

The Christmas Debt Trap

In order for the Local Church to prosper in 2007, it is imperative that Christians be aware of and actively avoid the two biggest financial mistakes that occur in the Church at Christmas time. These two common mistakes are repeated each year by Church members putting them behind in their finances even before the subsequent year begins.

As a business-owner of many years, I am well aware that the manner in which a person exits one year, determines how they enter the next year. More debt, less seed sown because of Christmas is NOT the way to enter 2007.

It is time for these behavior choices to end. Feel free to reprint this and get into the hands of your people. Tell your people, it's time to eliminate:

1. The Christmas Debt Trap

In December, 40% of all credit card balances are generated. I am talking balances, not purchases, not merely 40% of all charges but 40% of all carrying balances in only one month! These balances will demand interest payments and create pressure often deep into the next year and beyond. This is the Christmas debt trap.

If not purposely reversed, local Church people in order to impress, satisfy family and friends, will spend exorbitantly on their credit cards, setting up a financial mess for 2007.

The Financial Champions Mindset is To Avoid the Christmas Debt Trap!

Avoid creating stress and pressure to honor the Prince of Peace. Set limits and stay with them. Jesus was born for freedom. It would be tragic to celebrate His coming by positioning your 2007 finances for captivity? The enemy must enjoy watching as people rob their '07 for Christmas presents in '06. Jesus came to set you free - be a Financial Champion--take control of your '07 in December '06.

2. The Christmas "Under" Giving Trap

Giving has historically decreased during the month of December. Funds that should be invested into God's house are going to unnecessary holiday expenses. How sad that the birth of Jesus is celebrated by less going into the Local Church - the very thing He came to build.

The Financial Champions Mindset is To Destroy the Christmas Under Giving Trap

Christmas is Jesus' birthday, therefore, it is only appropriate that the biggest gifts go to Him. It would actually be insulting to the Savior that in honor of His coming... less is given to the local church. The local church is God's established agency to fulfill His purpose on the Earth: The only entity over which the enemy shall never prevail.

Every Financial Champion knows to enter '07 positioned for breakthrough... Sow your biggest and best seed at Christmas into the Local Church. This Christmas let's make sure the Church is aware of and avoiding these two treacherous traps. One creates more interest payments, the other results in less seed sown for '07 harvest - a financially bad combo! The best way for the Church to get off to a prosperous start for '07 is to do the correct actions at the end of 2006...have less debt and more seed sown as we enter 2007.

Robert J. Ricci MBA,CPA,CFP
President/Founder
Financial Champions International