



A Good Report

2007 was an amazing financial year. For the first time, our church received over \$3 million in weekend offerings! God's blessing has been abundant in many ways, including the financial realm. We continue to rejoice about what God has done. However, there's more to the story - let me tell you about a miracle.

Changing Our Corporate Year

During 2007, we changed our corporate year from a calendar basis to one that begins on September 1st and runs through August 31st. This allows us to better budget for the church year which tends to begin in September rather than January. In general, this change should have no effect on giving, income flow, or any related issue. In fact, most of you were probably unaware that we even made the change.

A Sudden Unexplained Negative Trend

When we finished our short corporate year on August 31st with a very positive surplus, we assumed the same thing would continue into the fall. However, for the months of September, October, and November, giving seemed to take a strange turn downward. In fact, even though the fall is generally a very positive time for giving, we were \$110,000 behind by the end of November. We should have received \$795,000 and we had only received \$685,000.

We first began to ask God if there was something we were doing wrong. In addition, I asked everyone to pray - on the leadership team and those who I knew were intercessors. Even though the current financial situation is not good in our country, we firmly believe that this should have little impact upon God and His people. We know that God is able to take care of us regardless of the situation around us.

Joyful December

December was a sensational month for the church. Compared to our budget of \$265,000 per month, we received almost \$380,000. We not only caught up on our budget shortfall, but actually finished the last 4 months of the year \$4,000 above budget. You can believe there was great rejoicing among those of us who have been praying.

Giving is the Doorway to Blessing

This church has been very blessed (in every possible way, including finances) for years. We believe that when individuals tithe, it opens God's storehouse. We also believe that when we as a church tithe (we attempt to give away 20% of our weekend income), it opens blessings on the corporate level. For those of you who are tithing and giving sacrificially, I want to say thank you. For those of you who are considering tithing, I fully recommend it as the best way to get rid of the financial burdens of life. God has promised to open the windows of heaven and take care of us financially (Malachi 3:8-12).

Final Thoughts

You may obtain a current financial summary, which is a complete accounting of the first 8 months of 2007, at the Welcome Center. The next financial summary will be available in September of 2008. Should you have financial questions, feel free to contact David Hodge, chairman of the Pastor's Advisory Council. Thanks again for being generous.

Happy

Happy Notes at Home are a monthly reflection of community life at The Vineyard Church and are produced by Happy Leman.