

These days there may be few things more important than encouragement as believers try to faithfully stand firm against more battles than ever, on seemingly all fronts. I am so encouraged by the tremendous, overwhelming response of the supporters of SEND North regarding its \$750,000 capital campaign.

### **My Story:**

I grew up surviving childhood with an abusive, alcoholic father. Jump forward two decades, and I was a divorced, broken man, literally without a cent to my name, with a life full of failures and shame.

In 2012, I'd had to walk away (yet again) from a very meaningful, non-profit job because of unethical leaders. During this same time, my mom was dying of cancer, and my wife was on unpaid maternity leave, pregnant with our firstborn. The night before she gave birth, my mother passed away. The delivery was tough on all fronts, and when we finally got home from the hospital, our washing machine broke. I really didn't have the cash to get a new one and we commented to ourselves that an extra \$1,000 would sure go a long way. That week, a totally unsolicited check arrived for \$1,000 from a friend who had no idea of our plight, but said he just felt led to help us. God is so good!

Things have changed over the years. I have a wonderful wife and two great young kids who truly love Jesus. After making some good investments, we now strangely find ourselves as the matching donor for the Bonanza airplane grant.

Because of your faithful, encouraging response to the Acts 1:8 campaign, I have decided to do another match—but a “reverse” match, if there even is such a thing. I plan to donate whatever funds SEND still needs to complete their \$750,000 campaign after their October numbers are tallied.

SEND has done great work and will do so in the future. Let's encourage them to do even more. We are in a battle that is fought with prayer, faithfulness, boldness, sacrifice and yes, money. Mammon, really.

Even though the campaign will be complete, I'm asking that you pray and give still more to SEND during the upcoming holiday season and fourth quarter, as the Lord may lead you. Let's support our brothers and sisters—our missionaries fighting on the front lines. Many of you, and countless others, have also been through hard times in your life. But our Lord is the King of Redemption, our good, good Father--so let's accept the hope and peace He offers us through Christ Jesus. Let's press forward and finish strong, by His grace and mercy.

I'll take the lead this time around since you have already done so much. Money is really only a tool and it's not my money anyway, is it? The Lord has simply directed me to steward it. He gives me the desire to give, the ability to give, the opportunity to give and the resolve to give—and not just think about it.

Sounds like Him, doesn't it? Our faithful Father! No greater love.

Thank you, SEND donors, for your faithful stewardship.

F. W., SEND North donor