



A Little Extra

Scene: A couple sits down to pay the bills

Characters: Dave
Jan

Set: Table with lots of receipts, envelopes, and a file box. Both Dave and Jan have a pen and a calculator.

Dave: *(sighing)* Well, Hon, after paying our tithe, mortgage and car payments, credit card bill, and utilities, it looks like our balance comes to a whopping \$363.04. That's pretty good, huh?

Jan: Don't get too excited yet. We still have to take out the grocery money, and Tommy's soccer league fees are due this month.

(Both of them add a few more figures on their calculators and declare at the same time...)

Dave and Jan: \$128.04

Jan: Alright. We promised the kids they could go to Discovery Zone since their report cards were good. *(Types on calculator)* So, there goes another 40 bucks.

Dave: And we decided to put the usual \$25 aside for our Christmas Fund. *(Punches numbers on calculator)*

Jan: So, we're down to \$53.04.

Dave: OK. Well, I think we're finished here. *(Starts putting receipts in file box)*

Jan: No, there is one thing left to discuss.

Dave: Oh, what's that?

Jan: Faith Promise is next week. We need to decide how much we will commit to this year.

Dave: Well, that's easy...the same as last year.

Jan: Don't you think we should give more now that I'm back to work?

Dave: Jan, our account balance is 50-some dollars. That's all the extra money we have this month. I think we're cutting it close enough as it is...

Jan: I guess you're right. But after hearing about all the mission programs the Church of the Nazarene supports... more than 700 missionaries, 138 world areas... I just really want to be a part of that!

Dave: I want to be a part of it too. We **are** a part of it. We've been giving to Faith Promise since we started attending (Name of Your Church). But we also have a family to support, Jan. I don't want to over-extend the budget.

Jan: I know. But I was praying about it this week, and I really think we should give a little more this year.

The Lord has blessed us, and I think we should give some of it back to God. Remember, we had the surprise with the tax return being larger than we expected this year. And we found a great deal on the new car. Plus, I got the job at the bank...

Dave: I am thankful for all those blessings. Really, I am. But that doesn't change the fact that we have \$53.04 in our account.

Jan: You're right. But what if we gave up a few "extras" this year and devoted that money to Faith Promise?

Dave: What "extras" did you have in mind? *(sarcastically)* I suppose you'll start with my new fishing pole and the Saturday golf outings with my company?

Jan: I wouldn't mind giving up a few things. I don't need all the shoes I buy. It's nice to have new shoes, but I could make do with the ones I have...

Dave: *(poking fun at Jan)* Well, I have to agree with you on that one. Our bedroom would be twice as big if we didn't need a separate closet for your shoes!

Jan: *(laughing)* Hey, it's not **that** bad! I was thinking we could adjust the amount we put into the Christmas Fund monthly. We didn't use all of it last year...

Dave: *(thinks about this for a minute)* You know what? I think you're right. The Lord **has** blessed us this year! It would be nice to give some of that back to Him for His work. Pledging more for Faith Promise this year would give more money to Nazarene missions. Should we have a family meeting about it?

Jan: Good idea. Let's get the kids involved.

Dave: Tell you what, I'll make my famous pizza tonight and you can make those cookies the kids love. Then, we'll have a family meeting and talk about our pledge for Faith Promise this year.

Jan: This is so exciting! I'm sure the kids will be just as excited as we are! It will be a good lesson for them. Sacrificing the little "extras" in our lives this year is a way to provide the resources for God to do a little **extra** through Nazarene missions!

Dave: Hey, honey?

Jan: Yeah?

Dave: Can I still go golfing one Saturday a month?

Jan: Sure, as long as I can still buy a pair of shoes every once-in-a-while!

(Dave and Jan laugh. The lights go down as they start to clean up.)

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