

**A potential checklist you may wish to use with your church?**

*Tick the answers that seem to fit your motives best.*

I give to the church what I guess I can afford   
 I give in faith, thoughtfully & realistically

*I last worked out my regular giving to the church...*

within the last twelve months   
 two or three years ago   
 I have never sat down and worked it out

I give to the church through a planned giving scheme (that could be envelopes, standing order, CAF cheque etc.)

*When was Christian giving preached about in your church?*

within the last twelve months   
 two or three years ago   
 I cannot remember hearing such a sermon

*Giving 5% of my weekly income would amount to £.....*

I already give 10% in Christian giving   
 I meet that 5% figure cheerfully   
 I promise to grow to that amount   
 You cannot be serious! Who? Me?

**Some sound bites from the m:power stewardship conference held in York earlier this year...**

- Fundraising isn't about filling a pail; it's about lighting a fire!
- We're on a journey—we're human becomings not human beings.
- Look after the goose - not the golden egg!
- No one got milk by sending a letter to a cow!
- If we feel comfortable, we're probably not giving enough.
- God looks at what you keep, not at what you give.
- The tithe was a floor and not a ceiling—grace takes us further
- We buy things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't like.
- Giving is more than giving things we can do without.

***Why give more to the church?***

**Is your church currently considering a programme of annual renewal? If it is then feel free to use the five reasons below to help your congregation as they consider their level of giving.**

- 1.Costs for everything from heating to lighting, and power to clergy stipends and expenses of office continue to increase. ("*...first sit down and count the cost*"...Luke 14:28b)
- 2.People—locally, nationally, and overseas—have greater needs and rely on greater support. ("*To do good, and distribute forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased*"...Hebrews 13:16)
- 3.God wants His people to grow in His grace of generosity. ("*...you will glorify God...by the generosity of your contribution...*"...2 Corinthians 9:13b)
- 4.Giving and family spending need to keep in step, so as one goes up (or down) so does the other. ("*...this poor widow has put in more...she out of her poverty put in all the living she had.*"...Luke 21:3f)
- 5.Doing the "same" as last year is actually doing less, because the real value of a gift declines as prices go up... ("*Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required...*" ...Luke 12:48b)

*Make sure your support is in line with the times.*

*Review and renew your financial commitment for God's work through your church now.*

*Thank you so much*

***"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work." 2. Corinthians 9:8***

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