



***We are now at the half way point of our
Faith Promise Missions Year.***

***We are on course to meet the goal we,
Together, set in October of 2024.***

Our 2025 Missions Theme is

Until the Whole World Knows"

Highland Baptist Church has a growing world missionary family that presently consists of twenty missionary families and missionary projects. HBC, as a church, is committed to the world mission mandate given by Christ in Matthew 28:18-20. *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

We are the church, whether we show up on Sunday or not, but the experience of going to church **matters**. The New Testament Church meets on the first day of the week in honor of the Lord's resurrection.

First, because the Bible is clear that we need to attend regularly.

Hebrews 10:23-25; *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)* 24 *And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:* 25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1Corinthians 16:1-2; *Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. 2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*

Second, because it **strengthens our faith** to physically gather with other believers. Positive physical contact with other people is essential for our emotional well-being. We should do it with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Third, because everyone takes time from their schedules for the things that **matter to us**. And the more often we take that time, the more important they become.

Fourth, because we can actually contribute when we're **in the room**. We go for worship, fellowship, discipleship and ministry – and to prepare to live and share our faith in the week ahead.

Now, here's another reason. Actually five more reasons.

Unlike TV or online church, which only engages two of our senses (sight and sound) **physically leaving home and showing up to be with other believers engages all five of our senses.**

When all our senses are involved we **learn more**, **engage more**, **enjoy more**, **contribute more** and **remember more**.

If we want to get everything we can from the church experience, we need to start by showing up.

Adapted from an Article by K. Vaters