

Expanding the Dream

Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church
August 2008

The human body is amazingly adaptable. It can survive on meager amounts of calories when food is scarce. If, however, Olympic gold medals are to be won, athletes must take in sufficient calories and the right kind of nutrition.

What calories are to the human body, financial funding is to our church ministries. We can “get by” with operating in a survival mode. But God has not called us as a church body to simply survive. He wants us to *thrive* so that we can better expand his kingdom.

For the past year our church ministries have been operating on meager rations. Very little has been spent because we simply did not have the financial means to fund our ministries above a starvation diet.

When the July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 budget was being prepared, the Finance Ministry and Church Board came to an important realization. If the new budget was based upon last year's giving, there would NOT be any funds available for ANY ministries including children's Sabbath School, Pathfinders and Adventurer Clubs; Outreach cooking classes and food demonstrations; Worship service videos.

So we came up with a cost saving idea—one that will require greater involvement from our congregation in the maintenance of our church. We adjusted the budget by trimming \$20,000 from the custodial budget and added this amount to the Ministry Teams' portions. Then the Ministry Directors met and together decided how to apportion the \$20,000 based upon ministry priorities. PLEASE NOTE that even with this adjustment, the budget for the ten Team Ministries is about one-third of what is needed to fully fund them.

In the accompanying materials available at the Sabbath afternoon meetings or online at www.hsdac.com (click the “Expanding the Dream” tab) is a copy of the proposed budget for the new fiscal year of July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009. It has been approved by both the Finance Ministry and Church Board. On average, it will take about \$7,500 - \$8,000 in giving each week to keep us simply surviving. But think what might happen for God's glory if our contributions grew beyond the “survival” amount. We could better implement ministries that will help us fulfill God's vision for our church.

As you consider the accompanying financial information and ballot, please give prayerful consideration to what God is calling you to do. Together, we can fulfill God's vision for reaching people who do not know the saving grace of Jesus. Think of what it will mean to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit when these individuals sing God's praises in the heavenly choir of the redeemed.

Warmly yours in God's love,



Our Vision: Glorifying God by growing together
Our Mission: To know, worship and serve Jesus Christ now and for eternity