

## PRACTICAL ORGANISATION IMPROVEMENTS

As each year closes comes to a close it is always exciting to see Churches who are closing out in a stronger position than when the year began. Looking back over the past year here are some of the simple and practical decisions that have been implemented by some of our Church and Ministry Boards across the globe, that have added to finishing the year strong.

**Preparing a five year plan**, listing out key budget items such as staff increments, facility improvements or extensions, and capital equipment purchases. The old adage that "if you aim at nothing you are sure to hit it" applies. A 5 year plan helps identify when major cash requirements are expected.

**Saving for Insurances and levy's each month.** Many Churches use an instalment plan to "pay off" the insurance premiums and Church levy's due to their denomination or movement. It has been exciting to see several of our Churches large and small, who transfer the money into a separate account each month as the year progresses so when the large amounts fall due, they have the CASH to pay for it, thereby avoiding unnecessary interest fees.

**Telephone expense controls.** Recently a medium sized Church reported to us they had reduced their monthly phone bill by \$400 per month. How you may ask? They had identified that many eligible staff were not using the full value of the mobile phone cap each month so they asked staff to make all outgoing calls on their mobile, using up the unexpired portion of the capped plan. This meant the fixed line charge per minute stopped ticking. Even if you needed to increase the cap by say \$10 per month, the savings can be significant. In another larger Church, they were able to eliminate three fixed telephone lines.

**Value Add Board members.** Throughout this year many Churches have undergone a change in Board members. It has been exciting to see many Boards now composed of men and women who add value and strength by a diversity of skill set. While there is comfort in having similar thinking people around the Pastor, Proverbs tells us "much wisdom is gained in the counsel of many" Many other great Boardroom and Executive decisions have been made this year, such as interest offset accounts, obtaining beneficial interest returns by using term deposits and the establishment of suitable tax deductible funds that have resulted in the Churches growing stronger financially and managerially. On a personal note I trust you have found this column helpful during the year and a HUGE, thank you to those who have provided feed back over its contents. We look forward to another great year, building the Kingdom together.



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