

October 19, 2014
Texas Partners in Mission
Sunday

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 –
Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

October is “Stewardship Month” in the LC—MS, and today is *Texas Partners in Mission* Sunday in the Texas District. What that means is, that I have agreed to promote the group *Texas Partners in Mission* to you today. Since we celebrate and learn about good stewardship during this month it is very appropriate that we talk about *TPIM*. They are a group that supports the local, Texas missionaries. That’s right! You have missionaries in your backyard. Some of them minister at the oil fields in the west, others minister to the growing Hispanic communities in our area and still others plant churches all across Texas for various groups of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

This Sunday we recognize them and we promise to support them. Paul, in his first letter to the Thessalonians encourages them at the end to pray without ceasing. This was great advice, especially alongside all of the other advice that he gives them, like always rejoicing, test everything, be patient, help the weak, etc. It is great advice for us as well, especially in light of everything that *TPIM* does. We should always be there to support them. No, I don’t mean that we should necessarily have our purses and wallets at the ready whenever they call. What I do mean is that we should always

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be ready with a prayer to lift them up to God’s care. If you should feel so moved and are

financially able to support them with your money, by all means do so, but we can always pray for them.

In fact, we should always be praying for our “missions” as well. Part of being a good steward in God’s Kingdom, which we are all part of, means being ready to and actually praying for *Tree of Life*. So pray. Pray that we grow. Pray that we flourish. Pray that we reach the lost. Pray that Christ works through us in the Holy Spirit to accomplish the Father’s will. Pray for our sick. Pray for our elderly. Pray for our young. Pray!

Being a good steward under Christ also means testing everything to make sure it is good and godly. So test. Test what I say. Test what the pastor’s you listen to and watch on radio and TV say. Test your own actions. Test your families’ actions. Test and pray and in that way, among others, God will mold you into a steward and a disciple.

One final note this week: You will find an insert in your bulletin this week. There you will also find a support card and a prayer sheet. Please fill out the support card, even if you are simply praying for the missionaries. Fill it out, send it in and pray for our Texas Missionaries and our church. Thank you and God’s peace.

Pastor 

