

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE BUDGET SYSTEM

Dear Co-worker in Christ,

No doubt you have in time past realized that our methods of raising funds for the work of the Church have been rather unsatisfactory and have wished there could be some improvement made in our methods. Many of us have noted that we have had one drive follow another and then another, until we wondered where the end of it might be.

Our department chairmen have also experienced great difficulty at times in securing funds to carry on their work. One department might have a favorable time in which to make a drive for funds while another would be assigned a time when money was scarce and very little could be raised.

Our people usually know when they have gone about as far as they can in the support of these drives, and when they have given what they can, there is just no more to be had for any department that may be just as important as one that has enough money to operate.

The Budget System

It was because of just such situations, with one department competing with the others and struggling for existence, because of our having one drive after another, that the General Conference last August adopted a general budget system. Not much has been said in our papers or otherwise to explain this system to you, and for this reason we come to you by letter, hoping that you may better understand how we propose to operate under the system adopted at said conference.

Departmental Budgets

Each year the departmental chairmen will be required to submit an estimate of the amount of funds needed to operate his department for the coming year. In this financial report he must show the amount spent during the past year to operate his department, breaking down the expenses showing how the cash was spent, and also how he proposes to spend the amount requested for the ensuing year, whether for salaries, supplies, or whatever the needs may be.

These estimates are submitted to a committee on finance, called a budget committee. This committee goes over the various estimates and examines them to find if the proposed estimates are reasonable and needful to operate to the best advantage of the whole church.

In cases of needful expansion of the work of any department, the department chairman must present his proposition and convince the committee that it is best for the work. After the committee goes over these estimates, they submit their report to the Executive Board, which, in turn, must approve the report before the final budget is adopted and we are ready to start out to raise the funds.

Need For Growth

We must all realize that the Church of God must go forward. There is no such thing as standing still. We either move forward or backward, and if we move forward in this time of inflation, we must realize that it will take more funds, just as it takes more for the family budget from year to year; and as the family grows, it also takes more to keep going, even though there may also be more to help earn the living.

How Will This Operate?

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How Will This Operate?

Of course you have a right to know how we expect to raise the budget, once it is approved. Now, there is where you come in, and we wish to explain to you as fully as is possible in a letter.

The budget committee should have information as to how much cash was raised for these various departments during the past year. They should also know about how much was raised in each district for the support of the work the past year. Upon the basis of such knowledge, we should be able to work out the amount that each district should be able to raise the following year; and if there is to be an increase in the total budget, we should find out about what per cent increase it is. This could be apportioned to each district according to their ability to raise the funds. If, say, we need to raise ten per cent more than last year, it would be easy to estimate how much increase this would be for each district. Each district would be asked to accept this goal to raise. They would then know when this amount was raised or how much they lacked of having their quota raised.

The district could use any method it chose to raise its quota, but it is suggested that they each consider the ability of their several churches in raising the amount and ask each church to accept its part of the goal to raise as they saw fit. In this way we should each know just about what we should raise for the year, and it would no longer be like pouring sand into a rat hole, not knowing when it would be filled up or knowing where the sand was going. The way we have operated in the past reminds us of doing just that. We do not know how much it is going to take to fill it and we lose interest, not knowing how close or how far we are from achieving our task.

It may take some time for this system to be thoroughly understood and get to running smoothly; but it is our hope that every one of you will trust us that we are doing our very best to make the load as easy for you as possible and present it in such a way as to be understood.

Any good business sets up a budget, setting apart a sum for each phase of its work for the year, and they usually can tell just about what they are to accomplish. The work of the Church is the most important business that we can think of, for it deals in a commodity that is priceless -- the souls of men. We should, therefore, undertake to handle this business with great care and integrity.

Special Offerings

It is possible that many will still have a preference as to how their donations are to be spent. To them we would say, go ahead and send in your funds, telling your treasurer just what department you wish to support. Your cash will be used as you direct, but said money will be considered as income for that department and will go to make up the budget for that department without increasing its allotment.

Monthly Reports

In order that the treasurer of the General Conference may be able to make proper distribution of the funds sent in, it will be necessary for us to have a financial report from each and every department at the end of the month showing the amount of their income and the balance needed to make up their monthly allowance for their work. No department will be allowed to spend beyond their allotment without consent of the proper authorities.

Where To Send Funds

This general fund will be made up of the offerings sent in by the local churches and the percentage of tithes sent in by the districts, together with offerings sent in by isolated members and friends. Such offerings should be sent in through the local church treasurer if you have one, or to the state treasurer or the district treasurer if you have no state treasurer. In case you do not know where to send it, you may send it to "The Church of God General Conference, P.O. Box 2370, Denver, Colorado." In the latter case it will be accredited to your district.

The local church usually takes an offering for local expenses, then after that a general offering should be taken for this fund. Without this aid we shall not be able to carry on the work that you have assigned to us.

Receipts: Special Notice To Treasurers

Treasurers should issue receipts on the uniform book provided for this. Disregard all the departmental lines and on one of the lines marked "Misc." write the word "Budget" and enter the amount on this line unless the donor specifically states that it is intended for a certain department.

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Conclusion

In conclusion we wish to thank every one of you who have been so faithful in time past in the support of the work. We hope that our continued efforts will merit your support and that the work started by our fathers will be carried on to a successful conclusion.

May God richly bless all of you, and may His grace be sufficient for you. Amen.

A.E. Lidell, Chairman
Burt F. Marrs
E.A. Straub

The Budget Committee