



## Money Matters

“Now we will have the offering!” or “Now we will take up the collection!” are two phrases children will be used to hearing at Sunday School.

While the offering is an important part of the Sunday School programme, many children have no idea **why** they are putting money in the plate/basket and for **what** purpose the money is used?

It isn't just the children who are **in the dark**, because many teachers and parents don't know what the offering is for. **Do you know** what the offering is for in your Sunday School? If you don't – shouldn't you?

Many parents presume (if they are not told to the contrary), that the offering they give their child, pays for **the running of the Sunday School**. If this is the case, and it **is** in a surprising number of Sunday Schools, serious consideration ought to be given to **discontinuing** the practice. It **cannot** be the best way to run a Sunday School when the children are effectively paying for the very workbooks and pens they are using.

The best way to finance the work of Sunday Schools and Bible Classes is through the **presentation of a budget** to the congregational committee. The Sunday School is after all an integral part of the Christian Education programme of the Church and ought to be funded **directly** and **generously**, leaving the offerings of the children to be directed in ways that enable them to become really **involved** and **enthusiastic**.

A few teachers should not be allowed, almost secretly, to direct the **allocation** of the available money at the end of the year – merely then notifying the children of what has been done in their name.

Determine, with the full involvement of the children, **legitimate objectives** for the offerings – it could be a missionary focus within the PCI, or another mission agency. It could be the Sunday School and Youth Project of PCI.

Whatever the focus – try to involve the children so that they see **'their'** money accumulate, and learn what it is to be **'cheerful givers'** – making sure that parents know that **what goes in goes out!**

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