

Not far from where I live there is a sacred institution
That asks me every year to make a certain contribution.
Now I don't know how you respond in such a situation,
But this is what I used to say when pressed for a donation:

Don't ask me to give you money. Don't ask me to write no check.
I ain't tryin' to be funny when I say I'm broke as heck.
And those bills, they keep on comin' and I'm dug down deep in debt.
So don't try to get my money. Ain't no money here to get.

And then one day a friend dropped by to have a frank discussion
About our church's budget and the long-term repercussion
If we don't fix the deficit and stop this fiscal madness,
But when she asked what I could pledge, I told my tale of sadness:

Don't ask me to give you money. Don't ask me to write no check.
I ain't lyin' to you, honey, when I say I'm broke as heck.
And those bills, they keep on comin' and I'm dug down deep in debt.
So don't try to get my money. Ain't no money here to get.

That night I dreamed I lost my job and life got even tougher.
My creditors began to call, my health began to suffer.
My car broke down, my bank foreclosed, my spouse refused to hold me.
So in my dream, I walked to church and this is what they told me:

Don't ask us for Sunday Service. Don't ask us to ring our bell.
No one joined us in our pledge drive, now your church is broke as---
Heck, our minister has left us and our faith has turned to doubt.
Don't ask us to give you comfort – all our giving has run out.

And when I woke up from this dream, I had a revelation
That I must find a way to help sustain my congregation.
I know you know just what I did that gave me satisfaction.
It really wasn't hard to do, a simple cash transaction.

Yes I gave my church some money, and I pledged to give again.
And they shouted "Hallelujah!" and the choir sang "Amen!"
And my church, it keeps on giving, and those gifts are heaven-sent,
Cause we give the church our money, give it lots of hard-earned money.
Yes, we give the church our money, the best money ever spent.