

Dear Faith Family,

In my spare time, I have the pleasure of serving two other ministry non-profits and am closely linked with a few others. Over the last three years, all have been experiencing declining revenue/income. I say that first because it demonstrates our church is not isolated in this phenomenon.

At the conclusion of the first quarter of our fiscal year, we are just under \$10k in the red. And because the summer months tend to be lower income months, it seems that a clearly stated current picture would be helpful. The \$10k deficit in Q1 projects out to a \$40k deficit for the entire year if the trend continues.

I had a conversation yesterday with my insurance agent regarding coverage on our home that revealed how frightened I think many are with the state of the economy, and how deeply affected they are with continued high inflation.

We hadn't updated our policy in at least 20 years, and we wanted to make sure we were covered against loss in case of fire. The insurance company, we were told, had a new program. Because we had multiple lines of coverage (car, home, etc), we automatically qualified for a 20% increase in coverage at no cost. However, for \$35, we could increase that to 50%.

I asked if it was \$35 per month, and was told no, it was \$35 per year. What was striking was that she told me most of the policy holders were declining the offer. So, thinking this through, for a cost of less than \$3 per month, the homeowners were declining an additional 30% in coverage!

That tells me folks are watching every single dollar.

So, I want to share two things:

First, at City First, we too, closely watch each dollar and are accountable to the finance committee and church board for all expenditures.

And second, for those who have a heart to give back to God, but are hesitant, look to the scriptures for the promises God has for those who honor him first with their tithes and offerings.

God keeps his promises! He is faithful.

We share these truths not to receive as a church, but because there are blessings for each of us in our faithful giving.

And we do thank you for your faithful giving, even when you are enjoying vacation time this summer.

Praying for you,

Ron Alexander  
Finance & Development Director