

One Step Further...Can Christians Save the World?

Figuring numbers based on those self-identifying as "committed Christians"(about 10% of American Christians) who already give at higher levels than others, based on the US average annual income, and assuming giving 10% of *after* tax income...American Christians would have \$46 *billion* to spend. Here's what might be done as we spent \$46 billion dollars:

GLOBAL MISSIONS:

- 330 million for 150 new indigenous missionaries/pastors in nations most closed to religious workers
- 2.2 billion to triple resources currently spent by *all* Christians on Bible translating, printing, and distribution to provide Bibles to the 2,737 remaining groups without translations
- 350 million for 50,000 needs-based scholarships (\$7,000 per year) for seminary/Bible school students in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- 30 million to translate into four languages, publish, distribute 20,000 copies of 100 new English-language Christian books for reading in Asia, Africa, and Latin America
- 120 million to hire 1,500 new Christian ministers to work in hospitality, evangelism, and discipleship with foreign students studying in U.S. universities
- 9 million to finance the organizational infrastructure of a Christian research and advocacy organization fighting against contemporary economic and sexual slavery worldwide
- 75 million of funding to help build, expand, or upgrade 75,000 church and ministry buildings in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- 9 million to finance a major Christian research and advocacy organization fighting for religious freedoms worldwide
- 95 million to finance 350 new Christian radio stations to broadcast into the least evangelized regions of the world
- 50 million to finance 1,000 new interreligious study groups and travel tours a year to promote grass-roots, mutual understanding and communication
- 1 billion to quadruple the total resources being spent by all Christians globally on missions to evangelize the unevangelized world

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF

- 2 billion to finance 5 million grass-roots, micro-enterprise economic development projects per year in poor countries worldwide that employ revolving loan funds for needy entrepreneurs
- 500 million to completely close the funding gap on resources needed by the current global campaign to eradicate polio worldwide before 2020
- 2 billion to fund 1 million new clean water, well-drilling projects per year in the poorest nations (25% of world's populations drink unsafe water)
- 1 billion to finance 10,000 comprehensive faith-based programs of AIDS/HIV prevention, education, and medication in sub-Saharan Africa
- 3.9 billion to provide the full resources needed for a global campaign to prevent and treat malaria worldwide
- 2 billion to supply 1 heifer or 4 hogs to 4 million needy families worldwide per year
- 4.55 billion to provide food, clothing, and shelter to *all* 6.5 million current refugees in all of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East
- 9 million to finance a major Christian think-tank and advocacy organization working on creative means to reduce poverty and hunger worldwide
- 480 million to quadruple the current annual operating budget of Habitat for Humanity
- 1.6 billion to double the current annual operating budget of World vision, serving 100 million people in 96 nations
- 200 million to boost funding to Christian organizations world-wide that provide free and subsidized eye

- exams, vision care, glasses, limb braces, and prosthetics to 1 million of the poorest and neediest
- 10 billion to sponsor 20 million needy children worldwide through Christian organizations to provide food, education, and healthcare
- 810 million to quadruple all resources currently spent by all Christians globally on medical missions work

U.S. CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND CHURCH FINANCE

- 750 million to hire 10,700 new youth ministers to evangelize, disciple, guide, and counsel U.S. teens
- 750 million to raise the salaries of 50,000 of the most needy US pastors by 15,000 each
- 75 million to fund 500 new prison ministry organizations
- 10 million to translate 200 of the best foreign language Christian books/articles into English
- 1.8 billion to finance the refitting of heating, cooling, and electrical systems of 20,000 of the most desperate/inefficient US church buildings a year
- 1.1 billion to fund 5,500 new Family Counseling and Support organizations
- 4 billion to hire 50,000 new, trained, adult Christian educators
- 9 million to finance organizational infrastructure of a think-tank working on Christian perspectives/moralities of new biotechnologies and emerging medical ethics
- 9 million to finance a major Christian research/training center on mass media and media production/consumption
- 3.375 billion to provide hiring 45,000 church-based ministers to the elderly
- 75 million to launch 300 cross-race immersion programs to learn and build relationship toward more profound racial reconciliation

U.S. ECONOMIC STEWARDSHIP AND DIACONAL MINISTRY

- 150 million to provide financial and debt management training to 200,000 US Christian a year
- 100 million to provide jobs training/career counseling to 100,000 unemployed/welfare Americans per year (not to mention all the jobs these programs create)
- 50 million to finance 25 new faith-based organizations to provide assistance and subsidies for utility bills for needy families

U.S. CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL AND SCHOLARSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- 15 million to pay down mortgages of 500 Christian middle/high schools
- 150 million to provide yearly needs-based scholarships of \$15,000 for 10,000 Christian students
- 45 million to yearly needs-based scholarships for 3,000 seminary students
- 12 million to research and writing fellowships to outstanding Christian scholars
- 202 million to provide 101, 2 million dollar donations to seminaries, schools for building campaigns/capital improvements, endowment building, etc.
- 6 million to graduate school scholarships for 300 Christian PhD students.

If we assume 90% of American Christians give 10% (assuming the last 10% are truly unable to give), the number becomes \$85.5 billion. Adding in the "extra giving"—Christians who give above 10%, the number rises to \$120 billion. Granted, not every church will support everything on this list, it is simply an imagining of what might could happen, but there is no question that God has provided us the resources to bring the Kingdom closer. Are we able to trust God to provide for us on 90% of our salary while providing for the world with the other 10%? Go one step further...
Just imagine...

(Numbers and "imaginings" from *Passing the Plate* by Christian Smith, Oxford Press, 2008)