



THE  
**Orthodox Presbyterian Church**  
THE COMMITTEE ON  
**FOREIGN MISSIONS**

VIA E-MAIL ATTACHMENT

January 14, 2009

To Pastors and Sessions of the OPC

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him. Especially in these days of economic distress and financial uncertainty, how thankful we are that our inheritance is not of this world, but rather is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us.

I am writing you on behalf of the general secretaries of the three program committees (Christian Education, Foreign Missions, and Home Missions and Church Extension) to furnish you with a *preliminary* report on 2008 giving to the Thank Offering and to Worldwide Outreach; to express our deep thankfulness to our Lord for your labors and for the generosity of His people; and to plead with you to remember Worldwide Outreach as your congregations and mission works approve their 2009 budgets.\*

Giving Summary for 2008

Thank Offering (to date) — \$646,634 (\$750,000 was the goal)

Worldwide Outreach —

	Approved Budget	Amount Received	% of Budget	Shortfall
Christian Education	348,180	306,131	87.9%	42,049
Foreign Missions	1,137,607	1,108,227	97.4%	29,380
Home Missions and Church Extension	1,050,119	896,714	85.4%	153,405
Coordination & New Horizons	525,000	525,000	100.0%	0
TOTALS	3,060,906	2,836,072	92.7%	224,834

Probably most of us saw the value of our longer-term investments (e.g., equities, pension and 401(k) funds, real estate) tumble during the last quarter of 2008. The program committees did, too, for a combined total decrease in the value of their reserves of roughly \$465,000. This is significant because each of the program committees had already planned on committing reserves—which now may not be there—to the vigorous prosecution of the ministries entrusted to it. And now each of the committees must ask itself serious questions as to whether it has sufficient funding

to continue its ministries at current levels over the next couple of years, questions such as:

- Will the number of supported internships, a vital investment for the future of the church, have to be reduced?
- Will the sending of additional missionaries to foreign fields, where they are urgently needed, have to be postponed?
- Will the funding for some church plants, that are ripe and ready to go, have to be delayed?

Please take these matters to our Lord in prayer, asking Him to provide all that is truly needed to carry on the work He has given to us. And please share this information with your congregation. Thank you.

We count it a privilege to serve with you in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. May our gracious Lord continue to use your labors for His own glory and the increase of His kingdom.

Your servant in Christ,



Mark T. Bube  
FOR THE GENERAL SECRETARIES

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\* \$165.31 per communicant member, according to the Stated Clerk's unofficial calculation for Worldwide Outreach in 2009.