

CHILDREN'S NOISY OFFERING

PURPOSE: A fun creative Sunday activity that will bring additional funding to the children's ministry program.

ITEMS NEEDED: Tin cans, or tin cups or small tin buckets (enough for several children), a large tin or metal bucket for children's leader and a red wagon.

SETTING: All the children are asked to participate, and come to the front of the church. This activity takes place right when church starts and before the open greeting time. The adult leader then gives each child the tin cup to take into the isles of the church.

HOW OFTEN: Usually once a month on a specific Sunday so the congregation can save and bring their extra coins.

TIME NEEDED: The children leave when music is played at a very lively pace...(ex: Jesus Loves Me). Children will extend their cup to the congregation as they offer to drop coins in to make the "noisy" sound. The children move quickly and depending on how large the congregation and the number of children the process and fun does not take long.

COMPLETION AND BLESSING: When all of the coins have been collected (do not encourage folding money as this takes away from the sounds) the children will bring their cups to the front and dump into the large metal bucket that was setting on the red wagon and wait for the prayer. A blessing is given by the leader or pastor and the coins rolled out of the sanctuary in the red wagon.

ministry budget or missions. The purpose of the offering is clearly stated in the church bulletin and as an introduction by the children's leader each Sunday the offering is taken. It is not unusual to see the older generation bring their plastic bags full of coins and hand a few out to each child as they walk by. The adults enjoy seeing and interacting with the children. Sometimes parent of very young children (one or two years old) will walk with their child allowing them to participate and hold a tin cup. The Noisy Offering is not held during the sacred time of the worship experience, but before the prelude and when the

congregation is settling into the fellowship atmosphere. A smaller congregation may collect as much as \$30 once a month from the Noisy Offering allowing the leaders the extra, easily accessible funding to buy needed snack / drinks or materials and that does not come from their own pockets.