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End of Year Message from Lon

1 message

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Thu, Dec 29, 2016 at 5:25 PM

**December 29, 2016**

A MESSAGE FROM LON

Senior Pastor of McLean Bible Church

Dear MBC Church Family,

In the coming weeks, I will be giving you a more complete report on all the Lord has been pleased to do in and through our church in 2016--and also for what we are trusting Him to do in 2017.

The bottom line is that I see the Holy Spirit on the move at MBC in a fresh and powerful way like never before. I am SO excited about what the Lord has ahead for us as a church family, if we will only continue to try to do "God's work (i.e., leading people to Christ and then helping them grow in their walk with Him), God's way (i.e., just as the Bible tells us to)." -- quote from the great missionary J. Hudson Taylor.

But I wanted to mention a few 2016 highlights as we approach the end of the year:

1. In the last 45 days of 2016, we have seen well over 800 spiritual decisions for the Lord at our services, Turkey Outreach, and special Christmas-related events. We believe that this is unprecedented in the history of MBC! We are super-conservative in calculating these numbers, so we are confident that the actual number likely exceeds 1000 decisions. Now we have the exciting task of following up with all these new children of God, and helping them grow strong in their walks with Jesus. We are thrilled to be putting new infrastructure into place to help accomplish this in a greater way than in previous years.

2. Combining all campuses, Kid's Quest is impacting nearly 1900 children every weekend. We are getting the privilege to work in partnership with parents to help "bring up their

children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). The Bible is clear (Proverbs 22:6) that when we put the Word of God into little people, it sticks--and it is still there directing their lives even when they become older people! This is one of our highest callings as a church family, and we are so happy to see so many children in whom we are having the chance to invest God's Word for life!

3. Our teenage ministry (called The Rock) is ministering to nearly 700 students at all of our campuses. We cherish the opportunity we have to influence so many teenagers for the Lord. We are excited, too, about New Year's Aid (our all-night New Year's Eve teen event) where we expect hundreds of teenagers and where they will get the chance to hear the Gospel and surrender their lives to the Lord. Please pray with us for a mighty moving of God's Spirit on that night!

4. As part of New Year's Aid, our teens have been out doing a variety of fund-raising projects, with the goal this year for the students to raise \$25,000 for helping Syrian refugees in camps in that war-torn area. It's wonderful to see teens being taught the biblical lesson of serving others as Jesus did!

5. At Turkey Outreach, God gave us the honor of giving full turkey dinners to over 49,000 people here in the DC area (in greater cooperation with our partner ministries). We know for sure of 84 recipients who made a spiritual decision for the Lord as a result--awesome!

6. Christmas Village was a massive success, with over 23,000 people in attendance and hundreds of decisions for the Lord among both children and adults. We even had three Fairfax County uniformed police officers (there to help with traffic) who prayed with our volunteers and asked Jesus into their hearts--PTL!

7. Our emphasis on church planting in the DMV area continues strong and unabated. Clint Clifton training our church-planters to assist already-existing church plants here in the DC area through our New City Network ministry. We expect to have helped launch 11 new churches by this spring, with many more coming later in 2017. We have seen the work we have been doing at Hutchison Elementary in Herndon flourish and grow in 2016, and turn into an actual new church plant. Gustavo has now begun a Spanish-speaking gathering in Annandale which we hope will turn into a second church plant.

8. Jill's House continues to grow and expand in its ministry to children with disabilities and their families, serving more families and children than in any previous year. Also, a number of these families (over 90% of whom do NOT attend MBC, and in most cases, do NOT know Christ when they start attending JH) came to personal faith in Jesus in 2016--PTL!! JH has now expanded to six states and the plan is to keep expanding in 2017 with the Lord's help.

9. And, lest we forget what happened way back in January 2016, by the grace of God, we as a church family were able to pay off all our debt and become debt-free for the first time in 16 years (since we bought the Tysons property and built it out). The total amount of debt that we paid off over the past 16 years is \$100 million! How great is this! And even more astounding, is that, over those 16 years, as we were paying the mortgage off, God allowed us to finish in the black operationally for every one of those years as well!

Well, that's enough for now. I just wanted us to look back and remember how awesome the Lord has been to us as a church family, not just in 2016, but for the last 50+ years since the church was started! And for us to be sure that we're like the one leper who did not neglect coming back to Jesus to say "thank you" for all that God had done for him. Let us be sure, as 2016 ends- that we at MBC are careful to do the same!

Sincerely as your pastor,

Lon

P.S. - I know it is important to all of us that we finish 2016 in the black, as we have done for so many years to the glory of God. In these closing days of December, we are 63% there in terms of our financial need for the month. That means we still need \$3 million to break even. May I please ask all of us to join together in serious and concerted prayer for this need to be met by our mighty God. Thank you!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IN ORDER TO COUNT AS A 2016 DONATION WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR CONTRIBUTION BY MIDNIGHT 12/31/2016 EITHER IN THE DONATION BOXES AT MBC, BY AN MBC ONLINE CREDIT CARD PAYMENT COMPLETED BY 11:59PM 12/31/2016, OR BY HAVING IT MAILED WITH A POSTMARK ON OR BEFORE 12/31/2016.



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