

Local Church Budget

July 3, 2021

Oshkosh is the largest Pathfinder event in the North American Division. It meets once every five years. But a church in Texas had a problem. They had elected a new director and staff for their Pathfinder club just nine months before Oshkosh.

The new leader said, “We have little money in our Pathfinder fund in the church budget. Oshkosh is expensive. How can we raise enough money to attend?”

They consulted with the former Pathfinder director to get ideas. How could their small group find money to pay for transportation, food, the entrance fee, and all the incidentals that are part of Oshkosh?

The church board gave permission for placards, donation boxes, and other promotions. They had some response, but the club was always short of their goals each month.

On Pathfinder Day, they made a special appeal. “We have done all we know to do, but we’re running out of time. Can you please help us?”

People made more donations than usual. Everyone kept praying. The children watched the goals. Parents wondered if they could somehow give a little more. Church members found extra funds to help meet the deadline.

When the time came, the Pathfinders went to Oshkosh. The entire church received a blessing!

How did it happen? Leadership counseled together. The church worked together. When there were no funds for ministry, they brought the matter before the Lord. “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” **Proverbs 11:14**

World Budget

July 10, 2021

Every year, several pastors come together to go salmon fishing. One pastor didn't bring his polarized glasses. He noticed that his buddies could see the fish in the river and cast their fly presentations before them. While they caught one fish after another he caught nothing.

Then his friend realized what was happening. He said, "Come over here next to me."

His friend passed an extra pair of glasses to him and pointed to the river. "Can you see now?"

The pastor replied, "Now I can see! There are salmon everywhere!"

One moment, the pastor could not see the fish. However, as soon as he put on the right glasses, his worldview changed.

In the time of Israel, Moses sent spies to go into the Promised Land to see the potential. Ten spies saw the obstacles that faced them. "We came unto the land where thou sent us, and surely it flows with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless, the people be strong that dwell in the land." Numbers 13:27, 28

Ten men saw danger and defeat. However, two of the spies could see the promise.

"And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it." Numbers 13:30 When we see the promise of the second coming of Christ, we can understand why giving is important. We will see how God can use our gifts to help others see the promise before them.

Local Church Budget

July 17, 2021

A church member enjoyed fishing from a bridge in a park. One day, he felt a tap on his boot. He ignored it at first, but then he felt many small taps. He looked down and saw a squirrel. The small animal looked up with longing eyes.

He realized he was eating from a small bag of mixed nuts he had in his pocket. Well, he pulled out some nuts and handed them to the squirrel.

The man named the squirrel Tapper. Each time the man would go to the bridge, Tapper would race down the tree and tap the man's feet. Each time, Tapper would get a feast of nuts and dried fruits. People who chanced to walk by smiled in surprise to see the relationship between the two.

Have you ever gotten a tap in church? Have you had a tap on your heart to respond to an offering appeal? Is God tapping on your heart right now to support the church budget ministries that touch the lives of the people in your community? If you feel that tap, take out your mix of bills and coins and hand them over with joy, because you are touching the lives of others.

This morning, listen to the taps of the Holy Spirit. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." **Isaiah 30:21**

Combined Youth Ministries

July 24, 2021

The Widow's Two Mite's

Have you thought that giving your dollar or small donation doesn't really matter? This question may be far more common among us than you might think. This raises the question of why do we give?

Do we give:

- To help reach a goal?
- To receive a tax credit?
- To feel important?
- To help others?
- To spread the Gospel Message?

In Acts 20:35 (NKJV) we read,

... the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.

The offering received today will support the spiritual growth and development of our children. Combined Youth Ministries includes Adventures, Pathfinders, and the K-12 education system of the Iowa-Missouri Conference.

Mark 12:41-44 (NKJV), tells the story of Jesus talking about giving with the disciples.

Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. (The Roman quadrans was the smallest Roman coin.) So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

As you give an offering today, please consider the importance of providing for our children's spiritual training and the blessing Jesus is waiting to give us.

Local Church Budget

July 31, 2021

During the retreat by Japan from the Philippines during World War II, one Japanese soldier named Hiroo Onoda received an assignment. He was to stay behind at his post until his commanding officer, Major Yoshimi Taniguchi, relieved him of his duties.

On the day of the Major's departure, he made a promise. "Stay here until I come back to relieve you of your duties. Whatever happens, we will come back for you."

As an intelligence officer, Onoda had learned the art of blending into his environment and sustaining himself off the land. The war ended in 1945, but for 29 years, he stood by his post.

At last, the emperor learned that the lieutenant was still on the island. He sent Onoda's former commanding officer with a letter from the emperor telling him he was free to go. On March 9, 1974, the Major arrived and at last Onoda could leave for home.

To all Christians, our commanding officer Jesus gave orders before He left. He said, "But that which ye have already hold fast till I come." **Revelation 2:25**

Are you holding and maintaining your post until He comes? As Christians, we are to work for the Lord and help support Christ's ministry through our tithes and offering. We are to do all we can for our Master till He comes again and relieves us of our earthly post. As we give to the local budget, let us hold fast till He comes.