



From The Pastor's Study



One of the major topics on the magazine TV shows recently is about debt and how we manage it. This wasn't a major issue when I came along because both my parents had survived the Great Depression living on farms. Whereas my mother's family managed to get by because the large number of male sons in the family eliminated almost all labor costs, my father's family lost everything they had and survived only through the generosity of friends, neighbors, and their church family. Neither would even think about going into debt for anything other than major items—a house or a car.

That's all changed. Nowadays, people use credit cards as currency whether they have the funds in the bank to back up their purchase or not. That's why last year, for the first time since the depression, our nation had a negative savings rate. We charged more than we saved. I don't know about you but that's scary to me. The Bible neither forbids nor encourages the borrowing of money. The wisdom of the Bible teaches us that it's usually not a good idea to go into debt. Debts essentially makes us a slave to the one we owe. At the same time, in some situations going into debt is a "necessary evil." As long as money is being handled in a wise way, and if the debt payments are manageable – a Christian can take on the burden of financial debt if necessary. Those are big 'ifs'.

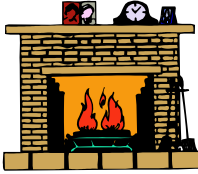
Six years ago, far-sighted members of our congregation saw the need to improve and expand our church plant in order to improve and expand our ministries. We knew that we were making a huge commitment not only of our own money but the money of future members of our congregation as well, but we felt then (and still do) that God was calling us to something bigger and better than we'd ever done before. Since we didn't have enough money saved, we did what most businesses and families do, we borrowed it and have been paying it back ever since.

There is more detailed information about our "Caring Enough to Share" capital campaign elsewhere in this newsletter, so I won't go into great detail, but I want to point out something different about this campaign. What makes this effort different than other fund-raising efforts is that we plan to share what we receive with those who need it more than we. Our Church Council has decided to tithe what we raise and contribute it to the construction of a medical center at the Child Rescue Center (CRC) in Sierra Leone to aid not only the children in residence, but other children in the surrounding community as well. I love that idea! I don't know when I've ever been so proud of a decision by our church leaders.

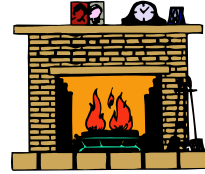
Several years ago, we made a commitment to support the CRC and become one of the churches in partnership with other churches to provide almost total support of the Center. We've sent missionaries there who report the wonderful things being done for these young victims of the recent civil war in their country.

So now we have the opportunity to accomplish two wonderful things with one contribution—paying off the debt on our buildings and ensuring that kids in one of the poorest countries on earth have adequate health care. And this isn't the first time Oakton Church has done something like this. Years ago, when we sold the property behind our church where the townhouses now stand, ten percent of the proceeds went into a special scholarship fund for ministerial students and it's still blessing them to this day.

(Continued on the last page)



OUM-YA NEWS



Date: Saturday March 17, 2007

Time: 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm

Location: Home of Angie Empfield

Street: 836 Moffett Forge RD

City/State/Zip: Herndon, VA

Phone: 703-471-7679

Please bring a dish to share for a time of fellowship and fun. Childcare is available on site. Please be Kind & RSVP. It's St. Patty's Day so THINK GREEN!

Directions: Ffx Cnty Pkwy/7100 to Elden St/Baron Cameron exit. Left onto Elden St(to Herndon not Reston)@end of exit. Right onto Herndon Pkwy until get to Cemetary. Cross over Dranesville Rd (don't turn onto Dranesville) & LEFT onto Grant St. 1st Left onto Moffett Forge Rd & Home on Left of CuldeSac/ Easier to get off on Elden if you're coming via Toll Rd

Our group believes the More the Merrier - so if you are beyond High School, but not quite ready for Young at Hearts, then you do fall into our age group!!! Please join us. Also if you are not already a member of the email group, please send an email to with such subject line to lisalanser@yahoo.com to request an invite, so you can automatically receive our monthly notices & see OUMC event postings.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY, continued

Please pray for our upcoming campaign and the part that God is calling on you to play in fulfilling our mission. In Matthew 25:40, Christ reminds us that "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." This is our chance to help "the least of these," and to do it in Jesus' name.

God Bless You,

John Plummer, Pastor

