

*A* vision like Imagine must rely on our church family making gifts "over and above" their current level of giving.

The best path to increased giving is the spiritual path, where you set your heart on things above.

As a church we cannot expect equal giving from one another but we should expect equal sacrifice. Simply put, we may have to give up something important in our lives, for something more important.

In 2 Samuel 24 King David declared, "I will not offer to God that which costs me nothing." One way to describe this is "Lifestyle Stewardship," a term used to describe a level of giving that affects one's living. The challenge is to find ways to boldly and prayerfully let your giving touch your living. King David knew that the gift that would touch the heart of God would first touch the heart of the giver.

## *13 Creative Ways to Give*

### 1. 2008 Tax Credit.

Give all or some of your one time tax credit coming in May this year. This commitment alone for New Lifers, would total over \$500,000.

### 2. Be a coupon clipper!

Set aside your savings (or your preferred customer discounts at area grocery stores) as part of your gift.

### 3. Skip a meal each week as a family.

One meal averages \$20 per family. Devote the mealtime to prayer and fasting together. Savings over a three-year period could be at least \$3,120.

### 4. Give up a habit.

You really can do it. That daily gourmet coffee is yummy and costs nearly \$3,000 over three years.

### 5. Commit your income tax refund to the Lord for the three-year giving period.

6. Commit your salary raise to the Lord for the next three years.

7. Adjust your vacations.

Try staying closer to home and doing something inexpensive (picnics, tourist in your own town, day hikes, camping, vacation in your own home, four days instead of a week). The savings in gas or airfare alone could easily be \$2,000 to \$4,000.

8. Make a commitment to drink only water when dining out.

At \$5+ a week, one person could easily save \$260 a year, \$1,040 for a family of 4.

9. Wait for a movie to come out on video instead of seeing it at the theater.

One trip to the movies can cost \$30 for two with popcorn and candy. Cutting out two movies a month, is over \$2,000 in three years.

10. Put off a discretionary major purchase and redirect the money to the campaign.

11. Change to basic cable from regular cable.

Basic cable is about \$25 per month compared to \$50+ per month for regular cable. Cutting out other premium channels can also save another \$12-25 per month.

12. Continue a bill payment.

If you will pay off a school or car loan in the next few months, commit to keep paying the bill by directing the money to the building campaign after your debt is paid off. A \$150 payment per month is \$5,400 over three years.

13. Commit to a dollar increase per week.

If you have never given or do not see a way to increase your current giving, this may be the plan for you. Start by giving one dollar extra the first week, then two, etc. Keep praying along the way that God will show you a way to go up one dollar the next week. Over three years, you could give as much as \$12,000 - one dollar at a time.