

**February 20, 2021**

### **Local Church Budget**

One of our churches in New York City was looking for an innovative way to help pay off their mortgage. The monthly payments were close to 60% of the local church budget.

“Does anyone have an idea for ways to raise extra money?” the pastor asked. They knew at their current rate of giving, it would be decades before the building could be free of debt.

One member came up with a novel idea. Besides his normal offering, he volunteered every week to donate the money that it would cost him to have one meal at his workplace. The cost was between five to six dollars per meal. He invited others to join him in this pledge.

Around 300 members dedicated the cost of one meal per week for the local church budget. As a result, \$1,500.00 extra funds came into the treasury per week. That meant donations of \$6,000 per month, close to \$78,000 per year, besides the regular offerings.

As the church grew, the giving amounts also grew. Within ten years, this church burned their mortgage and dedicated the church debt-free.

When a church works together and supports the local church budget, wonderful things happen in the name of the Lord.

The Bible is clear. “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7