

This week, we share troubles as well as praise. When we arrived at church Sunday morning, we found that the church had been broken into for the 3rd time in the last few months. The previous time, they stole a security system that had just been purchased for install, along with 2 boxes of new letters for our church sign and several items of candy. We immediately changed locks on all the doors to deadbolts but one door that leads from the outside to the pastor's study could not use a deadbolt. The storm door was locked, the inside main door locked as well as secured with a bracket, but also had a heavy loveseat in front of the door. The thieves cut the screen of the storm door to unlock it, and they busted the main door open, tearing the frame from the wall. This time, they took the office laptop, went through the SS rooms, taking things including 3 or 4 of the crisis care kits made up, but worse than anything they broke into the office file cabinet and took the kids V4J offering the kids had been working on. The kids had right at 160.00 in their offering. (In addition, one of the SS teachers had V4J money and Alabaster in her room that was taken). **The congregation was pretty bummed out when we gathered but I have GOOD NEWS! We put our NOISY BOWL out for V4J offering again yesterday alongside the Alabaster box. We collected more than double what was in the money stolen. In addition, our Alabaster offering did pretty well too! Money is NOT left at church on a regular basis but because it was the kids offering, they have been working on this month, it was left and locked up but when evil strikes, it does not care about who it is affecting or who it is hurting. But God is so much bigger than evil, and God knows exactly who took the things that belonged to Him. That is key- for when we give in offerings- we give to Him, for His use, and in His control. So think of that, they did not steal from us- they stole from God. Yet while God weeps for that person(s) who stole, He rejoices with our congregation in providing the means as well as spiritual hearts to overcome adversity!**