

## Where Does All That Money Go?

**Have you ever had anyone ask you where all the money a church collects goes?** Maybe you have wondered about that. We try to communicate before each offering what your generosity accomplishes. From missions here locally and all over the world your gift matters. From lives changed here in our backyard to around the world your giving impacts lives for all of eternity. How is that for an answer?

**Doesn't a lot of the church budget go to pay staff?** This is true. However, let's look at that. Rather than focus on what we pay, we pay our staff consistent with what other churches our size pay, let's focus on what they accomplish.

Most of what our staff does is never seen by the majority of our members. There is an old joke that the pay of a preacher is not good, but you can't beat the hours. That kind of thinking is focused only upon one hour of one day of the week. Yet for this hour our staff, pastor, has spent hours of preparation and prayer. So, every week you and your family get spiritual coaching on how to improve your lives. How much would that kind of help cost you if you were going to a therapist or some business retreat.

Yet Sunday is the tip of the iceberg of what our staff does. Consider that in the last month they have made...

- 28 hospital visits (figure out a number that fits your church)
- 3 funerals which includes the hours counseling and consoling bereaved families.
- Think of other areas of time and energy spent outside of your weekend services.

That is just the tip of the iceberg! Our staff literally is on call 24 hours a day seven days a week, fifty-two weeks of the year. When a crisis happens in our community and in our church, they are there. Can your doctor or let's say your congressman say the same?

The Apostle Paul said this about paying ministers in I Timothy 5, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain, and The worker deserves his wages."

So, yes, a lot of what you give helps to support our mission work here locally through our local missionaries, our staff! They are worthy of double honor so as we give today know that your gift is an act that honors them.