

Our Budget... is it a Faith Statement?

What does your church's annual budget represent?



Is it a proud menu of the hopes, dreams and missionary ministries your congregation wants to accomplish in the year to come?

Or is it a life-support prescription for how the congregation expects to pay the staff, keep the lights burning, the sanctuary heated the roof fixed and the grass mowed?

If we view the budget – and present it to our congregations – as an administrative necessity to ensure proper financial management, then we shouldn't be surprised to wind up with bare-bones measures that are grudgingly funded. If funded at all.

But if we present the budget to our congregations as opportunities to invest in the Kingdom of God and stretch ourselves to see how much we can do with even the nickels and dimes God has given us, then the possibilities increase.

In the end, a budget is a statement about how a congregation views the future. Do your people trust that ours is the God of abundance who rewards faithful stewards; a God that will stand behind servants who proclaim the Kingdom? Does your budget reflect the means by which we make the most of the abundance the Lord is giving us. Or, not? Put it this way: If an outsider looked at your budget, what would he or she conclude about your congregation's faith?

–Rob Blezard (edited from SOLI)

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