

“Empty Pockets”

2011 Reflection and 2012 Projection

At the start of 2011 I remember being filled with excitement and hope as we embarked on the adventure of remodeling our own space. God brought forth many victories here at White Water in 2011. Here is a short list of highlights from the last year:

- God enabled us to move into our newly remodeled community center (8,600 square feet)
- God has established localized leadership
- We have happily given almost \$20,000 to missions in 2011
- God called over ten people to be baptized at our new facility in 2011
- Over 70 people are serving God through the ministry at White Water
- God enabled us to be a part of planting Gateway Community Christian Church
- average attendance in **Dec 2010 was 95** average attendance in **Dec 2011 was 130**

Even with all these grand achievements I will remember 2011 as the year that I reached into my pockets to give God a great gift, but all I pulled out was a chewed on pencil, a faded blue button and a few coins. That feeling of not having enough to give is what defined this last year as leader of White Water. I reached into my pocket often intending to give something of value or worth, but again and again my chewed on pencil, faded blue button and a couple coins were all I found.

Miraculously God took my puny offering and wove together broken lives. He knit us together into a community defined by love and compassion, enthralled with grace. He encouraged us to give sacrificially and with great cheer. He spoke to us and fanned the flames of our faith into worship. He bound up our wounds and dried our tears.

In the darkness of 2011 I was brought to the end of myself and I discovered what God wants from all of us: “empty pockets”. In Mark 12:41-44 there is a story about someone with empty pockets. “Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘I tell you the truth this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on’”

At White Water our focus for the coming year will be “empty pockets” as we encourage people to move in the direction of giving God everything. Please pray that more people in Laramie would grasp what it is to give yourself completely to God’s purpose.

I still love being Pastor at White Water Christian Church.

In His service, Chad E. Halbach, church planter, White Water Christian Church
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