

Meadowbrook Baptist Church

August 2, 2026

Worship 9:00 AM

Fellowship Time 10:00 AM

You are Amazing

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will reap generously. Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give not reluctantly or under compulsion because God loves a cheerful giver."

[2 Corinthians 9:6-7]

As you know, after Covid, our attendance went down and our offerings went down. Some of our most faithful members have gone to heaven. Some faithful members have chosen to leave our church, hopefully to serve and worship God in another church.

So far, we have not had to take any of our funds in savings to meet our budget. With that and the value of our building Meadowbrook this church can secure a location that will draw more people into our fellowship.

Since the purpose of our church from its inception has been to help people in Anderson in the low-income parts of our city, this means we can help more people.

I prayed for God to do this through me but so far He hasn't. I expressed my disappointment to Mary Ann and she said, "Bob, I believe you cannot handle the stress of Pastoring a large church again." I believe she was right. Only a Pastor knows the amount of stress a growing church creates.

You, in your giving to the Lord, are not just keeping our church alive, you are making it thrive. Our ability to minister has not slowed down one bit.

You have "Made up your minds (heart)" to do this because you love the Lord and love our church. The difference between legalistic religion and love religion is: legalism does things because it has to and love religion gives because it wants to. Legalism asks, how much do I have to do, love asks how much can I do and how much do you need for me to do.

One of my all-time favorite stories, told by my pastor and used by God to call me to preach 66 years ago is about a young couple in college engaged to be married. In Chapel one day the call went out for volunteers to serve on the mission field.

The girl went forward but her fiancé just could not make that decision with her. Years later, on business he was in the Third World country where she served as a missionary nurse. He went to the hospital where she worked.

There was no receptionist and he walked down the dark hall to find out where she was. he saw a lady on her knees in the hall cleaning up the vomit of a patient. He stopped to ask her where she was and when she looked up it was her.

She stood up, wiped her hands on her apron and greeted him. Without thinking he said, "Mary, there's no amount of money that could get me to do what I just saw you doing. she said,

"Bill, I would not do it for the money either, but there are some things we will do for Jesus that we would not do for money."

In Luke 10 Jesus says Christian "love" is spelled "help" and pictured it in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Every week because of the dedicated people at Bethel our faithfulness in giving enables us through them to feed almost 200 people every week.