

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE BY BECOMING EXCELLENT IN GIVING: SHORT-TERM FIXES AND LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

Short Term Fixes Or How to immediately free up money for The Excelling In Giving Campaign

Personal care – extend the length of time between hair cuts (for males) or getting your hair and nails done (for females); instead cut your own or each others' hair; do your own or each others' hair and nails. Tattoos and piercings are considered personal care, too.

Cut back on the number of times you eat out. Start packing a lunch for work. Always carry snacks with you (this can help save a lot of money when you have young kids).

If you must eat out... don't super size it. Divide one meal between 2 – 3 kids. Avoid vending machines – you're paying more for convenience

Don't buy/rent movies or join music and video clubs; instead check them out of the library for free or go to the dollar movie theater. Don't buy food at movie theaters; eat before going or take your own snacks and beverage.

Don't buy books, subscribe to or buy newspapers and magazines; instead check them out of the library for free/read them at the library; or divide the cost among family & friends.

Reduce the amount of time and money spent on hobbies, like bowling, golfing, clubbing, and gambling, which includes playing the lottery and buying lottery tickets.

Don't pay for expensive gym memberships – exercise at home by checking out workout videos for free from the library. Use "home made" equipment; walk or bike with a friend.

Lattes (Starbucks) are not your friend – they're expensive, addictive and high in calories.

Make a list, check it twice, then stick to it –ALWAYS make a shopping list before going shopping and ONLY get what's on it.

Track your spending to see where your money goes. Write out a **monthly budget** and follow it – pay bills 1st, tithes 2nd, savings 3rd, then spend what's left on your wants.

Clip grocery coupons, take advantage of weekly sales, shop at discount stores or buy the generic brand at your usual store. Also use coupons for restaurants, goods and services.

Conserve gas and save on car expenses by car pooling to church, work, grocery store, to run errands. Plan errands and outings so you're not making unnecessary trips to the same vicinity. Keep new drivers from going "joy riding" – too much gas is used for this.

Give your children an allowance - no matter the amount - and teach them how to save some, spend some, and give some away (to the church, for example).

Long Term Solutions Or How to Get on a budget/Cut your budget to have money for tithing (and other things)

Change cell phone plans and eliminate unnecessary features like call waiting, call forwarding, etc.

Get back to basics - basic cable, that is (most of us don't watch more than a few channels.)

Get unplugged – unplug small appliances (lamps, etc.) when not in use.

Bundle up – reduce your heating bill by deciding as a family to keep the heat at a lower temperature during the day, and to keep warm by wearing sweaters or “Slankets” and “Snuggies” around the house.

Snowballing can be fun for adults, too – snowball your debt by paying off smaller bills first, then use the extra money to pay off the next smallest bill, and so on, working your way up to your highest bill. Don’t use the extra money to buy unnecessary stuff. When the highest bill is paid off, use the money for an emergency/rainy day fund, for savings, or investing.

Raise your car insurance premiums; for example go from a \$250 deductible to a \$500 deductible; your monthly premium will be smaller this way.

Reduce alcohol and tobacco use – you’ll be surprised at how much money you’ll save.

Credit cards... Always leave home without them! Use it only when you know you can pay the balance in full every month. This will improve your credit score.

Cash is king! - try to always pay cash for everything.

Just say No... to impulse/unplanned spending; to going shopping on a whim or when friends invite you to go with them; to mindlessly buying stuff you don’t need. Learn to enjoy ‘window shopping’.

Resist temptation - from advertising, commercials, or trying to keep up with the Jones’s.

Don’t try to give your kids and grandkids a champagne life on a beer budget. Don’t let kids guilt you into spending more than you can afford. Help kids learn the meaning of sacrifice, restraint, saving up for things, and giving rather than always receiving.

Develop multiple streams of income – turn a hobby into a business or start a side business to make extra money. The extra money will come in handy for tithing at church, paying off bills, emergencies/rainy days, and for saving and investing money.

Pastor’s Cutting Plan To Date

Pastor Rick & Pastor Toby went back to basic cable (\$19) from the digital tier one (\$72) and saved \$1200 for two years toward their pledge. They also pledged the difference between their new gas monthly budget bill and the previous one which is worth \$480 over two years. They found a cheaper dental plan of \$27 less a month which is \$648.00 over two years. The monthly money they sent to their aunt who died, will go to the Excellence Campaign in her honor. That’s 1800.00 over two years. They will reduce the amount being paid to pay off their home early by \$200. That’s \$4800 over two years. That’s \$8920 in reduced and shift in spending over two years even before having to come up with extra money. They are considering dropping their home phone and use simply using Magic Jack since they rarely use their home phone. That could be a savings of another \$500. Their goal is to give a minimum of \$10,000 to the campaign.