

THE ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

As one means of increasing the contributions and lessening the difficulties of collection, the Board of Home Missions recommends that Weekly Offerings be substituted for Yearly Subscriptions, wherever practicable.

The plan of Weekly Offerings upon the Envelope System has been found to work well in many parts of the Diocese where it has been tried.

The first step towards the adoption of this system in a Parish is to ascertain from all the members of the Congregation what sum they are willing to contribute at the Weekly Offertory; and this done—

1. Pledges will be received from the Parishioners for a fixed weekly sum, from one cent to one dollar and upwards, to be given in an envelope, at the services on each Sunday.

2. A package of envelopes will be given to each contributor, printed with blanks for name and amount of offering.

3. The Treasurer will enter the amount thus received each week, to the credit of each contributor, in a book to be kept exclusively for this purpose.

4. A stated meeting of the Vestry or Parishioners will be held quarterly; at which meeting the Treasurer will report all subscriptions in arrears, and at the close of the Parish year will also present all the last year's accounts of the Parish, which will then be audited and settled.

By the above plan the following objects are sought to be accomplished:

1. That not only heads of families, but *all in the Parish*, old and young, who have any means and earnings of their own, may contribute *according to their ability* to the support of the Church.

2. That they may, as regularly as possible, at the appointed time, *bring their pledged Weekly Offerings to Church*, instead of paying them at the call of the collector.

[NOTE.—The principle of the Envelope System is not interfered with when, as in exceptional cases, it may be convenient to contribute ONCE A FORTNIGHT, or at any other stated period within the quarter.]

3. That the Parish revenue may not fall into arrears and debt be incurred.

4. That the income of the Parish may be *materially increased*, so that mainly from this source sufficient provision may be made for the support of the Clergyman.

All these objects may be easily attained if the Church Wardens be willingly and efficiently sustained in their efforts by those whose representatives they are.

The above plan has been adopted, with some variations, in a number of Parishes in several Dioceses, and has been successful.

It is hoped that it may receive serious consideration in every Mission in this Diocese, and that it may be generally adopted.

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