

Dear co-workers in the ministry,

a crisis re-lived

He had inherited a crisis of historic proportions, and in his inaugural address the new president spoke candidly. He described recent, devastating losses on Wall Street, an economy frozen by uncertainty and massive layoffs, a government stretching to meet its obligations, and the precarious state of millions of families whose savings had been lost in the carnage. The sufferings he cited were real; the monster that had crushed their confidence, less so. *“The only thing we have to fear,”* Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared in 1933, *“is fear itself.”* Perhaps no president understood the power of fear better than President Roosevelt at his first inaugural. *“If I read the temper of our people correctly,”* he said on that cold March day in 1933, *“we now realize as we have never realized before our interdependence on each other; that we can not merely take but we must give as well.”* (Quoted from the AARP Magazine)



As we face our economic crisis and wait until January 20th for President-Elect Obama to provide leadership and guidance as well as calm our spirit as President Roosevelt did in the past, we must also look above our president and our circumstance and behold Our God! We have been looking to our national leaders to come to our rescue and buy us out. We should look at our own fears and how we are handling them. As we reflect on the past and see how God delivered our ancestors and as we remember the words of President Roosevelt, we had several decisions to make.

either we trust Him or we don't



As I look around and listen to the “Faith Family,” I am seeing and hearing great fear. People have not only stopped their giving to each other but have also ceased in giving their tithes and offerings. Although we do not see it in the headlines, churches and charitable organizations are being hit the hardest. It's important that we follow biblical principals during this time. I am reminded of the first church when they had all things in common and depended on each other. They obeyed scripture and looked not only to their own interest, but the interest of others. They did not become weary in well doing, especially to the household of faith. They set aside to give to the ministry. I'm reminded of a time when they feared not, when they prayed about everything with thanksgiving. They saw God as the “Great I Am” who supplied all of their needs and brought them out. This was an example of the body of Christ being interdependent on each other and not being takers but givers.



Men and women's souls are still in trouble and our deaf community is still in need of interpreters, preachers, and workers to share the Gospel that they may come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The hearing and deaf communities still need to grow in our relationship with God and in the area that He has called us to serve. We need to find ways to support each other and to help during the time of need.

here's how you can help

Churches and charitable organizations are all standing in the need of support and are appearing to be in a decline. God is sovereign and is able to meet our every need. The Holy Bible says, "give and it will be given unto you, good measure, pressed down shaking together and running over . . ." He is not a man that He should lie or the son of man that He should repent. We ask that you would take Him at His word and continue giving your tithes and offerings and sow into good soil (charitable organizations).

IIDS is not exempt from this crisis and needs you to give as well as register for our annual conference, IMPARTATION. I am happy to say that IIDS has been giving back to the Faith Family. There are individuals that have shared their needs and some who came on faith and God used IIDS to meet the needs. We have taken the lost in order that others might gain; however, it has never really been a loss because God has always provided a way to make ends meet.

We attempt not only to meet the physical needs, but the spiritual needs as well by offering words of encouragement and prayer support as the family faces difficulties. This is all because of your support to us that we've been able to accomplish this task. This is a fulfillment of Romans 1:11-12, where we are learning to impart into each other.

As we make adjustments in the midst of our economic situation, let us trust God and give and see Him open up the windows of heaven and make a way out of no way. Try Him and see that He will keep His word and meet every one of your needs.

Prayerfully consider giving a tax deductible gift to IIDS now. Make your check payable to IIDS and mail to IIDS, PO Box 39009, Birmingham, Alabama 35208.

Looking unto Jesus.

Your servant in the ministry,

Paul William Ellis