



Practical Ministry
at the Chapel
Summer Preaching Series
Chapel Elders

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Russ Kennedy

Series Introduction

- Purpose
 - The aim of this series will be to explain how we take the Scriptures and turn them into the ministry we do here at the Chapel.
- Objectives
 - To ground the ministry in the Word of God
 - To explain how the ministries we do are derived from the Word
 - To show how we work out doing ministry by wisdom
 - To give each ministry an opportunity to lay out its mission, vision, objectives and goals.

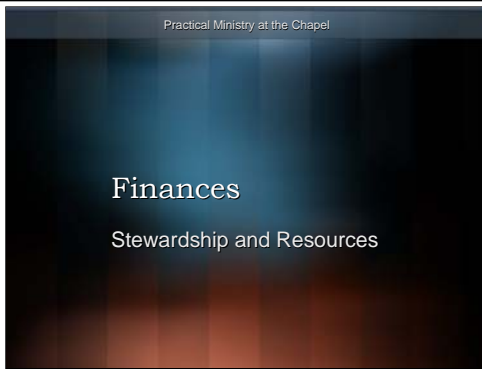
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Finances

Stewardship and Resources

Russ Kennedy

Introduction

- ✦ Dangers
 - ✦ Mishandling of finances incurring judgment
 - ✦ Poor planning jeopardizing ministry
 - ✦ Questionable use undermining confidence
 - ✦ Para-church competition diverting resources
- ✦ Desires
 - ✦ To glorify God in all we do
 - ✦ To wisely plan for future ministry
 - ✦ To use financial resources with integrity
 - ✦ To encourage full participation in giving to the Chapel

P. 10 - 1st Ministry at the Chapel

Introduction

Dangers

- Mishandling of finances incurring judgment
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- Para-church competition diverting resources

Desires

- To glorify God in all we do
- To wisely plan for future ministry
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Chapel Mission Statement

By God's grace
and through His Word,
we will cultivate
in the hearts of God's people
a passion for the supremacy of God
magnified in love for Him
and manifested in love for one another.

Chapel Mission Statement

Here is the Chapel's Mission Statement. All the ministries we do are intended to be shaped by and to serve this mission statement. This statement is how we incarnate the Word of God in our day and place.

By God's grace and through His Word,
we will cultivate in the hearts of God's people
a passion for the supremacy of God
magnified in love for Him
and manifested in love for one another.

So, our finances intentionally seek to: (highlights each portion of the mission statement)

- Function by grace enabling each aspect of our stewardship;
- Follow God's Word in every aspect of our finances;
- Express the heart (beliefs, wants, choices, affections) through our finances;
- Submit to the supremacy of God over our finances;
- Enlarge our love for God by loosening the cords that bind our wallets;
- Enable our love for one another through opportunities to share sacrificially our financial resources.

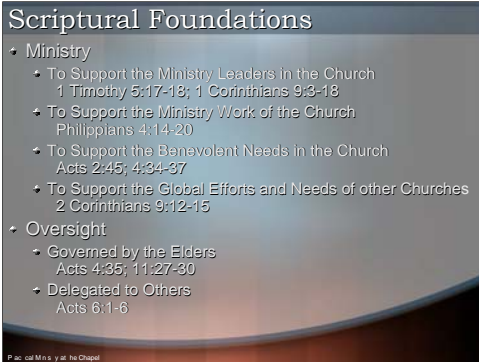
Finances Mission Statement

• We will show the supremacy of Christ in money and stewardship by believing God in an obeying way in our giving, our receiving, our recording, our managing and our using of the resources entrusted to us by God as faithful stewards of the grace of God.

Finances Mission Statement

We have set the following as our Finances Mission Statement:

We will show the supremacy of Christ in money and stewardship by believing God in an obeying way in our giving, our receiving, our recording, our managing and our using of the resources entrusted to us by God as faithful stewards of the grace of God.



Scriptural Foundations

In both the Old Testament and New Testament, there is abundant evidence for the financial support of the work, first in the Temple and now, by local, gathered congregations. Please do not confuse the finances and stewardship of the Temple and Levites with that of the Kings and government. Even in the Old Testament, there was a distinction between giving of tithes to support the ministry of the priesthood and temple and the taxes levied by the kings. The New Testament simply takes that Old Covenant instruction, sees it through the person and work of Christ and then operates on the principles that were the foundation under the OT Laws.

Ministry

The New Testament illustrates several categories of finances in the church.

- To Support the Ministry Leaders in the Church 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Corinthians 9:3-18
The churches were responsible to vocationally support those who labored in preaching and administration. They were to be supported by the offerings taken. The word honor here is in reference to material support given the surrounding context of widows and the OT quote.
- To Support the Ministry Work of the Church Philippians 4:14-20
Paul here alludes to his being provisioned by the church at Philippi. Here is the work of ministry, missions and missionaries, being supported by churches. There is distinct sense of the church soliciting, gathering, and then sending the support to Paul.
- To Support the Benevolent Needs in the Church Acts 2:45; 4:34-37
The offerings being given were being used to support the needy in the church. There was a whole-hearted generosity to give through the church to meet people's needs.
- To Support the Global Efforts and Needs of other Churches 2 Corinthians 9:12-15
Offerings were being taken with global ministry in mind. Here, the church at Jerusalem needed help due to the drought and famine. An offering was covenanted and collected from churches all over the known world and being give to the church at Jerusalem.

Oversight

The New Testament illustrates the general and specific oversight of finances in the church

- Governed by the Elders Acts 4:35; 11:27-30
Consistently, we see contributions being brought to the Apostles/Elders of the church for them to distribute as they saw need. The general principle of eldership governance requires it and the practical examples reinforce it.
- Delegated to Others Acts 6:1-6
But the Apostles/Elders saw the practical need of delegation. So here is an example of appointing others to an assigned task to free the Elders for their primary ministries.



Scriptural Foundations

Ministry
Oversight
Giving

Briefly, the New Testament makes little argument to prove that you ought to give. The Apostles seem to simply assume that from the whole of the Bible and the depth of Christian experience giving will be a spiritually natural outflow. Resistance to Biblical giving arises from sinful hearts.

- **Sacrificially – The Pattern in Christ’s Self-Giving** 2 Corinthians 8:1-9
The marvelous grace of God is exhibited in Jesus’ becoming poor materially in order to enrichen us spiritually. This is set forward as a model and a motivation for our own giving.
- **Joyously – The Poise of the Heart** 2 Corinthians 9:7
Whatever we plan and purpose to give, we should so believe God and desire His will, His work and His worth that our giving is the glad overflow of grace accompanied by the affection of gratitude. This is the poise of the heart – if it is different, we need to repent of whatever beliefs and desires are holding us back.
- **Proportionally – The Principle from the Scriptures** 1 Corinthians 16:2-4; 2 Corinthians 8:3-5
The Old Testament set the principle of proportional giving, using the tithe or 10% as what was required (Malachi 3:6-12, is an example). When we come to the New Testament, proportional giving based on our “increase” or “income” is also taught. In other words, while the amount of the % may be discussed and different, the fact of giving in accordance with our income is not. Once again, if you are going to argue against the tithe, then you must be freed to give more not less.
- **Generously – The Provision for Giving** 2 Corinthians 9:6-12
Can you define the word “generously”? Do you understand it in all other parts of your life? What is a generous portion of ice cream? Paul tells us that God has supplied so that we can give generously. If we give what He has given us to give, then God will increase the harvest, the results of our righteousness and generally increase us *so that we can give more*.
- **Graciously – The Power by the Spirit** 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
Over and over again, Paul tells the Corinthian church that they are giving by grace – the divine enablement both materially and spiritually comes from God by His grace. Giving is a grace of God.

Integrity 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

- **In the Church Appointment**
They are functioning within church oversight. The church appointed those whose character and conduct commended them for this work.
- **In the Public Accountability**
They were doing all they did with an eye toward public integrity and accountability. God knew, for certain. But they also were concerned that there was little room for misunderstanding or blame.
- **In the Practical Administration**
It was important that the methods they used in collecting, administering and distributing the gifts being collected highlighted their concern for integrity in handling the money.

Values

Values Relating to Church Ministry

- The spiritual shepherding and leadership by elders.
- The diaconal care of our people and service-related ministries.
- The importance of Biblical Counseling for all of life, particularly the development of our Biblical Counseling Center as a place to train effective Biblical counselors, offer hope and help to sin-laden people.
- Use, with excellence, of the spiritual gifts given to all the members of the congregation in ministries of worship, discipleship, service and evangelism.
- Efficient administrative structures shaped by the Word and sustained by prayer.
- Openness and integrity in the wise use of the financial resources given by God's people.
- Full participation in the stewardship of proportional giving by every household.

Pac. Cal. Min. y at the Chapel

Values

Values Relating to Spiritual Atmosphere

These values create the context for our stewardship. All that we do with our financial resources will resonate with these principles.

- The spiritual shepherding and leadership by elders.
- The diaconal care of our people and service-related ministries.
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Vision

- A Biblically based, grace enabled, faith fueled, elder governed, team managed ministry to handle the finances of the church;
- A Biblical philosophy of giving and stewardship that acknowledges all the Bible teaches in planned, purposeful and proportional giving;
- A ministry orientation to the finance and stewardship ministry that sees itself as enabling all the ministry the elders and the church desire to do;
- A budget philosophy which serves to give guidelines for spending and a target for giving that is flexible and dynamic;
- A Finance Team of spiritually qualified and gifted, practically able, fiscally solid people to manage the finances on a day-to-day basis;
- A Finance and Stewardship Handbook that guides and guards the handling of the church's financial resources;
- A regular, accessible, understandable system of reporting the financial status of the church to the Elders and, as desired, to the congregation.

Vision

The Scriptures shape our vision for handling our financial resources. The Scriptures speak of finances through precepts and principles, expecting us to make wisdom application in the context of our place in redemptive history and culture. Therefore, we establish the following as our vision for Finances and Stewardship. We have a vision for:

- A Biblically based, grace enabled, faith fueled, elder governed, team managed ministry to handle the finances of the church;
- A Biblical philosophy of giving and stewardship that acknowledges all the Bible teaches in planned, purposeful and proportional giving;
- A ministry orientation to the finance and stewardship ministry that sees itself as enabling all the ministry the elders and the church desire to do;
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Purpose

- To establish pleasing God in the handling of all our financial resources as our overarching aim;
- To enable the solid financial foundation and provision for all the ministries of the Chapel;
- To encourage the faithful stewardship of giving in all the Chapel family;
- To ensure the practical use of financial resources with integrity;
- To energize the ministry focus in the use of our financial resources.

Purpose

We have established the following as our purposes, our aims and objectives, with our financial resources.

- To establish pleasing God in the handling of all our financial resources as our overarching aim;
- To enable the solid financial foundation and provision for all the ministries of the Chapel;
- To encourage the faithful stewardship of giving in all the Chapel family;
- To ensure the practical use of financial resources with integrity;
- To energize the ministry focus in the use of our financial resources.



Strategies

Praying for wisdom from above, we will seek to implement our stewardship mission, vision, purposes and values through the following means.

Oversight

The Elders, as a body, oversee the Finances of the church. The officers of the Elders serve as the trustees of the church in legal matters.

The Elders appoint one among themselves to be the Finance Team Coordinator on the Eldership. This person should be familiar with finance and able to administrate. He shall not have unilateral authority over the finance, but shall coordinate the Elders and the Finance Team. He shall be a member of the Finance Team and attend its meetings.

The Elders appoint either one among themselves or a deacon qualified person to be the Finance Team leader as the Chapel Treasurer.

Finance Team

- See [Ministry - Finance Team.doc](#) for the Finance Team Guidelines.

The Elders appoint a Finance Team who shall be given the responsibility the management and the reporting of the day-to-day finances of the church. The finance team serves through directives given them by the Elders, give counsel and recommendations to the Elders, are responsible for the recording and reporting of the finances of the Chapel and develop and maintain the Chapel Finances and Stewardship Handbook.

The Finance Team has some among its number who are appointed as the Executive Finance Team. One of them is the treasurer designated above, the Elder coordinator and at least two other members recommended to and approved by the Elders. The Executive Finance Team has all the responsibilities and authorities given to the Finance Team and may delegate those responsibilities to the Finance Team as needed. The Finance Team has one who is designated as the bookkeeper who shall be responsible for the day-to-day entering of the financial receipts and transactions of the church.

Giving

The Elders teach that it is the responsibility of every Christian to give in a planned, purposeful and proportional way, enabled by the grace of God and aimed at pleasing and glorifying God. We teach that God has given to each believer all that is necessary spiritually and materially for giving and Christians ought to be faithful stewards of that grace

The Chapel functions primarily by the giving of the congregation. Special projects, funds and other giving vehicles may be used as approved by the Elders.

All designated gifts received by the Chapel are treated as a request and are under the control of the Elders who seek to honor the request when possible.

The Chapel is recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt, non-profit church and thus giving is tax-deductible. We will give each contributor an annual report of contributions. Contributions for which a direct benefit is received are not tax-deductible.

Strategies (Cont)



Strategies

Budgeting

The Chapel budget is a guideline for spending and a target for giving. The Elders have directed that the budget be flexible and dynamic as needed to sustain a ministry orientation. The annual budget is developed on a three phase process: requests by the ministry teams, proposed by the finance team, approved by the elders. It is presented along with a financial report to the congregation seeking affirmation and commitment to give towards the approved budget.

Bookkeeping

The Chapel maintains a standard bookkeeping system for the recording of contributions, receipts, receivables, payables and the handling of designated and restricted funds.

Requisitioning

The Chapel maintains a system of requisitions for expenditures. The forms and procedures for the system shall be written, published and available to all ministry members needing incurring ministry expenses.

The approval of requisitions is the responsibility of the Executive Finance Team.

Banking

The Chapel maintains banking accounts for its business. The Treasurer and designated people on the Finance Team are authorized to sign checks. All checks require a double signature. All accounts are reconciled monthly if at all possible.

Credit Cards

The Chapel is authorized to secure credit cards. The use of these cards is generally limited to budget authorized expenditures. All credit cards are reconciled and paid in full every month if possible.

Capital Projects and Debt

The church will seek to do capital projects, improvements and expansion with cash through long-term planning as much as is possible. However, we do not teach that debt is sinful. Therefore, when necessary the church may incur debt for major projects as recommended by the Finance Team, approved by the Elders and affirmed by the members.



Implementation

Elders

The Elders as a team oversee the finances at the Chapel. We establish the general principles for finances, give directives to the Finance Team to implement and approve the budget.

Executive Finance Team

The Executive Finance Team are charged with the management of the financial resources at the Chapel. They are experienced and skilled in finance, have a ministry mindset and are committed to the principles that guide and guard our finances. They meet with the Elders once a month to give a report, counsel and to receive direction. They are responsible to organize the Finance Team to do the work of the ministry.

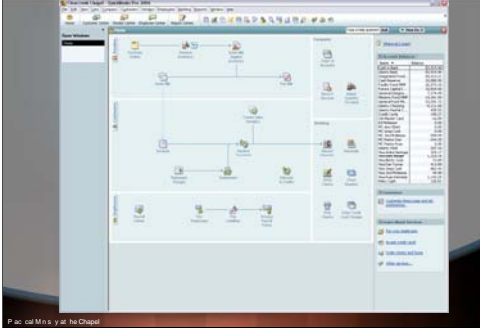
Finance Team

- Meets monthly to review reports, discuss status, correct problems and advise the Executive Finance Team.
- Counts offering weekly by dividing into teams of two who count on a rotating basis
- Responsible to review and sign checks

Bookkeeper

- Staff Deaconess - Joni McNeese
- Member of the Finance Team
- Enters and maintains all the financial transactions and records.

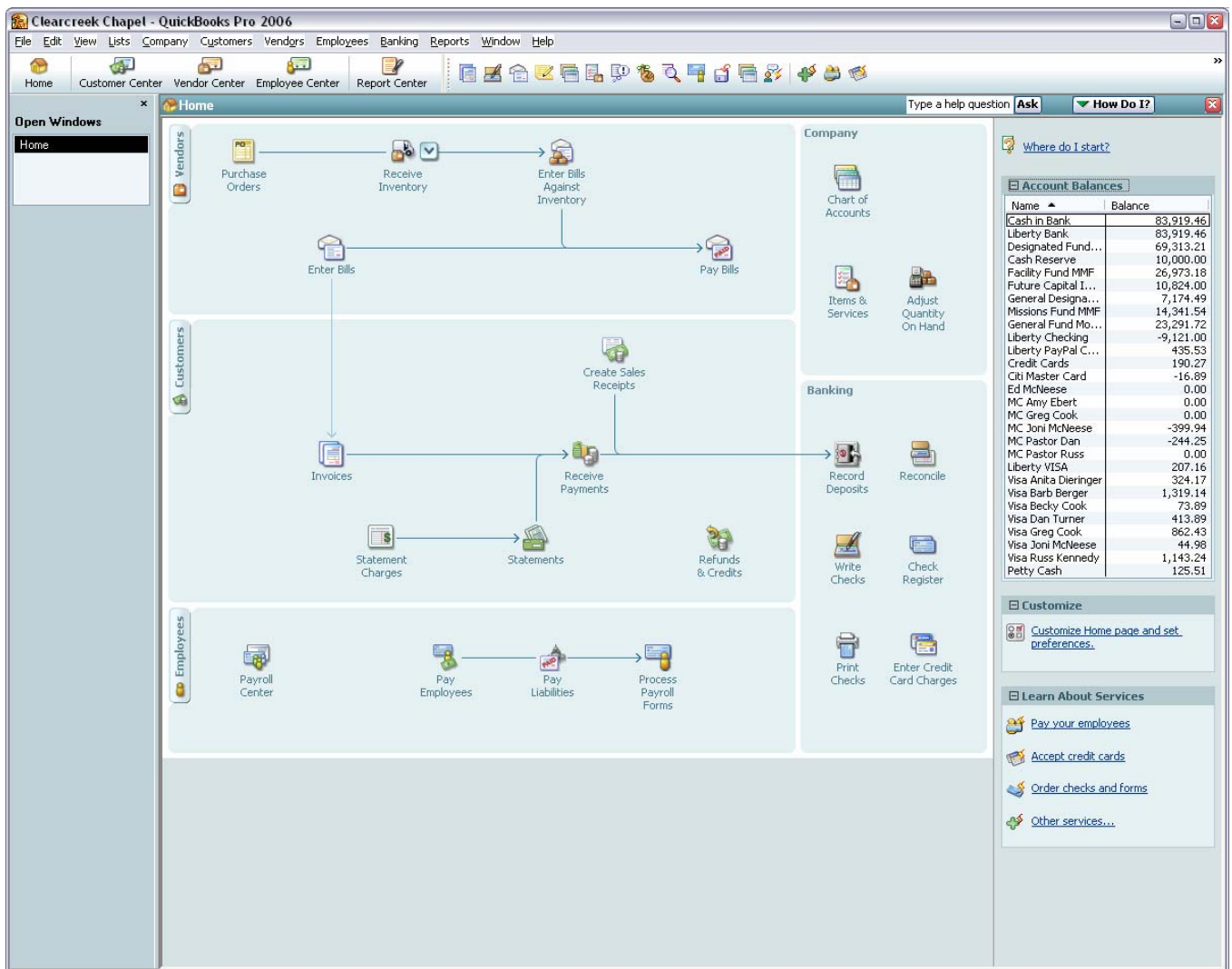
Implementation



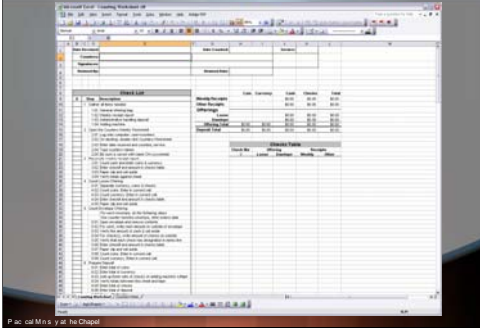
Implementation

Church Finance System

- Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
- Established and Counseled by CPA's
- Maintained in *QuickBooks* from Intuit



Implementation



Implementation

Counting Contributions

- By no less than 2 counters
- Entered into a spreadsheet
- Generally deposited same day

Microsoft Excel - Counting Worksheet.xlt

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help Adobe PDF

Type a question for help

Normal Arial 10 B I U

1	Date Received		Date Counted:		Service:	
2	Counters:					
3	Signatures:					
4	Revised By:		Revised Date:			

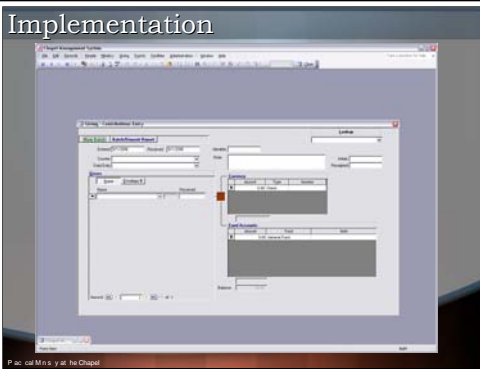
Check List			Coin	Currency	Cash	Checks	Total
X	Step	Description	Weekly Receipts		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Other Receipts		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Offerings				
			Loose Envelope		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Offering Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Deposit Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Checks Table				
Check Nbr	Offering		Receipts	
	Loose	Envelope	Weekly	Other
0				

Counting Worksheet / Counters Notes /

Ready NUM

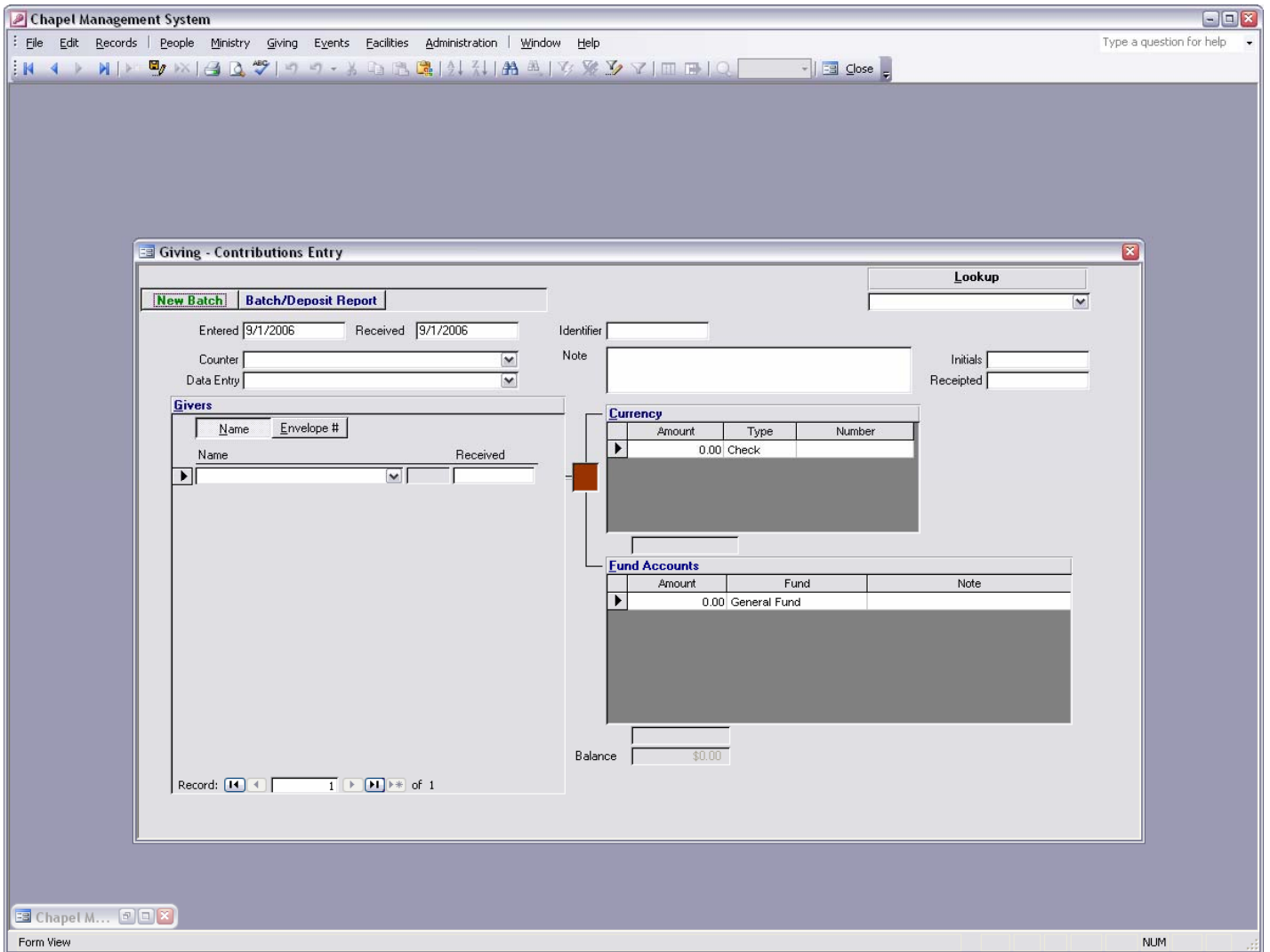
Implementation



Implementation

Contributor Management

- In-house developed Chapel Management System
- Contributor and contribution management integrated with membership and ministry management.
- Entered during the week



Conclusion

- Gratitude for God's Grace
- Confidence in our Fiscal Responsibility
- Commitment to Give Generously
- Challenge to Grow and Expand

Conclusion

Gratitude for God's Grace

We have experienced the grace of God in our finances and in our stewardship. We need to be so thankful for what God has done and expectant about what He will do for us and through us.

Confidence in our Fiscal Responsibility

We aim to foster your confidence in the way we handle our money here. While we are not congregationally governed, we do want you to have a sense of assurance that your stewardship is being handled Biblically here.

Commitment to Give Generously

We want to challenge you to give Biblically and generously. The series we do each September is designed to encourage you to self-examination in all areas of stewardship. We also want you to be free to give with grand generosity, enabled by grace and exhibiting the glory and greatness of God.

Challenge to Grow and Expand

We aim to establish strong fiscal and stewardship principles as a foundation for courage, conviction and commitment as we grow in the future.

So, may we be able, like Paul over churches in his day, be able to rejoice in your participation in this grace from God as well.

