

FINANCIAL CONNECTION

It is the goal of the OroNaz Finance Team to keep this church family updated on our financial blessing and challenges. Through this expanded Financial Connection we will share biblical teachings that direct the decisions made by the CLT and we hope you can find application to your life as well. This month, we'll revisit living an *intentional* life.

In the course of Jesus's ministry, He spent a lot of time teaching large crowds. In the book of Luke we find Jesus teaching a crowd regarding "the cost of being a disciple".

"And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?" (Luke 14:27-28)

Christ calls us to behave differently than those of this world, which means as followers of Christ what we do and how we act is often in stark contrast from our peers. Before beginning any task, disciples of Christ should consider what it will take to bring the task to fruition. Christ calls us to be *intentional* with every aspect of our lives even though it's not always easy to do so. Nonetheless, our example of taking deliberate care and time to follow His commands in all areas of life carries God's design of *intentionality* into a fallen world that is otherwise driven by self-serving instant gratification. Being *intentional* with our finances can be very challenging. These verses in Luke are instructing Christians to make proactive financial decisions rather than reactive choices. For example, utilizing a personal budget that is in line with Jesus' teaching promotes *intentional* gospel living. Using a personal budget is literally "*counting the cost*" of what it will take to get through every month and every year. Using a gospel centered personal budget is our way of exercising our *intentional* living for God's purposes above our own.

As a way to exercise *intentional* living as part of this church community, OroNaz has slightly altered the way we budget. In the past OroNaz created an annual budget that was very dependent on predicting the next year’s income from tithes and offerings. Since predicting the future can be rather difficult, the Finance Team separated OroNaz’s budget into two areas to alleviate the fluctuation in tithes and offerings. “Essential” line items are known costs that OroNaz pays every month, things like: salaries, mortgage payments, utilities, and Shares for Others. “Other” line items are costs that fluctuate throughout the year, such as: ministry budgets, maintenance and building repair or reserve savings. Every month, OroNaz pays all “Essential” budget items and all funds above “Essential” are then proportionally divided into “Other” budgeted line items. This altered budgeted method helps alleviate the fluctuations we have been experiencing in tithes and offerings. The Finance Team and the CLT wants to *intentionally* and proactively steward what the Lord has given us, that we may hear what every steward wants to hear, “*Well done, good and faithful servant!*” (Matthew 25:21)

May is the 3rd month of the annual budget year that runs March 2023 to February 2024. Thank you for your continued financial commitment; it is a testament to what God is doing in us and through us.

Our Pastor, CLT, Treasurer (Joey McCoy) and Finance Team welcome your questions and feedback. Please email the Finance Team at finance@oronaz.org to start a conversation.

Projected budget March 2023-February 2024:	\$730,070
Needed for Essentials –May 2023	\$53,625
Needed for Other Exp. - May 2023	\$7,214
Giving for May 2023	\$54,941
Expenses paid in May 2023	\$62,008
Needed Year to Date	\$182,518
Giving Year to Date	\$209,243
Expenses Paid Year to Date	\$178,763
Shares for Others Paid Year to Date	
World Evangelism Fund	\$10,995
Pensions & Benefits	\$4,498
Education	\$4,498
District Ministries	\$7,997