

Something From Nothing: Seven Ways To Save Money For Missions

By Kimberly Sowell

Missions is a vital part of God's plan for spreading His Kingdom across the planet. Perhaps God is calling you to go on a mission trip, but you don't have the funds to make the journey, or maybe you would like to give more money to a missions offering this year. Take advantage of these seven tips on saving or making money for missions.

1. Have a yard sale. Ask your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to donate items to the cause. You may feel uncomfortable about asking someone for money, but everyone has something to donate for a yard sale! Involving others also increases the opportunity for them to be excited about God's work.
2. Eat out less. If you typically eat out for lunch or put several quarters in the snack machine at work, these habits can quickly add up to large amounts of money.
3. Cut back on carbonated drinks. Most restaurants charge \$1.00-\$2.50 for a beverage. Eliminating carbonated beverages around the house can also bring a substantial savings.
4. Adjust your thermostat. Wear warmer clothing around the house and turn down the heat.
5. Clip coupons. Compare your coupons with sale flyers to increase your savings. Before using a coupon, make sure you are spending less money than you would by buying a generic brand without a coupon.
6. Adjust your spending habits this Christmas. Do you typically exchange gifts with several friends and family? If you are saving up for a mission trip, be open about your financial situation with your friends. Instead of exchanging expensive gifts this year, would your friends be willing to come to your house for the gift of fellowship and hospitality? Would your friends be interested in doing a baked goods swap or a recipe swap instead of a gift swap? You may be surprised to hear the relief in friends' voices when they hear your wonderful suggestion of spending less on ourselves this Christmas!
7. Cut out extras. One less nail salon visit, one less trip through the car wash, one less box of donuts—all of these efforts add up!

These small sacrifices honor God. If you start to feel discouraged, remember that God will multiply your efforts and make a way where there is no way. As you save money using these tips, carefully collect the money you would have spent on these items, and store the money in a safe place. Pray about your daily decisions to spend money, and thank God for providing the funds you need to not only survive, but also financially contribute to His Kingdom work.