



Capital Campaign *Light*

First Baptist Church, Tallassee

Campaign 3, Issue 3

How To Let God Lead You As You Determine How Much to Pledge

In this campaign we have strongly emphasized giving at God's leading. Whether you are one of those who will be taking a breather and giving an amount in the range of 33 to 40% of your *Growing by Faith* amount, or someone who has recently joined the church and this is your first campaign, how do you know how much to give? How do you recognize God's voice? Here are some practical steps to take. These suggestions will be particularly helpful to those who will be making a sacrificial gift for the first time.

1. Begin by praying every day, "Lord, I want to give the exact amount you lead me to give. If you will lead me, I will obey."

2. Avoid Plain, Cold Calculation. Calculation means I look at what I have, figure out what is "reasonable," and commit to give that amount. You did the arithmetic and that was all there was to it. God is totally left out of it. Unfortunately, an atheist can make a mere human calculation like that!

3. Avoid giving on emotional impulse. I can get "carried away" with myself and impulsively pledge an amount that is neither thought out nor "prayed through." This kind of giving is just as fleshly as giving on the basis of reason.

4. Listen for the still, small voice of God. Look at your budget. Check how much you gave in the *Growing by Faith* campaign. See how much

you've been giving to missions. But then, have an open mind to God and ask Him to speak to you. You will want to tune your heart to hear... and listen – "He that has ears to hear, let him hear." God knows the future. He knows how much you can afford to give and how much He can trust you with. He will lead you specifically. His leadership will come in the form of an impression in your spirit... a clear sense of a definite amount.

5. Give yourself time. Don't rush your decision. When God leads us, there will be a persistent voice deep within that tells you what you are supposed to do. The thought will keep recurring. It is not likely that God will speak to you audibly, though it may seem "louder" than that. You may find that the longer you pray "Show me how," the more ways God will show you. And you may be able to give more than the first amount that popped into your head.

6. Plan a family conference to discuss ways to give.

Ask your family members to be thinking of ideas in advance. Be sure to involve your children, no matter how young they are. This is a great opportunity to teach giving and faith.

7. If you and your spouse have two different amounts in mind, give serious consideration to giving the larger amount.

Important Dates for *Capital Campaign Light*

Sunday, August 17: The active Deacon body will stand before the church and the total amount from the deacons will be announced.

Commitment Sunday: August 24. The enclosed commitment form will be placed in "Joash's Chest" (II Kings 12, II Chronicles 24) as a part of the worship service. You will need the enclosed Commitment Form on that day.

First Day of Giving: The first official Sunday of giving to Capital Campaign Light will be **September 7**. The emphasis will continue for three years (or 36 months or 156 Sundays).

Sunday, August 31: This is the Sunday between the last day of giving to GBF and the first day to CCL. The Deacon body is encouraging members to give as the Lord leads on this day to the Prayer Garden, Landscape, or Bus Garage

A Testimony: Conditioned for Capital Campaign Light

Challenge to Build was a pleasure! Having Been members of other churches, we have participated in several building campaigns and can still see the benefits to God's kingdom. These churches have continued to grow to this day. Just as the churches were there when we came, they are still there for others.

Growing By Faith was a time to re-group, re-evaluate and begin again.

We have survived *Growing By Faith* and are looking to *Capital Campaign Light* where we will continue our *Growing by Faith* commitment. Yes, we have been told we could reduce our giving, but we have chosen to continue on because *Capital Campaign Light* will go directly to principal and not to interest.

— Anonymous

About the Enclosed Commitment Form

On August 24, we will have "Joash's Chest" at the front of the worship center. As part of our worship, we will walk by the chest and place privacy envelopes with our pledge forms in the chest. (You can read about Joash's chest in II Chronicles 24:1-14.) There will not be a commitment visitation, like in the Phase I campaign. The time for testimonies and sermons will be over; this will be the only act of worship connected with the building program. Privacy envelopes will be available in the church foyer on Sunday, August 17 and August 24. Deacons, who will make their advance commitments on August 17, can place a dollar in a privacy envelope and

drop it in the chest as a symbolic gesture of solidarity. If you are not participating, enter a zero on your commitment form, insert it in your privacy envelope, and place it in the chest when we walk by. If you will be out of town on Sunday, you can drop your form by the church office in advance. If you use one of the extra forms we will have available in the foyer, please remember to write your name on the form. As before, part of the commitment will be to promise to call the church office and revise your pledge amount should circumstances make it necessary.

Another Testimony: Our First Capital Campaign

My wife and I had never been involved in capital campaign and when we starting *Challenge to Build* at the Church downtown we were asked to go home and pray about our commitment before signing our pledge card. My wife and I both PRAYED FOR OVER A WEEK. One day she asked me what I felt led to commit. I told her the amount that was on my heart and she said that

was the amount that God had laid on her heart to give. We both signed our card. We both have been so blessed being a part of the new buildings... and witnessing the growth of Gods people... 407 in Sunday school August 3... my own rededication and baptism... professions of faith... My prayer is we continue in Gods will at First Baptist.

Results: *Challenge to Build* (Phase I)

Total Commitment Cards: 191
(We used a visitation, not Joash's Chest)
Number Pledging Some Amount: 147
Number Saying They Would Not Pledge, But Will Give Something: 8
Number Committing to Start Tithing: NA
Final Pledge Amount: \$698,014.82
Total Amount Received: \$804,834.79
Cost of CTB Campaign: \$10,525.41

Results: *Growing by Faith* (Phase II)

Total Commitment Forms: 172
(Members used Joash's Chest; no visitation)
Number Pledging Some Amount: 134
Number Saying They Would Not Pledge, But Will Give Something: 23
Number Committing to Start Tithing: 25
Initial Pledge Amount: \$814,495.20
Total Amount Rec'd With 3 Weeks to Go: \$812,890.42
Cost of GBF Campaign: \$7,829.03

In the Phase I campaign, memorial gifts to the building fund were counted toward *Challenge to Build*. These totaled \$17,688. In the Phase II campaign, "Building Fund Only" gifts were not counted toward *Growing by Faith*. Since September 2005, we have received a total of \$273,336.51 in "Building Fund Only" gifts toward the building fund — above *Growing by Faith*.