



Doing Ministry Without Money

November 5, 2011

Dayton Daily News

October 30, 2011

Church members giving less, report says

Per-member giving in Protestant churches fell in 2008 and 2009.

"The church collection basket may be a little lighter at some area parishes, as per-member giving has dropped to its lowest level in more than 40 years according to a new report."

2009 - 2.38%

1968 - 3.11%

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What is the church's answer?

"Churches are keeping a greater share of those donations for their own needs and spending less on beyond-the-church charities, the report said."

"The data indicates that churches are turning inward and spending more on facilities and programs that attract people. 'The Church becomes a retreat rather than a base from which to go out and change the world,' she said."

What are the results?

“According to the latest Barna study, Christians in the U.S. are less biblically literate, more fearful about sharing their faith and less influential in society than ever before.”

- Every year more than 4000 churches close their doors compared to just over 1000 new church starts!
- Every year, 2.7 million church members fall into inactivity.
- The United States now ranks third (3rd) following China and India in the number of people who are not professing Christians.
- Half of all churches in the U.S. did not add any new members to their ranks in the last two years.

The Present Future Church

by Reggie McNeal

- Move from Church Growth to Kingdom Growth
 - Everyone who wants to be in Church, is in church
 - The model of coming back when they have children is not working
 - Have to go where they are
 - **Move back to the model of Kingdom Growth in Acts of the Apostles where we invest in our community so that it may be transformed and people see the value of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**

Scripture

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

-Acts 1:8

“Therefore GO and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

-Matthew 28:19

Scripture

“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’”

-John 20:21

“You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should Go & bring forth fruit.”

-John 15:15

Scripture

"Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples."

-1 Chronicles 16:23-24

"He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

-Galatians 3:4

Scripture

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

-Matthew 25:37-40

Doing Ministry w/o Money

“The Church must be in a constant state of reformation”

- Martin Luther

- Reform and Reprioritize your ministries and your budgets
- Don't start with the people, start with the church
- Show people mission is a priority for your church

Doing Ministry w/o Money

- Acts of Mercy



- Supporting Events



- Hands-on Outreach Events



- Intentional Evangelistic Opportunities

Doing Ministry w/o Money

◉ **Acts of Mercy**

- ◉ Ringing bells for the Salvation Army
- ◉ Serving at the soup kitchen
- ◉ Volunteering to sort at the local food pantry or thrift store
- ◉ Working at a Habitat for Humanity site
- ◉ Clothing and book donation bins

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o **Supporting Events**

- o Angel Tree at Christmas
- o Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry
- o Relay for Life and/or Crop Walk Team
- o Souper Bowl of Caring
- o Canned food, clothing, diapers, etc. drive
- o Selling Fairly Traded Coffee
- o Dessert Auction

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◉ Hands-on Outreach Events

- ◉ Day of Caring through United Way
- ◉ Christmas caroling (not just to members)
- ◉ Free clothing giveaway or \$.25 rummage sale
- ◉ Free car care clinic and car wash
- ◉ Host a 5k
- ◉ Chili cook-off for charity
- ◉ Mulch the local park

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◉ **Evangelistic Opportunities**

- ◉ VBS at local park or Section 8 housing complex
- ◉ Upward Sports Ministries
- ◉ Helping Hands Ministry
- ◉ “Rake ‘n Run”
- ◉ Halloween children’s event
- ◉ Lead worship or Bible Study at a nursing home

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o **Celebrate What You Do**

- o “Mission” bulletin board
- o Temple Talks
- o Volunteer Sunday
- o Make a congregational video to give to visitors

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o **Remember – It is a Process**

- o Do not get discouraged when people don't flock to your church after the first event
- o It is not about "your church," it is about God's kingdom
- o Transform the heart of your congregation and get them excited about what you are doing, and they will begin to do more evangelism.