

Thank you so much, Peter and Shelly for allowing me to assist you with your finances. Thanks for providing your financial information. It sounds like you are feeling squeezed financially. I would like to bless you for the way you have managed in the past with the income that you have. You have been tithing and you have done well to keep your credit card debt to a minimum.

Have you taken time to look at the Money Map?

Does it make sense to you? Do you have any questions about it?

Does it seem like a reasonable path to take?

Have you thought about your life purpose and set goals accordingly?

What are your goals?

I would like to help you reach those goals.

On a scale of 1-10 how willing are you to make lifestyle changes in order to reach your goals?

It can be a challenge to adjust our lifestyle to make the money reach each month and to prepare for future needs.

As I look at your situation, I would say that your situation is fixable with increased income and additional expense cutting.

Do you remember the first Bible Studies that we did, how that God is responsible to provide for us. We are responsible to manage faithfully what He provides. An important part of managing is learning to be content with what we have. The Bible instructs us to be content if we have food, clothing, and shelter. That sounds pretty minimal, doesn't it?

I care about you and your situation. I would like to see you prosper financially, trusting God that you are reasonably prepared for whatever the future may hold. However, it would probably be good to recognize that I may make suggestions that you would rather not follow. How will we handle that situation?

It certainly would be helpful if it were possible to increase your income. That is something you can be thinking about whether either of you could pick up some additional income without hindering family relationships or your walk with the Lord. Each of you could take the

Another option is to think about things you don't really need that you could sell.

Let's look at your spending plan and see what we could do there to help you balance your budget.

As you think about making the money reach around, do you think of any areas where you would be able to cut back. It might be good to think about wants vs needs.

Would it be feasible to cut back on food, entertainment and recreation, clothing and miscellaneous?

How do you feel about the amount you are giving to your church? Do you feel like God is asking you to give at that level? It certainly is biblical to put God first. Giving 10% of our gross income is certainly ideal, but in your situation I wonder if it might be more appropriate for you to give 10% of your net income with the goal of moving back to 10% of your gross as God prospers you.

There are several areas where I would suggest allowing more than you have currently. I would suggest that you pay an extra \$80 on their credit card debt. This would save you over \$212 in interest and have the credit card paid off in 9 months rather than 53.

After the credit card is paid off, you could apply the \$100 along with the \$2,400 tax refund to the loan from the parents and have that paid off less than 2 years.

When you have your loan paid off, you could increase their savings for emergencies and also be saving for a car. That would also be the time to think about saving for retirement.

I would suggest you increase your saving to \$411 so you can have some cushion for car repairs or other unscheduled needs.

I suggest increasing the Health and Wellness to the guideline at \$102 to provide a bit more cushion.