

## **No One Will Be Forced to Give!**

**Any of you United Airlines travelers?** Maybe the question should be how many of you will NEVER travel on United? If you don't know what I am talking about you must have not been watching the news. United Airlines had overbooked a flight recently and after no one volunteered to get off they resorted to force to remove a passenger. The video of him being dragged off the plane went viral. Pictures of this passenger were then posted of him bloodied and bruised. Now he has a lawyer and is suing United and just about everyone!

What happened after this event was that Social Media lit up with funny posts. One of my favorites featured Southwest Airlines that said, "Southwest Airlines: We beat the competition. Not you." A church right before Easter posted on Twitter, "IMEDAITE ATTENTION:FCC is overbooked for our 4 Easter services. Be assured no one will be forcibly removed."

Aren't you glad no one forcibly removed you from church? We of course would never do that. Yet that tweet about being forcibly removed from church got me to thinking about another area that we don't forcibly make people do, give during the offering. We don't make a big deal over whether you give or not. Don't get me wrong we believe that Christians SHOULD give. We just think giving is something between you and God.

Yet we do make a big deal about the offering. The offering fuels all the work we do here from reaching children to ministering to adults. We try to help you see the needs we are meeting and how your gift can help us fulfill the mission God has given us. Our goal is to show you what we do with the money that you give hopefully creating within you a DESIRE to WANT to give.

We believe this is the right approach. In fact in the Bible when Moses was attempting to raise the funds to build the tabernacle here is what he said to the people of God. "Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering..." The next few verses talks about how the people were "willing," as they gave. In fact they were so willing that Moses had to tell them to STOP giving!

So no one will be forced to give here! We do however invite everyone who is willing to bring to the Lord an offering today as our ushers come forward.