

EXPOSED: Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church Had Thousands and Thousands of Dollars Hidden in the Walls

Talk about your heavenly windfalls.

Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church in Houston became the fortunate recipient of a financial surprise when a plumber made a shocking discovery when fixing a toilet wall at the church late last month. The plumber discovered thousands of envelopes stuffed full of cash and checks, seven years after the church had reported nearly \$600,000 stolen from its coffers, reported.

The plumber, known only as Justin, made the discovery public on a local radio show this week.

"There was a loose toilet in the wall, and we removed the tile," Justin told Morning Bullpen show host George Lindsey. "We went to go remove the toilet, and I moved some insulation away and about 500 envelopes fell out of the wall, and I was like, 'Oh wow!'"

In a statement, Lakewood Church confirmed the discovery of an "undisclosed amount of cash" and said the Houston Police Department had been notified. In 2014, the church had reported \$200,000 in cash and \$400,000 in checks—along with written credit card information—stolen.

Victor Senties, then a spokesman for the Houston Police, said that it was not an electronic breach, but Lakewood said that the funds were fully insured and Osteen had encouraged those who made contributions to the church to monitor their bank accounts and credit card accounts. {eo}

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