). If you have not been baptized, do not put it off any longer. Jesus commanded our baptism (Matthew 28:19), and we want to celebrate with you God's mercy and goodness in your life. Not to mention, sharing your story of trusting in Jesus as Savior just might be what God uses to move someone else to salvation. If you want to learn more about baptism, feel free to email me (kbrady@gebible.org).

- Kelly Brady, Senior Pastor

In 2015, we launched the ENGAGE Vision to guide our church in three specific ways to ENGAGE:

with ONE ANOTHER in FELLOWSHIP

From programs like Summer Nights and the Marriage Retreat, to the creation of Encounter Groups, we've seen real growth in opportunities to have healthy fellowship together.

with THOSE IN NEED through CAREGIVING

Since we launched our Caregiving Center in fall 2015, we have served hundreds from our community who are in need of assistance, and the Caregiving Center's success has grown beyond our expectations.

with the LOST in RELATIONSHIP

We continue to create opportunities for the unchurched and the unsaved to come to know Jesus and to be a part of our community of faith. Events like last September's Block Party and the Easter Eggstravaganza are helpful towards this effort. More personal interactions—when we share the gospel with our friends, neighbors, and co-workers—are needed if we are going to see the lost come to know Christ.

summer book: tell someone

One Church · One Vision · One Book

THE EMPHASIS: We're emphasizing the third part of the ENGAGE vision—to engage with the lost in relationship. We've purchased a copy of Greg Laurie's book, "Tell Someone," for each person/family in our church. This book is designed to equip and encourage us to share the Good News with others. We will distribute this book at our Summer Nights gathering on Wednesday, July 27, and on Sunday morning, July 31.

THE PLAN: We'd like you to read and discuss the book with small groups, or friends/family during August. We're creating helpful discussion guides for each chapter. They'll be available online, so visit gebible.org/tell-someone in August.

THE GOAL: To share the Good News with your friends, neighbors, and co-worker, AND to invite them to two important events at the church. The first event is our annual Block Party (SAT 9/10). The second event is Kick-Off Sunday (9/11), when Kelly will preach a special sermon, specifically designed for visitors and people new to church.

growing in the grace of giving

But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:7

Giving to the local church is an act of worship, as it is a unique expression of gratitude to God. When we give, we celebrate all that God has given us, especially His incredible gift of forgiveness made available to all through faith in His son Jesus. Giving to the local church is also an act of faith, as it helps accomplish the mission of **Helping Others Find and Follow Jesus**, both locally and globally. We pray that every person attending Glen Ellyn Bible Church will grow in the grace of giving. Each of us can take steps to grow in the area of giving. Below you'll see descriptions of several different types of givers:

Initial Giver

Decides to give something for the first time, trusting God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.

Consistent Giver

Gives on a consistent basis, often making a recurring gift online or writing a check on a specific date each month to grow in the discipline of giving.

Intentional Giver

Makes intentional choices to give in a way that reflects how they feel about God in relation to other things they spend their money on. Asks questions like: "Why do I give more to AT&T than to God?" or "Should I be giving to God more than I give to my mortgage?" This may be when a giver begins to tithe, intentionally giving to God a certain amount/percentage of their wealth.

Sacrificial Giver

Makes CHANGES that COST something in their lifestyle. Asks, "Am I giving in a way that changes me, offering to God that which costs me something of myself? Am I giving in a way that causes my lifestyle to be different, reflecting Christ's transformation in me?" A Sacrificial Giver's commitment to giving actually governs the rest of his/her lifestyle. In the same way that someone with a mortgage that is "larger than their current situation" has to adjust the rest of their expenditures to meet that obligation, a Sacrificial Giver has a giving commitment that is "larger than their current situation" so that they have to adjust the rest of their expenditures to meet that sacrificial commitment.

Legacy (or Lifetime) Giver

Thinks about long-term generosity versus short-term month-to-month or year-to-year generosity. Makes decisions in the short-term that have long-term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. Thinks of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much money to save, all in relation to their generosity capacity. A Legacy Giver no longer asks, "God, how much are you asking me to give?" Instead, a Legacy Giver asks, "God, how much are you asking me to keep?" so that they can release the rest into Kingdom purposes. A Legacy Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal that will govern their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Sacrificial Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Legacy Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases (e.g., homes, cars, investments).

WAYS TO GIVE

Find out more at gebible.org/giving.



online



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