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November 2015 Issue

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From the Pastor to You

Hello Calvary Family! I pray this newsletter finds you well. Have you ever contemplated how wonderful it is to be alive? Recently many of us at Calvary have suffered devastating losses that by all accounts should have caused many of us to pack our faith and leave. Unfortunately, some have left. But I wonder how those who have stayed kept going? Then, as I listen to the testimonies of those who have not let hardship deter them from their faith in God, I am reminded that in Christ we have all the tools we need to persevere and overcome. Revelations Chapter 12 discusses how our enemy seeks to destroy all those who follow Jesus Christ but we prevail because God is warring for us. The times were challenging and tough but verse 11 says, "They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death." The word "testimony" in the original Greek used in this passage is *maturion* which means "witness" or providing evidence based on experience. This is similar to when someone is called upon to share his/her testimony on the witness stand in court of what they have experienced or believe to be true. Their story is raw, heartfelt, and meaningful often making the difference in the decision others make to believe too.



We will all experience trials, tribulations and tests but by the blood of Jesus Christ we will prevail! But it does not stop there. Don't hold your testimony to yourself. By sharing your testimony you encourage yourself that the Lord will see you through your grief and loss. You also, help others see that they can overcome as well. During this time of Thanksgiving many of us will be sharing a meal and time with our friends, relatives, and loved ones. We will share the latest updates of our lives since the time we saw each other last year. I encourage you to share more than just job promotions, graduations, new births, weddings and blessings. Share your testimony of how you are grateful for something that the Lord has brought you through. You may think your story is insignificant but you will be surprised how important it is for someone else to hear how you made it. Happy Thanksgiving! God bless you!

Pastor Jabulani McCalister, Senior Pastor

FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Welcome

We welcome back brother, Randy Toppin-White, Jr. from working out-of-state.

Weddings

Congratulations to Judy and Jean Raymond (Oct. 11th) and Adenike and Tei Nartey (Oct. 25th) on their weddings last month. We will continue to keep your marriage ministry lifted up as you begin your journeys of life together as a witness for Jesus Christ.

Anniversaries

On Sunday, October 18, 2015 Pastor Jabulani and Pastor Nikita McCalister were honored during the ABCORI Annual All Church worship for their 10th Anniversary of Ordination into the Gospel Ministry.

On Friday, October 31, 2015, our Administrative Assistant Martha Buxton celebrated her 17th year serving God in Calvary Church office. Happy Anniversary! We praise God for you!

On Sunday, November 15, 2015 Calvary Celebrates 118 years in Ministry! Happy Anniversary Calvary!!

Thank You

David and Sharon Burr thank the church family for the prayers and support as they continue to recover from their fire.

Prayer Vigil

On October, Thursday, October 29, 2015 our Pastor and other faith/community leaders and law enforcement held a "Stop the Violence" interfaith prayer vigil at Burnside Park to help ask God's intervention in the current rise in violence in Providence and our nation.

Children, Youth and Young Adult Corner

UPDATE: 2016 Ministers Alliance of Rhode Island Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast

All members who are currently attending college and those who have been officially accepted into college are eligible to apply for the Ministers Alliance of Rhode Island 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship. The Deadline for your **completed** application is **December 1, 2015 (postmarked)**. Tickets at the Calvary table are \$35.00 per person. Please contact the church office for more details.

Young Adult Ministry

We are currently working on a care package ministry for our college students to witness to out-of-state and international students. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping with this powerful outreach.

Youth Ministry



Last Summer due to a generous donation from a private donor and money raised by Calvary members and the Youth we were able to provide funding for a New Youth Leader. As you know the person we hired in June 2015 resigned in September 2015 having never served our Youth. Fortunately, our very own Annmarie Kamara has assumed that Youth Leader Role as of Sunday, November 1, 2015. We look to how the Lord will continue to use her to accomplish His Will with our youth.



Goodbyes

It is with great sadness that we share the loss of Calvary faithful member Elizabeth Boylowlu who went home to be with the Lord in September. Her inspiring cheerfulness and smiling face will be missed.

Elizabeth Boylowlu

Sister Marguerite Thomas has permanently relocated out-of-state. We wish her well on her latest journey in life.

Prayer Requests

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries

Bereaved Families-- Nyahkoon/Zor (Christine, Daphine Monroe, Arnette Zor), Lagnar, Boylowlu/Swen, Kpwoe, Ketter, McCalister

Homebound: Genevieve Hansford (New), Bassey Inyang (New), Trobel Bloe, Sr., Bertram Smith, Wilbur Workman, June Allen

Healing for the Health Challenged

Transportation Ministry (Many of our members and potential members desire rides to church)

Community Outreach

Children, Youth and Young Adults

Married Couples Ministry

Men's Ministry

Women's Ministry

Liturgical Dance Ministry

Single's Ministry

Senior's Ministry

Overall Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church

Pastor and First Family

Calvary Leaders

Conflict Resolution

More committed and qualified teachers for Bible Study/Sunday School/Bible Institute

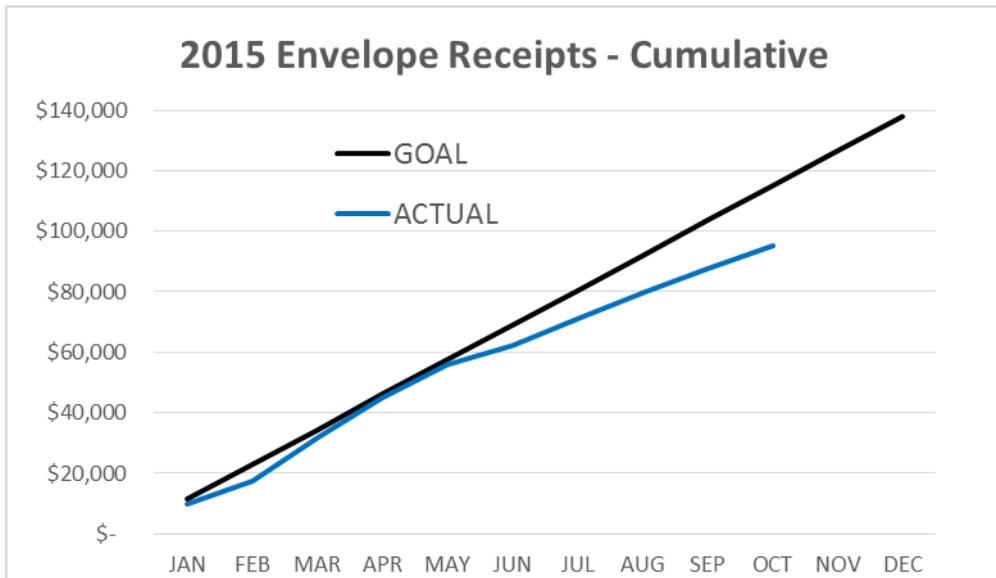
100% Tithing Church

Financial Ministry

Calvary has faced and overcome a great many challenges in its (150 year?) history. This too shall pass, but not without your help. Our basic problem is revenue, specifically a substantial shortfall in Tithes and Offerings. The figure below tells the story. As Treasurer, that old Billy Hill song often comes to mind: “Too Much Month at the End of the Money”

Allow me to briefly explain the numbers. Last year, the congregation voted on and approved an annual budget totaling \$232,376 in expenses and \$227,249 in revenue—a planned deficit of (\$5,127). Included among revenue sources were \$138,000 from Envelopes, \$10,000 from Open Collections, and \$4,000 from the Building Fund: \$152,000 in total Tithes and Offerings. Through the 10 months including Sunday, 25 October, we’ve collected only \$103,930 vs. an interim October goal of \$126,667: a (\$22,737) shortfall. That brings our actual operating deficit close to (\$30,000). To keep current on our bills, we’ve had to draw that amount from our dwindling invested funds. Obviously, this is not sustainable.

We still have a chance in these last two months of the year to cover our commitment to the church and perhaps even eliminate our deficit. Given recent successes such as matching the Youth Fund grant and raising money for the lift, the current challenge is well within reach.





Our Homebound Members love to hear from you! Why not give them a call or send a card? Cards are available on the bottom shelf of the bookshelf in the church office.

June Allen
57 Taplow Street
Warwick, RI 02889
739-6208

Bert Smith
Brookdale Independent Living Center Apt. F-8
2783 West Shore Road
Warwick, RI 02889
921-6838

Trobel Bloe, Sr.
14 Maclaine Drive
North Providence, RI 02904
353-3095

Wilbur Workman
Gateway Healthcare Cortland House
25 Cedar Swamp Road
Smithfield, RI 02917
231-7762/861-8655

Genevieve Hansford
25 Yarmouth Street
Providence, RI 02907
461-0862

Gabriel Zarwea
507 Prairie Avenue
Providence, RI 02905
837-1929

Bassey Inyang
94 Orlando Drive
North Providence, RI 02904
725-5144

Marguerite Thomas
Brandywine Senior Suites Apt. 221
2101 New Hope Street
East Norriton, PA 19401
1-610-278-1061

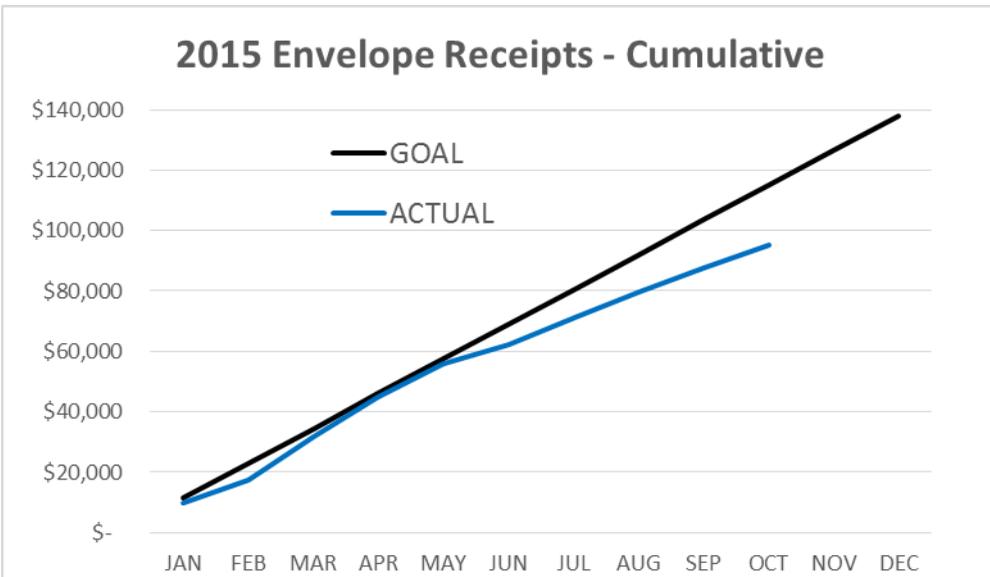
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David Dromsky, Treasurer



Ongoing Opportunities to Serve

- 1) Please consider serving in the following areas:
Lay Reader, Greeters, Host of the Day, Sunday School, Nursery,
Fellowship Hour, Children's Moment
Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin board outside the church office.
- 2) Technical Arts Ministry
 - a. Calvary Call needs, Writers, Reporters, Editors, Lay-out experts, photographers and compilers.
 - b. The Web-site and Facebook pages needs technologically savvy persons to assist with the daily updates and new trends in web-design
 - c. TV Ministry
 - d. Audio/Visual needs (i.e. CD and DVD ministry, Power Point)
- 3) Prayer Ministry
 - a. Prayer on-site
 1. Sundays, 9:00-9:55 a.m.
 2. Wednesday Night before Bible Study (6:30-7:00 p.m.).
 3. Thursday at 12 Noon
 4. After worship on Sundays ~ 11:30 a.m.
 5. Create new prayer cells in-home and on-site, so Calvary is praying 24/7
- 3) Event Planners to assist with Family Movie Nights and other outings, fellowships, weddings and events
- 4) Music Ministry: Musicians, Praise Team, Gospel, Adult, Youth, Children's, Men's, and Hand-bell Choirs, etc. to help lead worship.
- 5) Social Ministry (i.e. serving and donating food during fellowship after church and special events).
- 6) Ministry of Caring: Visiting Homebound Members and Serving Communion to Homebound Members.
- 7) Worship Ministry: Ushers, Greeters, Scripture Readers, Hosts, Security, etc.
- 8) Bible Study and Sunday School teachers (and students).
- 9) Buildings and Ground Ministry helping to make sure God's house is in excellent working order.

"His All"

**Every time you say
"This is not my day"
see Him on the hay
and bend your knee to pray.**

**When you cannot count
troubles that surmount
see Him on the Mount
His blessings are a fount.**

**Waves can make you toss
and you are feeling dross
just see Him on the Cross
and think about the cost.**

**The price He paid was free
for all who do believe
it was for you and me
He died upon that Tree**

**His coming in a stall
His mission we recall
we're ransomed from the fall
because God gave His All !**

Martha Buxton

3. Model a generous lifestyle. If your actions are not consistent with a generous life, you will always undermine the message you preach. Are you actively seeking opportunities and making choices that expand your capacity to give? Are you living in such a way that demonstrates you trust God enough to live simply, give sacrificially and engage with community? Are you modeling a life of love, pouring yourself out, being unselfish because you trust God to meet your own needs? Are you cheerfully giving yourself and your stuff away because you know that doing so delights your Loving Father and is a means used by Him to love your neighbors? Do you care enough about the recipients of your giving to take the time to ensure that the ways you are helping are truly benefiting them? Recent books like *When Helping Hurts* and *Toxic Charity* demonstrate that some gifts can actually do harm, even when our intentions are good. Look at your budget, your calendar, your attitude, your effectiveness—they will tell you the answer. Be a person who gives with both your heart and head. In 1 Chron. 29:9, we learn that when the people saw the willing, wholehearted generosity of their leaders, they themselves were encouraged and also gave freely and gladly. As a pastor or church leader, you may have more influence than you realize. People will watch your actions and imitate them, so be sure you are living a life worth replicating.

4. Don't be afraid to talk about money. This may sound like a contradiction to principle #2. It's not. While money is not the sum-total of generosity, it is important. Jesus talked about money more than just about any other subject. He offered both promises and warnings. He promised that it's more blessed to give than to receive. He promised that those who seek first the kingdom of God will have "all these things" provided. The Bible tells us that God repays those who are generous to the poor. Jesus also warned that money is the chief competitor with God for our worship. If money is God's leading rival, isn't it important that we understand it properly? The Bible describes money as something animate—as something that speaks (testifies) and deceives, flies and ensnares. If you withhold teaching on money, you are withholding a means of blessing and joy from people. If you never talk about the dangers of money, you leave your flock open to its deceptions and destructiveness. Money is either your master or your servant. Articulate a vision for your church on how to consecrate money, transform temporary goods for eternal gains, and deploy financial resources for the kingdom of God.

5. Encourage relational generosity. Giving of ourselves—more than our stuff—is at the heart and foundation of biblical generosity. Generosity is rooted in the very nature of the Trinitarian God who is an eternal community of constant, self-giving love and deference. As such, God is most interested in growing us in love and calls us to love people in the way Jesus modeled. There is one instance where the Bible tells us not to give. In Matt. 5:24, Jesus tells us that if we are in conflict with a brother or sister, we are to “leave our gift on the altar” and go and be reconciled. Jesus gives primacy and priority to relational generosity, to love and forgiveness. Of course, giving our sacrifice to God is not wrong. Jesus is saying to make things right with one another – we call this “One to Another” living. This is why focusing solely on finances and numbers is a mistake. Generosity is about people. We demonstrate our gratitude to God by laying down our lives one to another just as Christ laid himself down for the world. This is the core of the Gospel.

6. Expand your metrics. How will you know your church is becoming more generous? For reasons explained above, the indicators must not be exclusively financial. Increased monetary giving may be a wonderful thing, but it alone does not signify that the congregation has become more generous. If a group gives large amounts of money, but treats people poorly and expresses ingratitude toward God, can we say that group is practicing generosity? Of course not. Consider what’s happening relationally inside and outside the church. Is the Body marked by a growing spirit of unity, grace, forgiveness, humility, and love? Are people carrying one another’s burdens in tangible and practical ways? Are people not just writing bigger checks but giving more of their time and their gifts and their influence? Is your church becoming more outwardly focused? Are you spending yourselves on behalf of your neighbors—and especially on behalf of the vulnerable that hold a special place in God’s tender heart: the poor, the stranger, the widow, and the orphan? When you can honestly answer in the affirmative, you know your congregation is maturing into a community of Christ-like generosity.