

Church Financial Hot Topic

Increasing Offerings

Prayer – An intentional prayer ministry will do more to increase offerings than any other emphasis of the church.

Vision Statement – According to a recent Georgia Baptist Convention survey, churches that have a written vision statement are growing faster than churches without a vision statement. Church growth will impact offerings to the church. If members and guests believe the church will make a difference in the community and world, then they will give more to the ministry of the church.

Positive Atmosphere – The church leadership needs to create a positive environment in the church. Eliminating negative promotions like the weekly/monthly budget requirements in the church bulletin or newsletter will help create a positive atmosphere. For instance, even in the best giving churches, the weekly/monthly offering will not meet the weekly/monthly giving requirements at least two times a month/year. The impression is created that the church is not healthy because the church is behind on giving when in fact the church might be ahead of yearly requirements. Most individuals are not motivated to give because of negative budget requirements. People give to make a difference. Eliminating a negative atmosphere will help create a positive giving environment.

Ministry Action Budget – Church budgets are road maps to the ministry concerns of a church. The budget guides the church on how to spend the money God has entrusted to the church. A church budget based on ministry, not numbers, will impact the budget positively and cause members to be excited about what God is doing in their midst.

Offering Envelopes – Believe it or not, the old system of a member receiving a box of offering envelopes does increase giving. The weekly provided offering envelopes remind members to give to God's work in the church.

Business Meetings – For most churches, changing from monthly to quarterly business meetings would increase giving in the church. Of course, financial statements can be provided on a monthly basis, but the church needs to empower committees to make the decisions between business meetings. Also, during business meetings, only matters involving church-wide issues need to be discussed with the love and grace of Christ.

Mission-Minded – A church focused on missions will have little time for infighting and disagreement. Guests and members will give to a church that is focusing on others and making a difference in the world.

Offering at the end of the Worship Service – Worship service giving normally will increase 10-20 percent if the offering is collected at the end of the worship service as opposed to the traditional collection time at the middle of the worship service. The offertory is a natural way for individuals to respond to God's message.

Offerings received during Sunday School – When individuals are accountable and loved by a small group ministry like Sunday School, the individuals will give more to the church. A Sunday School growth campaign will increase giving in the church.

Stewardship Testimonies – People can read about tithing and giving, but really not change their personal habit or practices. However, if someone they know and respect shares how God has worked in his life concerning Biblical stewardship, then the hearers are more likely to practice Biblical stewardship in their lives. Tithing testimonies during the worship services and Sunday School really do work!

Empowered Spending – Ministry leaders and church staff should be empowered to be able to spend the allocated money within a budgeted line item without the finance committee or church treasurer approval. The finance committee/treasurer should be aware of the spending through a possible purchase order system, but the committee/treasurer involvement should be only to carry out the church's wishes. Empowered spending eliminates one or two people controlling the finances of the church. Individuals are more willing to give if the person thinks he has true influence on how the money will be spent.

12/16 Gifts of Georgia Baptists through Mission Georgia and the Cooperative Program enable us to partner together in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Blessing your staff – A church that blesses its staff financially will in turn be blessed. If the pastor does not have to worry about family financial concerns, then he will be able to focus more on ministry. In turn, the church and pastor will be blessed.

Try to out give God – The church leadership should try to out give God. Of course, this is impossible, but it works! People want to be part of a church focused on God and His ways.

Revival Services – A revival of God’s people should always lead to increased offerings. As people move closer to God, they will give out of their abundant blessings to the Lord’s church.

Biblical Financial Principles Taught – Biblical Christian Stewardship concepts and principles should be taught as an on-going ministry of the church. Believers constantly need this spiritual instruction. Do not apologize for it.

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