



~~Im~~Possible Tithe Challenge 2023



“For mortals it is impossible, but not for God;
for God all things are possible.”

Mark 10:27

Beloved people of Harmony,

In 2017, I remember how the professor of my Worship class in seminary laughed at the idea of worship through the internet. He thought it was impossible to have a meaningful experience and connection to God and others via a screen. Now the impossible has become possible and is practically required at all churches to make them more accessible.

In the Breakthrough Prayer we have been praying since August, we profess that through the mighty acts of Jesus, Christ, we know the impossible is possible! During this past series, On Target, we have looked at each day's impossible prayer focus that has been prayerfully crafted for our Breakthrough Prayer. We pray knowing that prayer does something not only to the recipient of the prayer, but also to our lives as well.

How has breakthrough prayer made impossible things happen at Harmony so far? Take a look at these celebrations that have happened since July 1:

- First Sunday with new pastor!
- Revised bulletin
- Cleaned out AV storage
- Cleaned out sacristy
- Replaced all locks into church building and parsonage and keys properly distributed
- Set up congregational care tracking list
- Set up online church calendar
- Completed 2021 Fund Balance Report
- Updated Fund Balance Report with more funds discovered
- Updated website
- Cleaned out parsonage
- Unlocked safe and sacristy
- Hired a temporary Admin Assistant
- Hired a permanent Admin Assistant
- Created visitor tracking list
- Submitted State Biennial Report
- Created Purchase/Payment Request Form
- Established prayer Group
- Created Breakthrough Prayer
- Delivered cookies to 10 First Responder facilities
- Approved 2022 budget
- Report on 9/14 that communication was good!
- Fixed copier and scanning documents
- Provided AV training with operating procedures
- Set up savings account for Grace & Mercy fund
- Established Church credit card
- Set up worship volunteer calendar and on website
- Prayer room cleaned out and opened
- Sunday School rooms cleaned out
- Basement youth room cleaned out
- 768 Ticonderoga pencils collected and delivered to Ritenour Middle School

- New building insurance policy
- Worship leader hired
- Organized Stuff Sale that cleared unused items out, met people in community and invited to worship
- Switched online platform and saved over \$3,000
- Cleaned out office
- Painted office
- Cleaned office carpet
- Fixed 3rd floor water fountain leak
- Entered all 2022 expenses and revenue to October 1
- Developed revenue and expenses report based on approved budget
- Pastor is visiting homebound and in hospitals
- Pastor attending Overland Business Association meeting and prayed in October meeting
- Cleared gutters and drains of debris
- Repaired water damage in bridge hallway
- Replaced water damaged tiles on 3rd floor
- Completed worker's comp insurance audit
- Removed old air conditioner unit in children's room
- Replaced lightbulbs in lobby
- Fixed front door lock
- Updated fire alarm system and functioning normally
- Monthly financial report now available on website
- Forms and documents now available on website
- Financial Update on October 23 with future updates every quarter
- Worship recordings now available on website

Thank you for reading through this list of 55 celebrations because it is INCREDIBLE! Look at God!! As we lift up specific things each day, how can we be an important part of answering those prayers?

The answers to that question, which was developed through the series, can be put into practice in 2023. There are ways we can work inwardly. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, called this Acts of Piety. How can we work on our faith so we can have a better relationship with our God and Savior? Throughout the series ideas have been lifted up for a class on developing a Rule of Life, to learn and experience contemplative prayer, to practice disciplines such as the Ignatian Daily Examen, to go on prayer walks through out community.

There are ways we can work outwardly. Wesley called these Acts of Mercy. How can we offer the things we are growing in faith inwardly, outwardly to others? Building repairs can be made so that we can answer the prayer of every room and every chair to be filled and used for ministry, items for hospitality need to be purchased. We can provide safer ministry by purchasing and installing security cameras. We can provide community meals and needed items for the people we pray for. We can purchase devotionals for the homebound and train people up to bring them communion. We can grow our music ministry to create a band that will be able to reach those who are curious about Jesus and God's work through Harmony.

Bold, impossible prayers require bold, impossible actions.

What more do you want to see happen at Harmony? What do you think is impossible? God can do God's part, but we can provide the means and God can work through us to make the impossible possible.

Let's revisit something that seems impossible in today's world. What if you did something so bold as taking a tenth of your income (a tithe) as soon as you receive it and give it back to God? What if you give with so much faith against today's expectations...what do you think the blessing will be?

Why not put God to the test? Job did it. Gideon did it. Elijah did it. Hannah did it. The Widow of Zarephath did it. She said to Elijah, sure, you can have part of the little flour and oil I have left and we can die together. And then miracle after miracle began to happen. Friends, even Jesus did it. Why not test God for miracles? Why not be delightfully surprised? I challenge you to try it for 90 days and see what happens. If you commit to this 90 day tithe challenge, you can begin your giving on (Im)Possible Sunday on November 20 or at the beginning of 2023. As you give in faith, I want you to sit back and see how God responds. I want to hear what impossible things happen in your life or the lives of others because of it.

Now here's how Harmony is acting boldly in faith:

If, after 90 days of your tithing that has been recorded under you, you are feeling more stress and strain on your spiritual, relational and financial health, Harmony will give a full refund of your tithing in the last 90 days. I asked Jodi Payne, our Finance Chair, if this was a good idea for Harmony and without skipping a beat she said Yes! Friends, we can do the impossible!

If you want to commit to a certain amount outside of tithing, you are welcome to make that commitment for 2023 as well on the attached card. We can all commit to giving in faith in order to support the ministries that we are boldly and faithfully praying for and the ministries that God is nudging us toward in 2023. Friends, we've been praying about this since August. It's time to step up in faith. Commit to help make the impossible possible!

In faith,

Pastor Erika Gravely