



Dear Crossroads Family,

Sometimes I forget to mention just how proud I am of our congregation that on the first Sunday of each month, you bring food and diapers to assist families that are in need. The example you set has also inspired our MDO children to bring gifts to support this ministry on their chapel days. It seems like a rather small thing to bring a few cans of food or diapers, but the fact that many of you cooperate in this grace of giving makes it a big thing.

Last year you donated thousands and thousands of pounds of food--a conservative estimate is about 12,000 lbs. According to data from organizations like **Feeding America** and the **USDA**, here are the numbers of families that our church fed this past year based on common distribution standards:

1. One-Time Emergency Assistance (3 Days)

This is typically the "crisis" model used for immediate relief.

- **Total Food per Family (4 People): Approx. 14.4 lbs.**
- **Total Families Fed: ~833 families.**

2. Full Week of Sustenance

This model provides every meal a family needs for 7 days.

- **Total Food per Family (4 People): ~100 lbs.**
- **Total Families Fed: 120 families.**

3. Full Month of Sustenance

This is for long-term support, ensuring a family is fully food-secure for 30 days.

- **Total Food per Family (4 People): ~460 lbs.**
- **Total Families Fed: ~26 families.**

Not all of those families came to our church for help. We also provide food to a ministry in Helotes that has a larger community-wide reach than our food pantry has. We can also send people their way to increase the assistance they can receive from our own pantry. We also send food to Baptist University of the Americas (BUA) which helps meet the needs of low-income, ministry students, many of whom come from other countries to be trained and who have limited opportunities to work in America. Our own Mauricio's family has benefited in the past from the gifts of food we provided to BUA. We regularly get letters of appreciation from BUA students concerning our grace gifts of food to the school. The diapers support those who are clients of the crisis pregnancy center we support -- Life Choices.

It is your regular generosity that makes all this possible, and this coming Sunday is the 1st Sunday of the New Year and our first opportunity to participate in this gift of food and diaper distribution. I encourage you to bring

some food or diapers to donate this Sunday morning, remembering what the other Apostles told Paul when he was embarking on his missionary trips to the Gentiles: "All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along" (Gal. 2:10). It was the pattern of the first church, and it is ours as well.

I hope to see you Sunday for Bible study and worship. Sunday's sermon notes are provided below.

Happy New Year!

Love,
Bro. Doug

A Step Toward Life
Luke 12:13-21 & 21:1-4

Contemporary American society relentlessly pursues wealth and possessions. We easily succumb to a world in which _____ we possess takes priority over _____ we are becoming and _____ we know and love. According to Gen. 3:6, the first debilitating _____ and the foundation of all sin is the sacrifice of meaningful relationships to one another and to God in order to gain things. Let's let God's word _____ our minds on this important topic and reshape our lives to reflect the _____ of our Lord more accurately. The first passage is Luke 12:13-21.

Jesus' response to the brother's request is quite harsh and "_____." But this seemingly unloving response was a reflex of _____ for the man and for us as well. We can't achieve life by gaining surplus possessions. Jesus' parable of the rich man with the high-yielding farm was a cautionary tale for the brother and for us. He imagined that the road to abundant life was to _____ and bigger barns and to _____ his wealth and _____. But God pronounced judgment on this plan for life. Fool! This night your _____ will give an account to Me.

Jesus warned again and again that running after things is a _____. It doesn't give life; it _____ and drains it. But He didn't simply warn us about the disease of overvaluing things. He offered a vaccine. That vaccine is modeled for us in Luke 21:1-4. The vaccine against life-draining wanting, grasping, and holding. _____. It's hard. Like a person struggling to stay afloat in a rushing river, we think possessions are a _____, but they are actually an _____.

Do you want this 2026 to be a year of real life for you? Begin to walk the path of abundant, eternal, and blessed life by becoming dedicated to _____ rather than _____ and _____.

God _____ when we do so. He sees every act of giving as an act of _____ toward others, an acknowledgement of dependence and _____ in Him, and a step toward _____ for you.

A Few Announcements for the New Year:

A Special Called Business Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the Proposed Budget for 2026 and the Housing Allowances for the ordained ministers. The agenda with the proposed budget is available in the foyer.

Women on Mission will have their first meeting of 2026 this Tuesday, January 6, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited.

Ladies' Wednesday Morning Bible Study spring session begins this week on January 7 at 9:00 am in Rm.

V217. They will be studying the book “Live Free” A Study of Galatians, by Elizabeth Woodson. For further information contact Jeanne Lassetter at jeanne.lassetter@hotmail.com or txt 210.449.1710.

First Young at Heart Gathering of 2026! Come celebrate the New Year at Young at Heart on Thursday, January 8, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Dr. John King will be speaking on the topic “Don’t Smoke Your Joints!” Bring your favorite soup/sandwiches or dessert. Chips and crackers will be provided.

A New Session of GriefShare will be starting on Thursday, January 8, and will continue every Thursday until April 2. The sessions will be 9:15-11:15 am in the Community Center, classroom #1. Register at griefshare.org.

***Dr. Doug Diehl
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