

August 2009

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your congregation's continuing faithful support of Cooperative Ministries. At this point in the year, congregational contributions to CM are almost exactly where we had hoped (and need) to be as we pursue the ministry plans God has for the Brethren in Christ Church. **Currently we are at 43 percent of the CM goal for 2009** (as compared with 41 percent of goal at this time last year). This is a wonderful testimony to the strength of our shared commitment to working together for the glory of God.

In addition to support that is flowing to the General Church via congregational offerings, we are in awe of the way individuals from our churches have stepped up their giving to Cooperative Ministries, BIC World Missions, and the World Hunger Fund. As of June 30, we had received just over \$750,000—three quarters of a million dollars—in team-based funding for missionaries, direct gifts to BICWM, compassion ministries such as *Family to Family*, *Village to Village* and the BICWM's *Partner Handbook*, and participation in Cooperative Ministries through the Partner's Circle.

We're also hearing amazing stories of BIC churches reaching out to hurting people in their local communities with assistance such food aid, a tank of gas, or help with utility bills. When it comes to loving boldly, giving generously, and serving joyfully, it seems that BIC churches have gotten the message—and are living it out.

Please share this good news with the people in your congregation, and urge them to remain strong in their confidence in God's abundance. Then look forward with anticipation to what God has in store for our network of churches in the second half of 2009. I am.

In His Service,



Rebekah Burch Basinger  
Director of Congregational Relations

P.S. Have you taken a look at *What's It All About?*, a stewardship curriculum written by BIC leaders for use in BIC congregations. You can read more about it on the denomination's web site ([www.bic-church.org](http://www.bic-church.org)). To order sample materials, call the Congregational Relations office at (717) 697-2634, ext. 5422 and talk to Pam.