Growing Faithfulness in the Local Church
Factors conducive to financial partnership

Ariel Barbe
Is my Contribution Important?

Mcintosh and Arn, *What Every Pastor Should Know*
1#Growing Spirituality
Spirituality and Liberality

“Religiously affiliated individuals are more than two times more generous with their financial contributions on average than those without a religious affiliation.”

Lake Institute and the Giving USA Foundation™
2017: Study on American Generosity and Religious Affiliation
Jesus’ Financial Partners

“These women were helping to support them out of their own means.” (Luke 8:3b)
Jesus’ Financial Partners

“Uparchonton”

Financial means including possessions and solid assets of a certain value.
Experiential and Relational

- They have been healed or delivered by Jesus.

- They were with Jesus
Partnership and Faithfulness

Faithfulness in partnering in God’s mission prepares for faithfulness in time of crisis.
2# Deconstruction of Attitudes towards Money
Common Attitudes Toward Money

- Money as status
- Money as freedom
- Money as security
- Money as an exchange for affection
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Deconstruction</th>
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<tr>
<td>Money as status</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Our identity is in our affiliation to God</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Real independence is in Christ</strong></td>
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<td><strong>God’s protection is foremost</strong></td>
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<td><strong>You are unconditionally love</strong></td>
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3#Empowering Partners
Obstacle to Empowerment

Empowerment versus filling the church
“Have the courage and commitment to pursue both health and growth. This dedication needs to be passed down from the top leadership to the local pastor, lay leaders, and members.”

Obstacle to Empowerment

- Empowerment versus filling the church.

- Reluctance to address financial matters.
Poor Money Management Imperils Partnership

Many do not remember the cause of God, and carelessly expend money in holiday amusements, in dress and folly, and when there is a call made for the advancement of the work in home and foreign missions, they have nothing to give, or even have overdrawn their account.

E. G. White, Review and Herald, Dec. 19, 1893
Many lack wise management and economy. They do not weigh matters well, and move cautiously. Such should not trust to their own poor judgment, but should counsel with their brethren who have experience.

E. G. White, *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 224
Financial Counseling

- Use the hermit crab strategy. (I’m Undercover)
- Prioritize proximity interventions.
4#Building Trust
Trust: All-Time-Low

42 percent of Americans now have a “great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in organized religion and the church.

Gallup poll, 2015
“Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.”

(1 Corinthians 16: 3,4)
Trust Changes Everything

“A significant increase in the public transparency, accountability, and institutionalized credibility of the many religious and charitable causes and organizations to which American Christians might consider giving money would have the real effect over time of considerably increasing the amount of money they give.”

C. Smith and M. Emerson, Passing the Plate, p. 143
The Equation of Trust

Trustworthiness = \[
\frac{C + R + I}{S}
\]

C = Credibility
R = Reliability
I = Intimacy
S = Self-orientation

Galford and Drapeau, *The Trusted Leader*
Growing Trust

- Quality and relevant services.
- Quality relationship between members and church leadership.
- Adequate internal control system
Factors Conducive to Financial Partnership

- Growing spirituality
- Deconstruction of attitudes towards money
- Empowering partners
- Building Trust
Invest in Growing Confidence

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Matthew 6:21 NIV)
Recommendations

The Church should assess and carefully follow the spiritual financial giving pattern of members.

Some designated leaders at the local church should know the identity of those struggling to be spiritual financial partners and work closely with them through visitations.

The local church should put in place actions and initiatives conducive to financial partnership: Growing spirituality, deconstruction of attitudes toward finances, empowering partners and building trust.
2019 Nurture and Retention Summit
Discipling, Nurturing, and Reclaiming