

What Could Be Done With \$9 Billion?

\$9 BILLION dollars is how much will be spent on Halloween this year! That is a lot of Skittles. Skittles is projected to be the most popular candy given out this year. M&M's is number two with Snickers at number three and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups coming in fourth. Americans will spend an average of \$86.79 on Halloween.

Americans will purchase 600 pounds of candy, the equivalent of 6 Titanic ships. Alarmingly the average kid will gain 2.2 pounds. I couldn't find how much we will spend at the dentist as a result of all that candy. Clearly, we love Halloween.

I am not here to pour cold water on your Halloween or tell you not to buy or eat candy. There is nothing wrong with having fun as long as it is done in moderation. I do, however, wonder what those statistics say about what is truly important to us. What if we matched the \$9 billion we spend on perishable candy and costumes for things that truly matter? What could be done with \$9 billion dollars?

Most of us can't relate to \$9 billion dollars or even \$1 million dollars. I think we can relate to the average spent on Halloween of \$86.79. What if each of us at least matched that amount in giving to our church? How much *lasting* good could we do?

As we approach our offering time, I want to let you know that every dollar here goes to support our work of reaching our city and region with the Good News. Your generosity allows us to do all that you see and so much more. A gift given here makes an eternal impact.

We might not raise \$9 billion dollars, but what we do raise and the lives those dollars impact are worth in eternity far more than that. So, have fun this Halloween but as we take up this offering, let's give to what truly matters.