



FINANCIAL CONNECTION

It is the goal of the OroNaz Finance Team to keep this church family updated on our financial blessings and challenges. Through this expanded Financial Connection we share biblical teachings that direct the decisions made by the CLT and we hope you can find application to your life as well.

As Christmas quickly approaches, it seems appropriate that we talk about presents!

In Matthew chapter 2:1-2 as we are journeying through the birth of Jesus we read, *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea...Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'"* The wise men were waylaid by King Herod, but they were able to continue on their journey to find the Messiah. *"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."*

Christmas is a season of giving. On that first Christmas, God gave us His son. Later, the Magi came, bringing gifts, to honor the newly born Messiah. Today we give gifts to friends and family to honor those we love. In the same way, we are called to bring gifts that honor the One who came to save us through the gift of freedom from our sin and the promise of everlasting life in the presence of our creator.

In Luke 21:1-3 when at the temple, Jesus takes time to teach his disciples that when it comes to giving gifts, it's the attitude of our hearts that matters most to God, *"As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 'Truly I tell you,' he said, 'this poor widow has put in more than all the others.'"*

Mathematically, these two small copper coins were worth less than the gifts brought by the rich. However, Jesus continued to explain, *"All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on"* (Luke 21:4). Throughout the Bible, it is evident that God seeks our

heart. Jesus saw this woman, and He knew her heart. She was willing to give in a sacrificial way, not yet knowing what the Savior came to do for her. We are called to approach giving with this same attitude, with selfless adoration for the One who deserves our whole heart. Just as giving a gift to a loved one on Christmas morning represents our love and joy for knowing that person, so too should the giving of our finances encourage our spirit with the everlasting hope and excitement to see how God will use those gifts throughout his kingdom.

Today, as you might be considering a year-end gift to OroNaz, we encourage you to join us in the work of expanding the kingdom of God! Let us not give out of our wealth or out of our poverty; rather, let us strive to give out of love to honor the One who came to save us. To receive a tax credit for your contribution in 2023, it must be in the offering, online, or post-marked on or before Sunday, December 31st. Thank you in advance for your investment in the kingdom of God through the ministry of OroNaz!

November is the 9th month of the annual budget year that runs March 2023 - February 2024. Your continued financial commitment 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 (adjusted):	\$711,650
Needed for Essentials—November 2023	\$51,710
Needed for Other Exp.—November 2023	\$ 7,595
Giving for November 2023	\$46,705
Expenses paid in November 2023	\$55,864

Needed Year to Date	\$533,738
Giving Year to Date	\$553,407
Expenses Paid Year to Date	\$527,831

Shares for Others Paid Year to Date	
World Evangelism Fund	\$29,895
Pensions & Benefits	\$12,109
Education	\$12,109
District Ministries	\$21,526