

# ***Not Quite Right News from Mark Golden***

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## **Churches: Tithing Out, Lottery In**

In a reversal of an age-old tradition, money will soon be changing hands in a new way at your local church. A press release from the American Association of Churches (AAC) stated, “WE NEED MORE MONEY!” emphasizing that they, “NEED IT NOW!” Well, that's the same cry of Joe and Suzy down the street and most anyone around the block. How the average household will come up with budget needs will continue to vary from that of churches. The AAC has a fool-proof strategy, touting, “Play the lottery, forget tithing!” The press release clarified that, “tithing has never worked well anyway.”

Embarrassing statistics revealed that only a small number of church goers put anything above a quarter in the perpetually passed-around bucket. The church pays its bills by the kinder-hearted, broad-shouldered few. The majority of pew-warmers are along for the ride. This lopsided financial pattern goes far back into church history. Maybe that's why there are so few saints.

The AAC finally did the math and came up with an innovative solution to solve the stresses of paying the clergy, keeping the lights on, paving the parking lot, etc. Churches will no longer be collecting or receiving tithes. Instead, lottery tickets will be sold in the church lobby before, during and after services or in Sunday school. “During,” you ask? Using a smart phone, hand-held device or discreet laptop in Wi-Fi (smart) churches, you may purchase online, anytime. Even those who never set foot in a church can help support the church of their choice – that is, unless they themselves end up the big winner!

Since the traditional 10% of one's income is given by roughly 10% of attendees, the system is broken, and most churches operate “broke.” But no more. With the incentive of real gain (here on earth) instead of a slice of holy pie in the sky, everyone can be a winner a church.

Projections and trial studies indicate enough increase in revenue to just about raise the dead.

Ninety percent of church-goers will buy at least one lottery ticket per service. Those members who used to frown on the activity as a form of forbidden gambling will have no other

choice in order to give to God's work. On the flip-side, cheapskates who for years have piggy-backed on the souls of the generous and obedient, will now be compelled by greed to give to their church...*and with real incentive.*

Church attendance is expected to soar. Children will be taught the meaning of a dollar in a real-time setting. Plus, no one will feel guilty, go to the restroom or fake a preoccupied face for not putting a quarter in the bucket. Those who routinely opted-out will look as saintly as the sinner sitting next to them.

Lottery tickets will sport Bible verses displaying themes of giving, poverty and wealthy Bible characters.

What will become of the time slotted for passing the bucket at church? Probably an announcement of the latest score of the game.

Another story from REAL LIFE (that I made up!) This parody news story is for amusement. Any similarity to real people, places or things is fictitious and not to be taken as fact.