

HomeTouch

is a weekly ministry of
Orange Coast Church



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, April 13, 2008

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47

TODAY'S THOUGHT: *The sage does not hoard. Having bestowed all he has on others, he has yet more; having given all he has to others, he is richer still.* —Anonymous

One Sunday a few months ago, Pastor Gary Witkop of Community in Christ Lutheran Brethren Church in Arvada, Colorado, had an idea. When the offering was taken, instead of asking people to throw in their contributions, he asked them instead to put their hands in the plate and pull out a fistful of cash!

It wasn't quite like that! They did indeed have a "normal" offering. And it wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision. Witkop and the church leaders discussed the idea carefully. After all, no pastor in his or her right mind is going to say something like that unless there's a catch. Right?

Right! Pastor Witkop added an important proviso: Take some money out of the plate, and give it to someone else. So the plate was passed and people were asked to take out envelopes with \$25 inside.

People were shocked, but the results have been interesting. One person bought an inspirational book to give to a friend whose son is struggling with substance abuse. Another donated the money to a family whose son is autistic. This sort of thing is called a "reverse offering." It's been done before. But it's still unusual.

It's just a reminder that "the widow's mite" can still go a long way. It's also a reminder that the gifts we give, even though small, don't need to be just cash gifts. A card, a letter, a book, or perhaps something we've had for many years but now it's time to pass it along to someone who would value it. There are many ways we can bring a blessing into someone's life just by giving. Think about it.

Prayer: O God, thank You for giving me so much! I can't begin to count it all or add it up! Help me to be more conscious of what I can give, even small things, or in small ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.

