

Other church officers seem to think that whatever they give you is a kind of icing on the cake, instead of a part of your living income. Since Christian workers are generally underpaid, such remuneration is a supplement to income for basic needs, not a bonus to be squandered on luxuries or spent on pleasures! These misconceptions should be corrected!

B. Secondly, how much remuneration should be given?

1. This would depend on the kind of engagement and the size of the responsibility involved. Speaking to a group of 50 or 100 is not the same as speaking to a group of 500 or 1,000.

2. Let me suggest a schedule of remuneration for speaking to churches. Let me mention that some churches will vary from this schedule, either on the high side or on the low side. And let me also mention that this schedule concerns only the honorarium, not expenses. . . .

C. Should expenses be provided?

Usually, expenses are not advanced. You must pay them out of your pocket, hoping to be reimbursed later. This becomes particularly important when the engagement is at a distance, and you must fly or pay for overnight accommodations and meals.

Some churches (all too few) include a separate, additional amount in their remuneration for expenses, based on mileage multiplied by a set amount per mile (this set amount used to be fifteen cents per mile, but nowadays it is more likely to reflect the increase in the allowance for travel permitted by the IRS, which is currently 28 cents).

Most churches simply give one lump sum, permitting you to deduct your own expenses from their remuneration check.

Some churches give you a check at the time of speaking; others send it within the next few weeks. A few forget to send it!