

Summary

Recognizing the need most churches have for ongoing help in the area of regular operating revenue, The Charis Group offers Stewardship Enhancement Services. With these individualized services, our Stewardship consultants will help your church increase its regular budget offering (revenue), so you can fully fund your missions and ministries. **This document contains actual letters and emails produced for clients that you can use in your ministry to increase “end-of-year” giving.**

Success Story

Last January, the pastor of one of our Stewardship Enhancement clients sent me a note from his business administrator. Here is what the note said:



“WE JUST SAW THE LARGEST AMOUNT EVER GIVEN TO OUR MINISTRY BUDGET FROM THE SUNDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING TO THE END OF THE YEAR WITH AN INCREASE OF 21% OVER THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. AS A RESULT WE ENDED THE YEAR 12% AHEAD OF LAST YEAR”

CROSSCHURCH
SPRINGDALE PINEAPPLE HILLS TAYLORVILLE
America's 57th Largest Church

BEN MAYES
Church Administrator

Samples Included

To bring about this level of stewardship success at Cross Church, we built a detailed plan designed to strategically bring about an increase in giving. We utilized well-crafted, positive messaging that lovingly motivated the congregation to give freely and generously.

In this document, you won't find a copy of the detailed plan that we built for Cross Church, but you will find a set of really useful documents to help you implement your year-end campaign. However, time is running out to make these templates work for you. In fact, if you haven't started implementing your year-end plan already, **YOU MUST GET STARTED TODAY!**

For more details about creating your plan, you can go [here](#).

Let's Get Started!

While the plan we developed for Cross Church was a great success and caused a record-breaking year for them, you don't need that level of detail to see a nice bump in your giving. If you use the samples in this document, you, too, will see your giving increase!

Samples

December 2, 2013

«Label»
«Address1»
«Address2»
«City», «State» «ZIP»

Dear «Salutation»,

What an amazing last few weeks! The last few weeks of celebrating our FORTY campaign have been such a blessing. Listening to all the stories of transformation and life change has inspired me for the next FORTY! I am grateful to everyone who made a commitment and who gave. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

God has more in store for South Biscayne! More than ever I am convinced that our greatest days are ahead of us. Our area has grown so much and the need for the unique message we bring is needed now more than ever. We can't stop now!

The South Biscayne family has been so generous down through the years. We are experiencing the blessing of those that were faithful in the past and you who give now. As we approach the end of this year I am asking you to give a special gift to South Biscayne.

In the next few weeks Americans will spend millions of dollars on presents. Most of those toys and ties will be discarded before the New Year begins. A gift to South Biscayne is never wasted, never discarded and always lasts for an eternity. No other gift you give this year has that same meaning and impact. So I am encouraging you to give a generous year end gift so that we can fully fund all our missions and ministry initiatives.

At South Biscayne we make it easy for you to give. Enclosed in this letter is an envelope that you can put your gift in and mail back to the church today.

Giving online gets your gift that much quicker to missions and ministry. One of the easiest ways to give is through our online site at <https://secure-q.net/donations/sbiscayne/350>

Give as God leads and help us continue to reach South Biscayne and beyond for Jesus!

Blessings!!

Dr. John Cross

PS. Remember your gifts are tax deductible but they must be postmarked by December 31st or in our office by 5 PM that day! It is good stewardship to take charitable deductions for your tax write offs!!

November 21, 2013

Dear First Church family,

It has been an extraordinary year. Last Spring, we deepened our ability to hear God's voice through our Lenten focus on *Whispers Worth Following*. In June, our Kingdom Rock Vacation Bible School was our biggest yet with over 330 kids and 140 volunteers. In August, we hosted our first Global Leadership Summit to develop Christian leaders in every area of life. In September, we kicked off a family ministries approach that is strengthening parents' roll in growing the faith of their children. By God's grace, we are riding a wave of spiritual momentum in nearly every area of our ministry!



VBS kids gave over 1,200 pairs of shoes in June.

As 2013 draws to a close, we hope to see God unleash unprecedented amounts of compassion in two life-changing ways. The first is through our daily ministry at First United Methodist. Thank you for your good and faithful giving this year. A generous December will help us fulfill the commitments we have made to local and global mission work. Your extra gift to First UMC will help us equip young single moms to care for their children, put Bibles in the hands of men and women through our prison ministry, minister to the needs of the homeless in our community, enable us to respond quickly to natural disasters, and educate children and youth in Liberia, to name a few.

Recent statistics reveal there are 1.9 million people in Illinois that are "food insecure"—they don't know when they will receive their next nutritious meal. So the second way to unleash unprecedented compassion is through our special Christmas offering for those who are hungry in central Illinois. This year we are partnering with Kumler Neighborhood Ministries in Springfield and other area agencies to provide a mountain of food for the hungry in our midst. We can do this by bringing non-perishable canned food to church each week leading up to Christmas. We can also give a special offering through the enclosed envelope. Kumler and other non-profit agencies in our area can purchase food for 19 cents a pound to be given to those in need.



We have an incredible opportunity to touch so many lives in the name of the Christ Child this year. As always, we are amazed by your faithfulness and look forward to celebrating the gift of God's son with you this Christmas. Thanks so much for your support!

A few of the hundreds of Haitian children receiving shoes from our VBS kids.

Joy to the World,



Dr. Roger Ross



Dr. Bob Swickard



Rev. Mike Whitaker

P.S. If you would like to donate online, you can do so at www.springfieldfirst.org.

The following letter was sent out to small business owners in the congregation.

Dear Business Leader,

One thing that has made our country great is the greatness of our business model. Too often Americans overlook the crucial role business plays in our country. I believe that as goes our businesses go so goes the economic engine of our country. Throughout the last one hundred or so years our nation has been called upon to help the rest of the world. A great driver in our ability to do this is the strong business background of our nation.

As your pastor I want to tell you that I regularly pray for the success of your business. I pray for God's blessing upon you and your endeavors. As goes business of America, so goes America and with it the potential employment of millions of Americans many who live right here in our area.

The same can be said for the financial stability of our church. Without businesses thriving we could not accomplish what God has charge us with. So, as we approach the end of the year I wanted you to know my heart and passion for your success.

The Bible says, "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." I believe that God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. As God blesses your business it gives you an opportunity to pass along that blessing. Therefore I am asking you to consider giving a gift through your business to the work we do here at First Baptist.

Consider all that we accomplish for the Lord. This year we have seen...

- List something positive.
- List another key mission or ministry fact.
- Give one more success story like VBS or mission trips.

All this is possible because of the generosity of our members like you. Your faithful giving has a positive impact upon our region and literally around the world.

A year end gift through your company can accomplish two things for you. **First**, it is a tax write off that will help you come March when you file your business taxes. While we as Christian don't give only for a write off, the fact that our government gives us that option allows you to be a wise steward of God's resources.

Secondly, and most importantly a year end gift will allow your business to be a part of our churches worldwide mission outreach. I believe it will be honored by God with further blessings upon your business. So, as you start your yearend planning now please consider a gift to First Baptist. Your gift will go towards furthering the Gospel not only in the Rock Hill area but around the world!

Thanks for considering this request and please let me know how I might specifically pray for your business.

Sincerely,

Bro. Steve

PS. Please use the enclosed envelope to send back any gift you feel your business can give. Also fill out the enclosed prayer sheet with your business prayer needs for me to personally pray over through this next year. I promise to lift those needs up to the Lord!



Dear FBC Family,

What an amazing year we have seen at First Baptist! While it is hard to believe that it is almost over we are none the less closing in on the last days. However at FBC we are not resting but ramping up not only for a great holiday season but also a great start to an even more amazing New Year.

Yet before we turn the page on our calendars to 2014 let me share with you some of the highlights from this past year. God blessed FBC with...

- List the number of baptisms
- List attendance at VBS
- List any mission trips or other significant mission initiatives,
- List any other accomplishments.

All of the above was made possible by your faithful gifts and service! Let me simply say, Thank you! To God be the glory for the great things He has done and continues to do.

We are not done yet and we need your faithful year end gifts to set the stage for starting 2014 well. As excited as I am about what we saw God do in 2013 I am even more excited about the coming year. However to accomplish all that we feel God is leading us to do we need to end the year well. Your end of year gift will position us for an effective first quarter of missions and ministry in 2014.

In 2014 we have set the following targets for missions and ministry...

- List something coming up in the 1st quarter.
- List a 1st quarter need.
- List another key reason to give now so that 2014 has the best chance for success.

A gift now at the end of the year over and above your normal gift will help us realize all that we believe God has in store for us. You have been faithful in the past and I know you will respond well to this plea. Please pray now about what God would have you give.

Our goal is to make giving to FBC easier than ever! Enclosed in this letter you will find a self addressed envelope that you can use to either mail back your yearend gift or bring it with you next Sunday.

One of the easiest ways to give is through our online giving. You can simply go to our webpage to give at <https://www.168tickets.com/donate.php?venueID=188> Use whatever method or means works best for you but help us fully fund all that God has laid upon our hearts to accomplish!

Blessings,

Bro. Steve

PS. Watch our Social Media in the next few weeks as we highlight various ministry and mission initiatives. This is a great way to introduce friends and neighbors to FBC and all the amazing things we are doing here!

Thank you letter for First Time Giver Packet

Dear

According to our records your recent gift to First Baptist Church may have been your first gift. I wanted to take the time to thank you for your generosity. Your gift allows us to fulfill our mission. We are a Family of Faith passionately committed to following Jesus. So thank you for helping us accomplish our mission.

I also wanted to write and let you know that we take seriously all gifts given to our church. You can be assured that your gift is used to fund the many missions and ministry endeavors of our church. I have included in this packet a document that outlines what we do with the funds that we receive. First Baptist Church maintains the highest standards of integrity when it comes to the tithes and offerings of our members and attendees. You will be receiving quarterly and year end giving statements of all your gifts to First Baptist Church.

You will also find in this packet information about how you can set up recurring giving with Bank Draft Authorization. Simply fill out the form enclosed and put it in the envelope provided and drop it by our offices or in the offering plate this Sunday. You will find that this process makes giving easier and more effective. You will find a variety of other ways to give to First Baptist Church from our online giving to the regular Sunday offering. We want to provide you with a way that best fits your needs. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our offices at 803-327-7181.

Your gifts to First Baptist Church do make a difference. Here is an example of the impact we are making...

Write and insert a sample story here!

So again thank you for your gift and for considering further gifts to First Baptist Church. We believe there are thousands of other stories yet to be told and your faithfulness will help us see them become a reality. May God bless you!

Sincerely,

Pastor Steve Hogg

PS. I have included a special CD of a sermon that you might find helpful.

Email sample to online givers

To: First Time Givers

From: Dr. Ronnie Floyd

Subject: Thank you for your gift!

Hi Mark,

I want to thank you for your financial gift to **Cross Church** this past week. According to our records, this was the first time you have given online. I hope you found our online giving simple and easy to use.

We appreciate your gift for helping support what we are doing here at **Cross Church**. Not only does your gift honor God but it allows us to fulfill our mission statement of *Reaching Northwest Arkansas, America and the World for Jesus Christ*. We believe a gift to **Cross Church** is a gift that keeps on giving.

I wanted to let you know that as with all gifts your online gift is 100% tax deductible. We regularly send out quarterly giving statements as well as an end of year statement each January for your tax records. If you have any questions about your giving record you can contact our church financial office at 479-751-4523 and ask for **insert contact person**. You can also email her at staff@CrossChurch.com

We believe that a big part of being a disciple of Christ is giving to support His Church. As you may know we provide a multitude of different ways in which you can give. Not only can you give a onetime gift by using your debit or credit card but you can also set up a recurring gift as well. Again, this can be set up through your debit or credit card or through an automatic withdrawal. To find out more information about the various ways you can give go to <http://crosschurch.com/give/>

I do want to share with you that one of the best ways you can help support our work here at **Cross Church** is by setting up Bank Draft Authorization. First, automated giving helps you honor God with the First Fruit of your finances. Secondly, auto-debit giving simplifies your life. You never have to worry about bringing the check book to church with you ever again. Finally, auto-debit fees are lower than other fees for online giving thus more of your gift amount actually goes to the church. I believe setting up this plan is a win/win for everyone. You can go here to get the form needed to start the process <http://crosschurch.com/am-site/media/automated-giving-form.pdf>

Recently we showed a video about our summer interns who served at our various campuses. Through story after story these students told how God impacted their lives as a result of serving here. Jonathan Inabnit says at the conclusion of that video, "Just think you had a part in this and it all starts with your financial support to **Cross Church**." So once again, thank you for your generosity. May God bless you!

Sincerely,

Bro. Ronnie

PS. If you would like to know how to better manage your finances we offer classes designed to help you in this area. For more information go to <http://crosschurch.com/groups/financial-peace-university--fay/39/>

Inserts for print documents

Christmas Gifts

I praise God for the gift this very day and the gift of His Son Jesus Christ that we celebrate during this season. I also thank God for a very generous Cross Church – and thank you Church for your giving heart. Church Family, I need you to know that in addition to your routine giving, **year-end gifts are an integral part** of our Ministry Budget support and these year-end gifts help provide for ministry opportunities that might not otherwise be available. Year-end gifts help our Church fulfill our mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Northwest Arkansas, America and the World. The Christmas season is a wonderful time of the year to give to the Lord. We have each been blessed and God's will for each of us is to put Him first in our lives. We do not give to God because He needs it, but giving is the tangible way God has given us to express to Him, "Jesus, You Are #1."

At this time of the year, many of our people ask themselves: **"Have I given to God at least one-tenth of all my income for this year?"** As you join us in asking this, I hope you will answer it honestly before the Lord. In these final weeks of 2011, evaluate and join hundreds of our families in this blessed journey.

During this Christmas season, **I also want to challenge you** to prayerfully consider giving a special year-end gift to help support our Church so that our Church can continue to help meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people of Northwest Arkansas, America and the World.

I praise God for His wonderful blessings and your generous giving. Cross Church, I believe in you and thank you for your continued generosity. Should you need any assistance with donating stock or other assets, please give Liz Tumlinson or I a call in the Business Office at #751-4523.

Year-end Giving & Donating Stock

Praise God for a wonderful time of year and for how He continues to bless the efforts of our Church. Can you believe we have the privilege to be a part of a church that has accomplished these things:

- *We have fed over 36,000 families over the past 20 years through our Blessing Basket Ministry.*
- *We have planted 73 churches since the year 2000 globally.*
- *In this year, we have reached and baptized more people than ever in our history.*
- *In this year, we were recognized for being in the Top 75 fastest growing churches in America.*
- *In this year, we were the leading giver in Arkansas to the Global Mission Ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.*
- *In this year, we have opened up a major Compassion Center, which provides ministry to all kinds of people.*

All of this is possible because of donors like you. Thank you for helping us make a difference in Northwest Arkansas, America, and the World.

As you know, these ministries of our Church are funded primarily through our Ministry Budget and these funds are come from the generous giving of your tithes (10% of all our earnings each year) and offerings above the tithe. **Thank you Church.**

In addition to our routine giving , **year-end gifts are an integral part** of our Ministry Budget and help provide for ministry opportunities that might not otherwise be available and allow our Church to give more to our mission. One creative way to give a special gift is to donate stock directly to the Church. Stocks often increase substantially in value over time. If you have been one of the beneficiaries of this happy event, consider contributing some of your stock rather than cash to the Church. Such gifts usually result in significant benefits for both the contributor and the Church (in addition to God's blessings).

During this Christmas season, **I want to challenge you** to prayerfully consider helping meet the needs of this ministry with a special year-end gift so that our Church can help meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people of Northwest Arkansas, America and the World. Praise God for His wonderful blessings and your generous giving. Should you need any assistance with donating stock or other assets, please give Liz Tumlinson or I a call in the Business Office at #751-4523.

Ben

Bulletin Insert or paragraph

END-OF-THE-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

The tithes and offerings of God's people make all our ministries at **Church Name** possible. Thank you for giving and please remember that to claim a charitable contribution for 2013, contributions must be:

Placed in the offering plate on or before December 29 or
Delivered to the Church Office on or before December 31 or
mailed to the Church Office with a postmark of December 31 or earlier or
Online contributions must be made before midnight December 31st or earlier..

Contributions placed in the offering plate on the first Sunday of January 2014 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2013 (even if the check is back-dated to 2013 or was actually written in 2013). These requirements are set by the IRS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Year End Contribution statements will be mailed out before the last day of January. To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2013 income tax return until you have received the written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Please contact the financial office if you see discrepancies at **List contact person and email and telephone number.**

Email Sample

Subject line: What does 83% mean for the destiny of children?

Dear Assembly Friend,

83%. That is the percentage of all Christians that make their commitment to Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14 according to a study by the International Bible Society. There exists a **window of opportunity** therefore to reach children during these key ages. If they don't accept Christ during those formative years then it becomes increasingly more problematic they ever will. Studies have found that those from age 19 and over have just a 6% probability of becoming Christians.

Our Stronger campaign is all about providing the funds to build the kind of facility that will enhance our ability to reach this key age group for Christ. To date hundreds in our church family have made commitments to this vision. Currently we have over \$3.4 million committed to this project. This initial response while a significant amount leaves us short of where we need to be. By the way you can still make a pledge by going to <http://theassembly.org/pledge/>

I am calling upon the entire Assembly family to help us make up the needed difference with monthly Stronger offerings. These offerings will give everyone in our church an opportunity to invest in the next generation.

Sunday November 3rd is our first Stronger offering! I am asking each of us to prayerfully consider what gift God would have us give on this crucial day. This is the first of many offerings that we believe will position us to reach the next generation for Christ.

You can give now by going to <http://theassembly.org/giving/>

Together I believe we can do this! Let's not expect another church to do what we can and should do. Let's seize this window of opportunity with generous financial support! Our gift will be in the offering on November 3rd I am counting on yours as well.

Stronger,

Pastors Ron and Kelly

Email sample to online givers

To: First Time Givers

From: Dr. John Cross

Subject: Thank you for your gift!

Hi Mark,

I want to thank you for your financial gift to **South Biscayne Church** this past week. According to our records, this was the first time you have given online. I hope you found our online giving simple and easy to use.

We appreciate your gift for helping support what we are doing here at **South Biscayne Church**. Not only does your gift honor God but it allows us to fulfill our purpose is to *Reach Up in Worship, Reach Out in Evangelism and Reach Out in Discipleship*. We believe a gift to **South Biscayne Church** is a gift that keeps on giving.

I wanted to let you know that as with all gifts your online gift is 100% tax deductible. We regularly send out quarterly giving statements as well as an end of year statement each January for your tax records. If you have any questions about your giving record you can contact our church financial office at (941) 426-3817 and ask for Nicole. You can also email us at office@southbiscayne.com

We believe that a big part of being a disciple of Christ is giving to support His Church. As you may know we provide a multitude of different ways in which you can give. Not only can you give a onetime gift by using your debit or credit card but you can also set up a recurring gift as well. Again, this can be set up through your debit or credit card or through an automatic withdrawal. To find out more information about the various ways you can give go to www.southbiscayne.com/#/giving

I do want to share with you that one of the best ways you can help support our work here at **South Biscayne Church** is by setting up Bank Draft Authorization. First, automated giving helps you honor God with the First Fruit of your finances. Secondly, auto-debit giving simplifies your life. You never have to worry about bringing the check book to church with you ever again. Finally, auto-debit fees are lower than other fees for online giving thus more of your gift amount actually goes to the church. I believe setting up this plan is a win/win for everyone. I have attached to this note a form needed to start the process.

However you give I simply wanted you to know that every gift makes an impact. My prayer is that you will continue to believe in what we are doing and keep on giving. We promise to use those gifts wisely to continue to see lives changed. May God bless you!

Sincerely,

John

About Us

The Charis Group Helps Churches Raise More Money.

Over the course of time, if you work with us, we will increase your giving beyond what you could achieve without our help. We have clients who have seen up to a 200% increase in their annual budget giving since working with us. We also have clients saving thousands of dollars in operating waste after taking our advice. ([Click to learn more about our Stewardship Enhancement Services](#))

In addition to helping churches increase giving to their annual budget, each year we help our clients raise millions of dollars in capital stewardship campaigns. ([Click to learn more about our Capital Stewardship Campaign Services](#))

Success Stories



"MARK BROOKS HAS HELPED OUR CHURCH RAISE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN BOTH CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS AND FOR OUR YEARLY BUDGET. HIS COACHING HAS HELPED LIGHTEN MY LOAD AS A PASTOR AND MADE ME MORE EFFECTIVE IN MINISTRY. I AM BLESSED TO NOT ONLY CALL HIM MY STEWARDSHIP COACH BUT ALSO MY FRIEND."



JIMMY WASHINGTON
SENIOR PASTOR



"WE ARE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHARIS GROUP AND FULLY SUPPORT ALL THEIR EFFORTS. THEY ARE NOT ONLY GOOD ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO HELPING US ON OUR OVERALL STRATEGY IN STEWARDSHIP INCREASING OUR GIVING BY 12%."



DR. RONNIE FLOYD
SENIOR PASTOR



"MARK BROOKS HAS BEEN A KEY PARTNER AS WE HAVE GROWN FROM 200 TO 1700. DURING THAT TIME OUR GIVING HAS INCREASED BY OVER 170%. HIS WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT REMAIN INVALUABLE."



SHANE BISHOP
SENIOR PASTOR

HERE'S HOW TO BECOME A FULLY FUNDED CHURCH IN 2014

FREE WEBINAR

