



Fall will soon be here with its sweet smell of pumpkin spice lattes wafting through the air. Fall is also the time when congregations turn their attention to planning for the next year fiscal year. Our planning often includes some sort of stewardship interpretation or, as it is commonly known, the "Fall Campaign." Is the Fall Campaign highly anticipated? Sadly, for many of us, not so much. So what do you do?

J. Clif Christopher encourages us to reframe how we think about campaigns. He writes, **"Most annual campaigns either subtly or directly make it clear that the important thing is for the budget to get pledged.** A church has a certain set of expenses and those expenses must be met for the church to remain in business. This budget is usually distributed with notations about how much it has increased. The emphasis is generally on the bottom line of the budget. We need X. Giving is emphasized because the receiver, the Church/God, needs to have a certain amount to survive. Depending upon whether the donors are happy with the current church or not the goal will be reached or not. Seldom does this type of campaign work for very long and thus a year later, it is repeated. And then the next year and the next year and the next.

What will work, and has proven to work, is the biblical way. This is placing the emphasis on the donor's need to be generous. When generosity takes hold of a person, the next step is truly experiencing what faith and a walk with Christ is all about. As long as money and a love of things are the priority in our life, Christ cannot be. The goal of any stewardship campaign in a church should never be to pledge a budget or raise a certain amount of money. **The goal of it and all things in a church is to help persons grow in their relationship with Jesus and thus become a disciple.** Is your campaign doing that?"

What's working in your congregation? How are you developing a culture of generosity that pushes us to think beyond line item budgets to embodying the kingdom of God?

The work is hard. The work is ongoing. The work is rewarding. The Stewardship Team is available for your questions or concerns. Don't hesitate to reach out!

