

Outrageous Generosity. That was the term used by our regional board chairman, Bill Steger, as he led devotions to begin our regional board meeting in Effingham. What followed fit that definition.

The region had been given a gift from the estate of Adeline Winters of around \$300,000. We had planned to give 10% of that to missions and keep the other 90%. After thinking and praying about that, and after having attending the World Missions Conference this past summer, I felt God saying that we should consider turning those percentages around. I presented that to our board and they unanimously agreed.

We will be keeping around \$30,000 for work within our region, but will be investing the other \$270,000 in missionaries that are from our region, connected to our region in special ways, or assigned to our region by IM. A special committee with one person from each area, appointed by the board, came up with the final numbers and the amounts that should go to each. That list and the amounts will also be made available after we contact each missionary. The missionaries that are from our region will be getting a larger share of the dollars as will two projects, one in the Congo and one in Thailand, that deal with human trafficking.

We will also be giving \$30,000 to the World Mission offering and \$25,000 to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The moneys will be going out in the next two weeks.

Secondly, the board decided to approve a motion that for every dollar we decide to spend on church planting here, we would spend a dollar to plant churches overseas. There is a tremendous need for church planters all over the world, especially in India, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We will certainly be concerned about the areas where we have local missionaries. So in about another month we will be meeting with the people at International Ministries to suggest places for about \$350,000 of church planting dollars. That will still leave us with over \$400,000 for planting churches in our region, and we are in discussion about our first one, more about that later. By the end of the year we will send that \$350,000 to invest in church planters all over the world. Because of this, we will see returns on our investment that will be eternal.....priceless.

What we are trying to do is this. We are trying to be rightly related to God and find our joy there and then out of us will flow rivers of living water. We are trying to be people that God can pour His love through, not just to.

Bottom-line, in a period of about 5 months our region will have received about 1.1 million dollars, and invested over \$650,000 in our missionaries and church planting on the mission field. We will still have around \$500,000 to invest in Gods' work in our region. **Outrageous generosity**. Not only is this a great thing to do, but it is also fun.

Finally, we do not look at this as giving it away to something outside of our region. **We look at it as investing in our missionaries who are serving for Him, and for us. They are us, we are them, and together we serve a God who more than demonstrated "outrageous generosity" to us through His son, Jesus.**