Prayer Needed as IMB Faces Down-sizing

Just one percent more….Can you do it?  Because of a short-fall in giving to both the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO), the International Mission Board (IMB) will have to send home up to 700 missionaries in coming months.  The SBC Executive Committee is asking each church to increase its Cooperative Program giving by just one percent to help lessen the shortfall.  Although the TVSBA was the most generous association in the Utah-Idaho Convention, giving $194,311 toward the LMCO and Cooperative Program in 2014, the association still has a ways to go, since seven of Treasure Valley SBA churches did not donate to either program.  If each non-giving church or mission just gave one percent, and the rest upped their giving by one percent, that could make a huge difference.
Have you ever wondered why first-time guests sometimes never come back to your church a second time? It could be for a number of reasons. I came across an article that I thought was very interesting. The writer listed the top nine ways churches drive away first-time guests. See if you agree:

1) **Unfriendly church members.** This response was anticipated. But the surprise was the number of respondents who included non-genuine friendliness in their answers. In other words, the guests perceived some of the church members were faking it.

2) **Unsafe and unclean children’s area.** This response generated the greatest emotional reactions. If your church does not give a high priority to children, don’t expect young families to attend.

3) **No place to get information.** If your church does not have a clear and obvious place to get information, you have probably lowered the chances of a return visit by half. There should also be someone to greet and assist guests at that information center as well.

4) **Bad church website.** Most of the church guests went to the website before they attended a worship service. Even if they attended the service after visiting a bad website, they attended with a prejudicial perspective. The two indispensable items guests want on a website are address and times of service. It’s just that basic.

5) **Poor signage.** If you have been attending a church for a few weeks, you forget all about the signage. You don’t need it any more. But guests do. And they are frustrated when it’s not there.

6) **Insider church language.** Most of the respondents were not referring to theological language as much as language that only the members know. A good example: “The WMU will meet in the CLC in the room where the GAs usually meet.”

7) **Boring or bad service.** My surprise was not the presence of this item. The surprise was that it was not ranked higher.

8) **Members telling guests that they were in their seat or pew.** Yes, this obviously still takes place in some churches.

9) **Dirty facilities.** Some of the comments: “Didn’t look like it had been cleaned in a week.” “No trash cans anywhere.” “Restrooms were worse than a bad truck stop.” “Pews had more stains than a Tide commercial.”

I do realize that we live in a consumer oriented society, and some people who visit our churches can be somewhat critical of what they see or don’t see. However, it’s good to keep the above list in mind.

Blessings,

Ray Sparkman
It is a good thing to exalt Jesus Christ every chance we get. We have been blessed by having God's Word to give us principles to live by and to help us honor the Lord Jesus.

We are hoping to have a Treasure Valley men's retreat in early March or in late February. We will strive to keep the price affordable. The goal of the retreat is to encourage the men to be mighty men of God.

2 Samuel 23:8-37
Pastor David Howell

Pastors & Wives' Christmas Dinner Fellowship
Friday, December 4, 2015
at
FSBC, Caldwell
912 W. Linden
6:30 p.m. appetizers
7 p.m. dinner
Fellowship to follow
Free!

RSVP to Michele at tvsbaoffice.mring@gmail.com by November 12th
Please choose steak or chicken.
The Focus

NOVEMBER 2015
November 29--Fifth Sunday Sing, 6 p.m. Mountain Home FSBC

DECEMBER 2015
Dec. 4--Pastors and Wives’ Fellowship Dinner, Caldwell FSBC, 6:30 p.m., appetizers; 7 p.m.,

JANUARY 2016
Jan. 31--Fifth Sunday Sing, 6 p.m., Anchor Baptist Church, Kuna

FEBRUARY
Feb.--Executive Board Meeting Location/Date TBA, 7 p.m. (6:30 p.m. registration)

MARCH
March--VBS Training Location/Date TBA, 9 a.m.--12 p.m.
March--Men’s Retreat Location/Date TBA

APRIL
April 1-3--Treasure Valley SBA Women’s Retreat at Trinity Pines, Cascade.
Block Party Trailer Training Location/Date TBA (morning event)

MAY
May 7--Rally in the Valley, Location TBA (one day event)
May 29--Fifth Sunday Sing, 6 p.m., Location TBA

JUNE
June 4--Children’s Camp Training at Central Valley, Meridian. 9:30 a.m.--11:30 a.m.
June 13-18--Children’s Camp at Cathedral Pines, Ketchum
June 26-July 1--Youth Camp at Living Waters Ranch, Challis

JULY
July--Executive Board Meeting, 7 p.m. (6:30 p.m. registration) Location/Date TBA

July 31--Fifth Sunday Sing, 6 p.m., Location TBA

AUGUST ~ SEPTEMBER
(no association events)

OCTOBER
Oct. 1--TVSBA Annual Meeting, 9 a.m. (8:30 registration) Location TBA
Oct 30--Fifth Sunday Sing, 6 p.m., Location TBA

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER
Dec.--Pastors and Wives’ Fellowship Dinner, 6:30 p.m. appetizers;
7:00 p.m. dinner, FSBC Caldwell

A-Team Meetings--First Tuesday of each month, 9:30 a.m. at Calvary Baptist, Boise
(call to confirm if you want to attend)

Pastors’ Prayer--Every Wednesday from Sept.-May at 6:30 a.m.
at LaBaron’s Caféd; 1210 2nd St S, Nampa,
Gail Graves, POC.

Updated Oct. 22, 2015. Events will be added as time progresses.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TVSBA CHURCHES/MISSIONS GIVING</th>
<th>Jan.-Sept</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abundant Life, Eagle</td>
<td>$ 675.00</td>
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<td>Agua Viva, Boise</td>
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<td>Word of Truth, Caldwell</td>
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**TOTAL as of September, 2015:** $34,163.35

**YTD Budget:** $41,994.00

Over (Under) Budget: ($7,830.65)
“A network of churches cooperating to assist each other in fulfilling the Great Commission.”

Fifth Sunday Sing
Nov 29th, 6:00 p.m.

First Southern Baptist Church of Mountain Home
1400 North 3rd East, (208) 587-3828

Come with a song, thanksgiving, and praise for our great God and Savior!
Snack fellowship to follow.