

Daughter's Joy-(ful) Jar

Being a chapter that is almost two years of age, we know the joy of being called of God to pray in faith, believing that needs will be met. The Esther Chapter Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross at St. Luke's Anglican in Tallahassee, FL met on January 14th. Special needs among us stirred new questions begging for answers. Each Daughter grappled with the reality of stepping up boldly, taking the initiative, and living out a plan to empower us to remit our annual dues by the middle of August. Searching the scriptures on faith and finances we prayed, believing God to show us a way through the uncertainty. Second Peter, chapter 1, verse 5 opens our eyes to this "giving all diligence, add to your faith".



ADD to my faith: What does adding to my faith look like? I can't *add anything*. So why is it speaking to me? I thought God did everything. So, we read the scripture again. Breaking down the sentence structure, we understand the subject of the sentence is... "[you] **give** (ing) **all diligence**, [you]**ADD to your faith**." So, He did mean me! He meant for me to take the initiative to show my faith by my works.

Works: To us this meant do the math and keep it simple. We need \$50 per person, due in mid August. We did the math to determine how many days we had. So, 189 days at a quarter a day dropped into the jar would yield \$47.25. Each quarter I've dropped into that jar built strength in my faith. It is a visible testimony for taking the initiative, daily believing and prayer for God to show us where to obtain the quarter.

We found that quarter sometimes by using a coupon of 25¢, 50¢, 75¢ or \$1.00 on a regular grocery item that we may ordinarily purchase at full price. When we found money in the washer, dryer, sidewalk, floor, car etc. it went into our Joy Jar. If we went walking and found coins we knew what to do. We became very creative and energized!! Other great places were dresser drawers that needed to be organized, old purses, old wallets, cleaning and using the vacuum underneath the cushions of the sofa to declare a treasure! We built unity by sharing our stories of how God provided.

Sitting there in that newly discovered unity God began a new work in us and let us decide if we wanted to ****decorate our jar or not**. In great fervor, our youngest member exclaimed that we would call these our "Joy Jars." So, there it was that God birthed forth a new understanding of simple obedience. Will He continue to do that? Oh yes. He will.

****Example of one "Joy Jar"**

~~~~Brenda Morris, President, Esther Chapter, St Luke's Anglican Church, Tallahassee FL