


FREEING TOMORROW

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER UPDATE

**TRINITY
CHURCH**

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Gentle Reader- in our last newsletter mention was made of 46 year old Sadie Sneller being told she had only one year to live. Her response was "Lord, may this year count for You. Give me something hard to do". From this prayerful submission, a series of divine interventions were set in motion culminating in our church today. One piece omitted from that narrative was that God, Who alone numbers our days, gave her 40 more years of life in His sovereign grace and generosity. She dedicated her 'last year' to His will and He responded with forty more.

When Paul speaks of the generosity of the Philippian church, he uses an interesting phrase, "Not that I desire your gifts, what I desire is that more be credited to your account". He closes out that section with the assurance that God will supply all their needs according to His riches in glory. It seems that Paul views the church's generosity as an act of faith to which God will respond with His abundance.

We see in Sadie's example a woman of little means who gave exactly all she had. Her widow's mite was 365 days and she gave it earnestly. God didn't demand it from her but He did see it, receive it, use it and credited it to her account adding 14,600 in return. That was her supply of the riches of His glory. She gave and it was given to her in return good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.



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During a previous fund raising campaign at Trinity in the 1980's, one of the suggestions was to promise a certain percent of any unseen income that the Lord might provide. My husband and I made that promise knowing only that there was a possible sale on a piece of land owned in Wisconsin.

The property had been listed with a realtor for several years but absolutely no interest had ever been expressed. It was an old remote farm house with no indoor plumbing and no nearby lake. We knew no one in the area and had not posted a sign since the property was unoccupied. At the end of the three year contract, in discouragement we drove over and picked up the keys not knowing how to proceed.

We poked around Stockholm, Wisconsin (population 65) and found the local historical society. We discovered a photo of my husband's grandparents on display which started a conversation with the volunteer. We explained that his family had immigrated to the area and we still owned the last piece of land but were hoping to sell it. She asked where it was and my husband responded, "It's just a little place up Pine Creek", At that point, the ceiling rattled and there was a big commotion as a man slid down a ladder! "You mean that little house, with the red trim? I've always wondered who owned that place. I'm your neighbor!" We visited for a while and exchanged contact information then my husband and I had some lunch before heading back to our home.

Monday morning at 8 a.m. the phone rang and it was the Wisconsin neighbor. "I'd like first refusal to buy your place. Can we meet and talk?" We agreed to meet the following Saturday and he made a cash offer, taking the property "as is". A handshake sealed the agreement and we made arrangements to meet the following week to transfer the deed.

We praise the Lord for working out all of the details. The buyer had been next door for three years, interested but unaware. We wandered into the historical society the day he was hanging a picture and he overheard our conversation.

And the Lord enabled us to fulfill our promise to Him.

God's call on our lives is not "one size fits all" but unique to each of us. Our part is to lean in and listen to discover that call to us. John Quincy Adams was once questioned about his continued campaign for the abolition of slavery in a culture of leadership that was intent on maintaining the status quo. His response was appropriate and applicable to all ministry in the Kingdom, "The duty is ours, the results are God's."

A Little Testimony Is Good For This Body And Our Soul.....

Sometimes the testimony of God's miraculous ways is a delicate joy when He uses our obedience as His platform. Such was the case with this Trinity couple who share their story only for God's glory.



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