



## CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE

Have you ever heard the old saying "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer of course is, "One bite at a time!" The Kingdom Initiative may seem like an elephant to you. The key to eating this elephant is that we all take bites. Every contribution matters and will make a difference. Robert Kennedy once said, "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." How exciting it is to be a part of something that is going to have such a positive impact on our community and our world. The task at hand may seem insurmountable, but the way to move a mountain is to begin by carrying away small stones. Please be in prayer about what God wants you to do.

Many people hear a phrase like "Not Equal Giving, but Equal Sacrifice" and say, "If they only knew how little money I have," or "I'm giving all I can; I can't give any more," or "I'm single...going to school...there are too many bills...I can't give much...I'm a single parent...there's no way I can give to the campaign." There may, however, be sources of funds you have overlooked. Each one requires sacrifice, but as King David said, "I will not offer up to the Lord anything that costs me nothing!" Perhaps you can combine one or more of the following creative sources to represent your commitment—or come up with some of your own.

- **BE A COUPON CLIPPER.** Food is probably the largest expense each month. Taking the time and discipline to do this can save \$10 to \$20 per week. Ten dollars each week for three years is \$1,500.
- **SKIP A MEAL EACH WEEK AS A FAMILY.** Skipping one meal per week at an average of \$20 per meal to devote to prayer or fasting is \$3,120 over a three year period.
- **GIVE UP A HABIT.** Easier said than done, but not impossible. For example, an almond latte plus tax each day for three years costs nearly \$2,400!
- **COMMIT YOUR INCOME TAX REFUND.** Commit to give whatever income tax refund you receive each year for the next three years to the Lord.
- **PUT OFF A MAJOR PURCHASE.** Put off a major discretionary purchase and redirect the money to the Kingdom Initiative.
- **MODIFY YOUR VACATION PLANS.** For one or more of the years, do something close and inexpensive like day hikes, picnics, or take a three day vacation instead of a week and save on the airfare and hotel costs (a potential savings of \$1,000 to \$2,000). Then give what you have saved to the Kingdom Initiative.
- **DRINK WATER.** Make a commitment to drink only water at a restaurant. One person could save \$5 per week or more. That's a minimum of \$780 just for drinking water!
- **WATCH MOVIES AT HOME.** Wait for a movie to come out on video instead of seeing it at the theater. One trip to the movie theater can easily cost over \$20 with popcorn and candy for two people! If you cut out two movies per month, that's almost \$1,500 over the three years.
- **GIVE UP SOME CABLE CHANNELS.** Cut back to basic cable. Basic cable provides channels 1-13 and costs about \$18 per month compared to \$45+ per month for regular cable. Eliminate premium cable channels to save even more.

- **INCREASE by ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK.** This is a great idea for those who have never given or do not see a way to increase current giving. Start by giving one dollar the first week, then two, then three, etc., increasing by one dollar every week and praying all along that the Lord would show you a way to add that additional dollar the next week. If you were to keep this up for three years, you would give \$12,000.
- **COMMIT ANTICIPATED SALARY INCREASES.** Commit an estimated raise in salary for the next three years.
- **USE YOUR BUSINESS TO RAISE FUNDS.** Many church members are business owners and have decided to use their businesses to raise funds for the Kingdom Initiative. Examples include the following: every Tuesday's profits are going toward Kingdom Initiative; money from every fifth yard mowed will go toward Kingdom Initiative; the profit from purchases made by church members will go toward Kingdom Initiative. If you have a business and would like to do something creative to raise funds for the Kingdom Initiative, please contact the church office and make known what your business will be doing. Our church will be producing a list of these committed businesses so that we all may participate in their efforts.

These are just a few ideas that can turn a \$1,500 commitment into \$3,000, a \$3,000 commitment into \$5,000, or an \$8,000 commitment into \$10,000. A little creative thinking and a few lifestyle adjustments can go a long way toward raising funds and advancing the Kingdom.