

7 Proven ways churches of all sizes have increased offerings

By Brian Kluth (www.kluth.org)

#1 - Generosity devotional and/or financial sermon series

Hundreds of churches are successfully using the "[40 Day Spiritual Journey to a More Generous Life](#)" Bible devotional to inspire greater generosity and increase giving. Using this in my own church, we our giving increase an amazing 41% in the weeks following sending the devotional to every family in our church and my preaching a financial sermon series! Pastor John Maxwell has taught thousands of pastors Biblical stewardship principles at Pastors' conferences he puts on. He says teaching an annual 4-message stewardship series is the single most important thing he does every year to help people grow in their spiritual and financial life. He has done this every year for 20 years. Only one of the four messages he gives specifically deals with giving money. Over the years, some of the month-long themes included: "God's Challenge, Our Choice," "Taking the Stew Out of Stewardship," "The ABC's of Stewardship," and "It's a Matter of Trust." Be sure to try and use real-life illustrations in your sermons. Tell people how the Lord has creatively provided for you and/or others you know who faithfully honored the Lord in their giving. When you teach from the head it goes to the head, but when you teach from a life it goes to a life. For resources that will help you put together financial or generosity sermons, go to: www.MAXIMUMgenerosity.org.

#2 - Outside Teaching Resources That Will Teach Christians How To Become More Generous and Better Manage Their Finances

Use teaching materials from one of the following sources:

- [MAXIMUM Generosity's "40 Days to a More Generous Life" Bible Devotional](#)
- ["Financial Funnies" Cartoons](#) to cause people to chuckle, think and become more generous.
- [Crown Financial Ministries](#)
- [Willow Creek Association's Good Sense Ministry](#)
- Check with your denomination to see what they have to offer or would recommend.
- Download the following National Report: "45 Best Practices to Inspire Generosity and Increase Giving": <http://www.kluth.org/1NatlReport.htm>

These excellent materials for small group financial Bible studies, Sunday school classes, stewardship campaigns, or seminars will help take people in your congregation to a whole new level of financial peace and Biblical generosity.

#3 - Personal Giving Testimonies

Before the offering is collected, have an individual or a couple give a personal testimony about how the Lord has taught them to give 10% or more to the Lord's work as their first and highest financial priority. Have them also briefly explain how

they've felt about this decision and how the Lord has blessed them for their obedience. Some churches with video equipment have done these as taped interviews and then played them during the service. Use weekly questions from the www.GenerousLife.info devotional to help people develop their generosity story/testimony.

#4 - Designated Giving

Allow people to give designated "over-and-above-regular-gifts" to a building project, mission's offering or annual faith promise, renovations, or special needs. These usually do not have a negative impact on regular giving.

#5 - 90-Day Tithing Challenge

There is only one place in all of Scripture that God invites us to "test Him" and that is in the giving of tithes and offerings. When John Maxwell was still pastoring, once a year, he would issue a 90-Day tithing challenge and promise to return any funds given during this period if people did not experience God's help in their financial lives. Following the month-long stewardship preaching series, his church would ask regular givers to turn in a card saying they will tithe the next year. He would ask non-tithers and new people to sign a card saying they would begin to tithe. The church offered a full refund to anyone who tithes for 90 days and then regretted this decision. For a sample policy from the MAXIMUM Generosity website, [click here](#).

#6 - All-Church Tithing Sunday

Challenge everyone in advance to bring a full 10% of their income as an offering to church on a designated Sunday. A second option is to have people write on a card (without indicating their name) how much their tithe "would be" if they gave 10% of their annual household income to the church. Tally this information and report the totals back to the congregation. People will be amazed to discover that if they faithfully gave 10% of their income to the Lord's work in their local church, that they could expand the church budget 2-4x's for missions, staff, regular operations, and building/renovation projects.

#7 - Pre-Offering Bible Verse, Comments And Offertory Prayer By A Church Leader

I attended one church where a church leader or lay person would read an appropriate Scripture verse on finances, stewardship, or giving before the offering, make a few personal comments about why it was meaningful to him, and then pray for the morning offering. Give leaders a copy of Brian Kluth's internet handout (100 verses to encourage generosity) and try this in your own church. For a list of these verses, [click here](#). To order a copy of these verses in weekly PowerPoint slides with attractive photos, [click here](#). Some churches just show the one of the PowerPoint offertory slides just before the offering is taken and they have the person praying for the offering read the verse on the screen and then pray according to what the verse said.

