

**January 2, 2021**

### **Local Church Budget**

A visitor arrived at a church in the middle of winter. He noticed it was cold inside the sanctuary, and everyone wore winter coats and scarves. The visitor found the head elder and asked, "Is your furnace broken?"

"No, the furnace is fine. We just don't have enough money to pay the heating bill."

Startled, the visitor asked, "Doesn't the local church budget handle these issues?"

The elder shook his head.

The visitor requested permission to address the church. He asked the members, "How many of you had heat in your homes today?" Everyone raised their hands.

He continued by saying, "Today, we are in God's church. I believe that God deserves better than what we enjoy in our homes. I will visit again next Sabbath and will donate to the local church budget. How many will join me?"

Most of the congregation raised their hands. He read this passage: "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

The following Sabbath, the visitor returned and led the members in giving to the local budget. The congregation continued to pay for heat throughout the entire winter as they brought their offerings for the church expenses. When we compare the costs in our own home to the needs of the church, we can see the importance of supporting the local budget.