

THANKSGIVING OFFERING



Music Promotes Thankful Giving

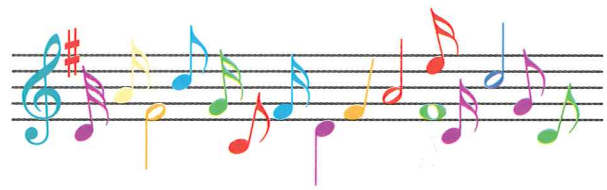
One Thanksgiving season, a member of our local NMI council inscribed the musical score to “The Doxology” on an enormous banner that graced the sanctuary wall behind the choir loft. Each musical note represented a \$25 donation to the Thanksgiving Offering.

During the next three weeks, as the offering amounts were tallied from service to service, the corresponding word or syllable for each musical symbol was added to the score. It was thrilling for the congregation to lift their voices in thanksgiving to God week after week as additional words to the song of thanksgiving were added to the banner.

That harvest season proved to be one of the most creative, worshipful times of missions emphasis our

church family ever experienced. We were privileged to observe our thank offerings literally become words of praise offered to the Lord of the Harvest!

Rosanne Bolerjack • Glen Burnie, Maryland



Promoting World Evangelism Fund to Children

Lynnette Knight of Portland, Texas, hit upon a great way to promote World Evangelism Fund giving to children. She was initially inspired to do this after hearing about the importance of pigs to the culture of Papua New Guinea (PNG). Pigs are used to pay “bride price” (or dowry), as compensation for various problems, and are killed in great numbers when there is any kind of celebration.

Lynette bought more than 40 plastic piggy banks and gave them to every child in the church from 1 year to older teens. The children were instructed to name their pigs, using the name of a country they had studied about. The name was then printed on paper and taped to the side of the pig or written on the pig with a permanent marker.

The kids put money into (“fed”) their pigs any time they wanted and most brought money every Sunday. The church allowed the kids an opportunity to “feed” their pigs between Sunday School and church. Adults who had no children dug

in their pockets for change to give the kids so every pig was fed! The children left the pigs at the church, so there was no problem with them “getting lost” on the trip home.

The Portland Church had their monthly NMI Sunday with a meal following the service. The tables were covered with red tablecloths, and the pigs were put on the tables along with PNG necklaces that Lynnette had collected.

During that time, they received a special offering and everyone dug in their pockets to fill the pigs that were on their tables.

The Portland Church later “butchered” the pigs. Lynnette’s husband drilled a hole in the bottom of each pig, so the money came out for the World Evangelism Fund Offering. The holes were then taped over, so

the pigs could be reused annually.

Janet Neal • Missionary to East Timor

