

Dear Presenter,

Thank you for your willingness to share the offering appeals with your local congregation. It is a wonderful and gratifying responsibility. How you present these readings will determine how effective they are. Here are some suggestions to consider before you share:

**Pray:** Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that God will use your words to speak to the hearts in the congregation.

**Practice:** Read over the appeal at least three times to familiarize yourself with it. Read slowly and clearly. Underline or highlight key words to be emphasized during the reading. Strive to share these readings with excellence.

**Prepare:** Sometimes materials for special days are sent to your local church to distribute or present along with the appeal. Determine how they can be used most effectively.

**Personalize:** If you have a personal experience that you think will add strength to the appeal, please share it. People connect with others through stories.

**Present with Passion:** A presentation can have all the above elements, but without passion it may not stir the hearts of the hearers. Ask God to fill your heart with His Spirit so that you can present the appeal with spirit and truth.

**Please Note:** These offering appeals have been edited and personalized by the Wisconsin Conference. They are similar but not originals of the online offering appeals from the NAD.

**Thank you!**

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**January 1, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget.**

The story is told of two brothers who were busy assembling the pieces of a puzzle game. After some time, the father could hear conflict between the brothers. As he stepped into the room, he could see both holding and pulling the same piece of the puzzle while screaming at each other. One wanted to place the piece at the bottom left and the other at the top right. . . . He could not refrain from smiling and finally gave these words of advice: “Unless the piece is placed where it should be, you will never complete the puzzle.”

It’s the same with God. We worship God because first is where He belongs. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” He was First. Unless “The First,” or “The Starter,” is placed where He is supposed to be, our existence will never be complete.

In managing our resources, both small and great, who and what is competing for the first place? If you aspire to make this year a masterpiece of your life, choose to acknowledge God as the first in everything.

**Prayer:** Lord, we praise You for being the great Starter of the universe. We invite You to be First in our life and First in the management of our resources. In You, we want a great start and to finish strong.

**January 8, 2022**

## **Religious Liberty**

The mission of the Adventist Church's Religious Liberty Ministry is to preserve the ability of its members to practice and share their faith as their conscience dictates, and to administer the Church's institutions in a manner consistent with our biblical beliefs.

The Public Affairs and Religious ministry protects and defends these sacred freedoms through the distribution of Liberty Magazine, legislative advocacy, public awareness initiatives, coalition building, education of our members and pastors, and the legal system.

The funds given today will go to sponsor Liberty Magazine subscriptions to individuals who make decisions that impact our ability to live out our religious convictions, to share God's love with others, and to maintain churches and schools that reflect our Christian values and teachings.

It will also support the legal defense of members who experience religious discrimination in the workplace.

Additionally, the Seventh-day Adventist Church advocates on behalf of the religious freedoms of individuals who believe differently than we do. In doing so we honor God's gracious gift of individual choice and the power of the Holy Spirit to motivate sincere change.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for giving us courage to stand for our faith. Bless those who work diligently through our Religious Liberty department.

**January 15, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget.**

This week our tithes and offerings will support our local church budget. Like every family, the local church family has financial obligations to meet. Some are easy to see like power and heat, but many are not so obvious: children's magazines, Sabbath school Bible study guides, teaching supplies, staff salaries, cleaning services, church school operating expenses, property insurance, worthy student fund, community outreach, family emergency fund.

These are but a few of the costs that must be met month after month as the local church seeks to be a light in the community and take care of each other's needs. Because these expenses are constant, My Personal Giving Plan recommends that 3-5 percent of one's income be set aside for the local church budget. This systematic giving ensures that all share both in the blessings and the responsibilities of the local congregation.

Thank you for your faithfulness supporting your local church, your local family.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we ask that You will show each of us how we can be a blessing to our local church family. Thank You for providing for our needs. We place ourselves and our resources under Your trust and care.

**January 22, 2022**

**Wisconsin Conference Advance.**

Have you heard of the Mission Investment Offering? It's about a partnership between you and God. You pick a project and dedicate the income to the Mission Investment Offering.

Here's an example involving chickens! When Kelly Rose Bishop was a teenager, she decided to commit 10 percent of her egg business to investment. She sold eggs to regular customers and to people who just stopped by her house. After two months she noticed that her sales had gone up by 50 percent. That's how the partnership worked. She promised to give 10 percent of her income – that was her part – but she believes that God blessed her little business because the 10 percent grew due to a new larger income – that was God's part.

This month, New Year's Resolutions have been on everyone's minds. How about a resolution to start a Mission Investment project and see what God does for you? There are all kinds of ways to enter into partnership with God. Every dollar you raise will be used to advance Adventist Missions.

**Prayer:** Lord, we are thankful for the ideas You give us for developing and investing in Your work. We thank you for the missions that are a part of our local conference and pray that You will grow and advance each one.

**January 29, 2022**

**Local Church Budget.**

We worship God with our resources because He has preserved our lives. We all remember Joseph and Mary bringing baby Jesus to the temple 33 days after his birth. This event is known as the dedication of Jesus and has inspired many Christians. The origin of this practice goes back to the time that the Israelites left Egypt. During the 10th plague, the firstborn of the Egyptian was killed whereas God protected the Israelite firstborn. As a sign of remembrance, every parent in Israel would consecrate their firstborn son to the Lord and make the corresponding offerings. Depending on the family's wealth it was either a one-year-old lamb or two turtledoves, offered in appreciation and for the consecration of a spared life.

God is still sparing lives today. Can you recall a time when He spared yours? Consider giving Him a thank offering and consecrate yourself fully to His will for your life.

This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us show appreciation to our Protector.

**Prayer:** Lord, we worship you because your love and care have preserved our lives. Receive our offerings of thanks and consecration to you.

**February 5, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget.**

A young man was anxious about his upcoming wedding. He knew that the bride was the one he had dreamed of, but he had some real concerns for their finances as a new couple. He would be the only one earning a salary, and previously as a bachelor, he could hardly reach the next payday without borrowing some money. Surprisingly, after the first month, the first quarter, and first year of marriage, the one income was sufficient for the couple's expenses. They could even reach the next payday with some bit of savings. The result was great peace of mind. How was that made possible?

During their wedding preparation, the pastor counseling them reminded them about the instruction of Jesus in Luke 14:28, "sit down and estimate the cost." They learned about the importance of a family budget. Neither of the spouses was an accountant, but with practice, discipline, and God's help, they established a budget, a roadmap for their expense.

This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us place God and His instructions on the forefront of our lives.

**Prayer:** Lord, we praise you for the multiple resources You have provided us and we thank You for Your valuable instructions.



**February 12, 2022**

**Adventist Television Ministries Evangelism.**

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14. Someday we will see Jesus face to face. As Adventists we believe there are exciting times ahead when the skies will open and our Redeemer will come as King of kings, and Lord of lords, to take us home. What a day that will be!

Jesus made it very clear in Matthew 24:14 that before He comes again the good news of the kingdom will be preached to all nations. One way in which this prophecy is being fulfilled in our day is through the efforts of Adventist Television Ministries.

Our offering today is for World Budget. Adventist Television Ministries is a recipient of this offering. Perhaps your life has also been impacted by one of these ministries. Thank you for choosing to be a channel of blessing supporting this world wide evangelism with your resources.

**Prayer:** Lord, we long to go to our heavenly home with our family, friends and all those You are even now calling. Bless the gifts we have brought as our worship today. Bless the efforts of Adventist Television Ministries and all those who continue to work tirelessly to partner with You in Your work. Lord Jesus come quickly. Amen.

**February 19, 2022**

**Local Church Budget.**

We worship God with our resources because whatever He receives, He multiplies. In John 6:9, Andrew came to Jesus and said, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” The miracle of the multiplication of bread teaches that a desert can become a restaurant when Jesus is around; nothing is too small for Him to make into a sumptuous feast.

However, *Jesus can only multiply what is given to Him*. The food that had remained home, He did not multiply; the food that was eaten before the disciples came, could not be multiplied; the food that was hidden away was not multiplied. Only the food freely offered by the little lad did He multiply.

God still works miracles of multiplication. Has there been a time in your life when God multiplied for you? For all these untold miracles of God multiplying our resources, should we not persevere worshipping Him with our tithe and regular offerings?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, renew our faith in You, the God who multiplies what He receives.

**February 26, 2022**

**Wisconsin Conference Advance.**

A family recently settled in a new country and encountered some financial challenges. Their family budget was not balancing. They decided to skim out all superfluous expenses, but that was not enough. It was now time for some drastic decisions; to either cut their giving to the church or not enroll their son in his piano classes. Both decisions would be temporary until their financial condition improved. Prayerfully but painfully, they chose the second option, no piano lessons. A few days later, early in the morning, the wife picked up an envelope from their living room floor. The envelope was sealed and had no name written on it. When they opened the envelope, great was their surprise to find money inside! The amount was more than enough for the fee for at least three months of piano lessons. They experienced the consistency of God's care.

Some life circumstances may tempt us to interrupt our regularity in worshipping God with our resources. If this is our struggle, let us allow God's faithfulness and regularity to inspire us. This week, in response to God's consistency, we worship Him with our tithe and regular offerings.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for being the unchanging, eternal God on whom we can depend for our daily sustenance. Help us to reflect Your image of regularity in faithfulness.

**March 5, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

During Jesus' earthly ministry, a group of women provided the resources for His last trip around Galilee. Luke 8:3 reads, "Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means."

As a result, this phase of His ministry was particularly rich in teaching, demonstrating power and expansion in mission. During this missionary tour, they visited the Gentile regions outside the borders of Israel: Tyre, Sidon, Bethsaida, and Decapolis. They went north as far as Caesarea Phillipi. Outside Tyre, Jesus repeated the miracle of the multiplication of bread by feeding 4,000 men, non-Jews, presenting Himself as the Bread of Life for all nations.

We bring our tithe, offerings, and donations because the Master calls us to partner with Him in His final mission. Are you willing?

**Prayer:** Lord, help us not to miss any opportunity to partner with you and support Your final mission.

**March 12, 2022**

**World Budget - Adventist World Radio**

Today's offering is for **Adventist World Radio** which has been broadcasting the good news to the world for more than 50 years! AWR is a media ministry of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. With more than 1,000 worldwide radio stations and local studios, cell phone evangelism, apps, podcasts, health messages, and internet-based outreach, AWR is reaching nearly all the world with the Gospel.

Radio is still the primary source of communication for most of the world. It knows no borders, no walls, and no limits. It can penetrate homes and hearts and go where missionaries cannot enter.

Last year, AWR's *Unlocking Bible Prophecies* and *Earth's Final Countdown* series received millions of views in dozens of languages. Many of these videos are still the top results when people search for Bible prophecy topics on YouTube and Google.

Currently, AWR broadcasts in more than 100 different languages, but plans are underway to prepare presentations in more than 500 languages and dialects so that every person on the planet can listen to Bible-based messages in their own language. Thank you for your prayers and for partnering with Adventist World Radio.

**PRAYER:** Father, thank you for the opportunity to work with you in the saving of souls. Please bless the ministry of Adventist World Radio. We know it is through Your Spirit that this work goes forward.

**March 19, 2022**

**Local Church Budget.**

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We worship God with our resources because He is our sure Deliverer. From his anointing when he was around 15 until his old age, King David had a long and perilous journey through many dangers. To name a few: there were the lions and the bears, Goliath—the giant, Saul—the envious king, and Absalom—the overly ambitious son. For keeping him safe, David burst into praises or Psalms, worshiping God as the Rock, the Fortress, and Deliverer.

Many of those Psalms are wonderful verses for us to memorize and find our comfort. Psalms 18:2 says, “The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Psalms 34:7 says, “The angel of the Lord encamps round about those who fear Him (God), and delivers them.”

The God of David is not less active today. Has He delivered you recently? Do you think that “The Deliverer” deserves our full worship? Have you considered giving Him a Thank Offering?

This week, through our tithe and regular offerings we can worship the Great Deliverer.

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank You for being our Rock, Fortress, and Deliverer. Accept our praises as we honor You with our resources.

**March 26, 2022**

**Wisconsin Conference Advance.**

The Mission of the Wisconsin Conference is to grow passionate disciples of Jesus, prepared for Christ's soon coming. Our vision is to transform communities by reflecting Christ. Our core values are God's Word, His people and His charge to share the gospel.

The Wisconsin Conference has four main events to help grow us as Christ's disciples: Campmeeting, Camp Wakonda youth camps and activities, Education and Evangelism.

Campmeeting is our 10 day convocation for worship, fellowship and training held at the Camp Wakonda campground every June.

Camp Wakonda has summer camps for youth as well as numerous activities throughout the year, including Pathfinders.

Our schools in Wisconsin are scattered throughout the entire state and have been a blessing to thousands of young people, training them to become disciples of Jesus.

Evangelism is a commitment in Wisconsin, both corporately and individually.

Perhaps your journey as a believer has been enriched through one or more of these events. If so, this is a wonderful opportunity to give God a thank offering for all His blessings.

**Prayer:** Lord, we praise You for being an unlimited God who provides for us according to Your great riches. Thank You for providing abundantly for our campground, our schools and our work of evangelism.

**April 2, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

In ancient Israel, through the giving of offerings, God's children were worshipping and praising Him, celebrating Him as the Giver of the Holy One, affirming Him as Lord, acknowledging Him as Owner and Provider. The giving of offerings showed a willingness to obey, it supported the holy ministry, and blessed the lives of many.

It is the same today. Through the giving of offerings, we worship our Heavenly Father and praise Him for His abundant care over us, we celebrate the Holy One, Jesus our Saviour, we affirm Him as our Lord and King and we show that we acknowledge Him as Owner and Provider of all our material resources. The giving of tithes and offerings supports the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist faith, it shows our willingness to trust and obey and blesses the lives of many.

Thank you for your commitment to the holy ministry through the giving of offerings.

**Prayer:** Lord, we praise You for the privilege to worship and the privilege to give.



**April 9, 2022**

**Hope Channel International, Inc.,**

Every day, God uses the global evangelistic media ministry of Hope Channel to reach thousands of viewers with the message of hope and love that comes from Him! With 68+ Hope Channels around the world broadcasting in more than 80 languages, the mission of Jesus is being fulfilled by the power of the Holy Spirit—“The harvest truly is great!” (Lk. 10:2).

Through turbulent and unprecedented world events, God used Hope Channel to share uplifting messages and opportunities for connection with viewers around the world. *Hope at Home*, a new Hope Channel program, has become the local online church service for thousands around the world each weekend by providing inspiring messages, music, and wellness tips from professionals. You can tune in on [HopeTV.org/AtHome](https://www.HopeTV.org/AtHome). The Bible study platform, [Hope.Study](https://www.HopeTV.org/Study), has grown to provide free and easy-to-use Bible study courses on topics such as igniting your prayer life, navigating stressful situations, and learning to understand the Bible better. We are also hearing more and more inspiring testimonies of viewers whose lives have changed; you can watch these testimonies at [HopeTV.org/Transformed](https://www.HopeTV.org/Transformed).

Your support for Hope Channel provides much-needed resources for this global evangelistic media ministry. The General Conference regularly receives a portion of offerings received from the divisions, and it redistributes the funds to mission projects and institutions. Hope Channel is included in that list. Additional offerings for Hope Channel may be given at any time in a marked envelope.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank You for the invitation to join You in Your harvest work! Please bless these gifts and all Your harvest workers, in the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

**April 16, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

Do you have a mission plan? Does your church have a mission plan? How large is our vision of God's mission? We are saved because God emptied heaven and sent Jesus to our world. And at some point, the church mobilized resources to send a missionary to our home country or region. With Jesus as our model, would you like to be an instrument of love to every nation, tribe, language, and people?

“The best medicine you can give the church is not preaching or sermonizing, but planning work for them. If set to work, the despondent would soon forget their despondency, the weak would become strong, the ignorant intelligent, and all would be prepared to present the truth as it is in Jesus.” (*Review & Herald, June 25, 1895*).

Among other things, the tithe and offerings plan provides us with an opportunity to participate locally and globally in missions. God may be calling you to give more than just tithes and offerings. He may be calling you to give time and talents. Are you willing?

**Prayer:** Lord, Your love has no boundaries; that's why we are saved. Through our giving, help us to express the same kind of love for all humanity. Bless us, Lord, with a vision for missions, both in our community and in our world.

**April 23, 2022**

**Wisconsin Conference Advance.**

We worship God with our tithe and offerings in response to the call to acknowledge God as Master. Acknowledging the real Master can sometimes be a struggle.

The captain of the ship looked into the night and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message, "Alter your course 10 degrees south."

Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north."

The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So, he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south—I am the captain!"

Soon another message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north—I am seaman third class Jones."

Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south—I am a battleship."

Then the reply came, "Alter your course 10 degrees north—I am a lighthouse."

The system of tithing was established to acknowledge God as Lord and Master. Who is the Lord and Master of your life? Have you acknowledged God's call for you?

The Wisconsin Conference seeks to be a light in a dark world, turning others to the real Master, Jesus Christ. Our tithe and offerings this week will support this commitment and further advance the work God has given to us here.

**Prayer:** We are blessed to have you as Father and Lord. May our actions and giving reveal that we honor you as Lord and Master. We ask, Father, that our churches will stand as a lighthouse in a dark world guiding others to the real Master.

**April 30, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

When our finances are in a mess, we can hardly enjoy a happy life, and it is difficult to honor God with a faithful tithe and adequate offerings. Would you like to enjoy the quality of life that your Divine Father has meticulously purposed for you? Find resources that will train you to be accountable financially. Enroll in an online class or attend a local seminar. Take the time to sit down as a family and work through a budget. Little by little you can begin to exercise more discipline and order in the management of our God-given resources. You will be blessed and you will become a blessing to others.

This week, may we reflect the image of the orderly God that we serve through our tithe and regular offerings.

**Prayer:** Lord, please give us the wisdom and discipline to reflect Your orderliness in the management of our personal affairs.

**May 7, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

The North American Division encourages the use of the “My Personal Giving Plan.” This plan was developed as a guideline to assist members in systematic giving.

To gain a more extensive understanding visit [www.personalgivingplan.com](http://www.personalgivingplan.com).

The “My Personal Giving Plan” encourages each of us to renew our commitment to the principles of Christian stewardship. While it blesses the church as a whole, its real impact is on us as individuals in our faith-based covenant with God. Like all plans, it requires thought and consideration. Everything in God’s creation is orderly and purposeful. No great work can be built upon emotional or sporadic giving.

This week, prayerfully ask God to show you how you can be systematic and orderly in your giving. Where does God need you to advance?

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank You for Your faithfulness to us. You always have a plan to take care of us. Show us how we can partner together with You for Your work.

**May 14, 2022**

### **Disaster & Famine Relief**

Adventist Community Services (ACS) works with the local conferences and disaster response agencies to equip volunteers to serve and assist the community, providing disaster assessments, sheltering services, donation management, home reconstruction, and emotional and spiritual care.

In 2020 – 2021, COVID-19 caused a heavy toll on ACS Food Pantries/Centers, yet our volunteers continued to serve families and individuals who were facing challenges due to this crisis. NAD ACS invested 2 million dollars to assist in providing food to our neighbors who struggled during this difficult time.

When you give to ACS and ADRA, YOU make it possible for the Adventist Church to respond immediately both nationally and internationally to help survivors of hurricanes, fires, floods, earthquakes, famine, and other crisis.

We want to thank everyone for your dedicated ongoing support to Adventist Community Services, whether it is through sacrificial giving, volunteering, or prayers. You truly bring Galatians 6:2 to life, “Carry each other’s burdens.”

**Prayer:** Father, we thank You for the ministry of ACS and ADRA. We ask your blessing upon each of the faithful workers and volunteers for these ministries. Thank You for providing the resources they need to continue ministering to those who have experienced the effects of natural disasters. Bless us with a vision of how we may be a help to those in crisis around us.

**May 21, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

We worship God with our resources because of His sacrificial love. Jesus left heaven, and He embraced the plight of fallen humanity. He accomplished his mission against fearful odds and dire resistance. Finally, He offered it all, His own life. This is how He demonstrated love. As God's representatives, a sacrificial spirit is part of our true identity. That was the spirit demonstrated by our church's pioneers and it will be the same spirit that fills God's people through to the end of time.

This week may our tithe and regular offerings reflect this spirit of self-denial, the Spirit of Christ.

**Prayer:** Lord, we praise You for consenting to the greatest of all sacrifices- giving your life to save us. Help us demonstrate the same sacrificial spirit in our daily lives.

**May 28, 2022**

### **Wisconsin Conference Advance**

This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we will be supporting the advancement of the work in the Wisconsin Conference and the many resources God uses through our conference to bless others.

Consider all the resources God has used in your life to bless you and take care of you. Some of those resources may be ministries and people here in the Wisconsin conference. Think of Campmeeting, Camp Wakonda, Church planting, VBS, Pathfinders, Adventurers, the Worthy Student Fund, the Family Crisis Fund, Adventist Community Services, Education, Evangelism, Retreats - the list goes on and on. God has blessed us abundantly and we have much to be thankful for.

This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we will be supporting the advancement of the work in the Wisconsin Conference and the many resources God uses through our conference to bless others.

**Prayer:** Father, we thank you for the many ways You have blessed us. May we each grow in our understanding of Your calling for our lives.



**June 4, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

God set the amount or value of some offerings, and for other offerings, He left it to the personal choice of the worshipper. The general principle was always to give in proportion to what one has received and to give our very best offerings to God.

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you.” (Deut. 16:17). “Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf.” (Lev. 22:20).

As we give our tithes and offerings this week, let’s contemplate God’s goodness and His fairness. He loves us and He gives His all for us.

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank You for Your instructions given for our safeguard. We also thank you for Your faithfulness and love showered on us.

**June 11, 2022**

## **Women's Ministries**

Women are specifically designed by God to meet the needs of other women. Women's Ministries is the best way to connect both the church and unchurched women in your community to each other and to introduce them to Jesus Christ.

Across the North American Division, from the United States to Canada and from Bermuda to Guam-Micronesia, the women of the church are engaged in serving others. They give Bible studies, hold evangelistic series, and minister to those in shelters for battered and homeless women. They provide for the needs of families seeking refuge on our shores from oppressive regimes, teach English as a second language, tutor school children, and make bags of love for children who are displaced from their homes or their parents. The women of the church are making a significant difference in their communities and their congregations. COVID did not slow down ministry, it just moved it online. Local, conference, union and division women's ministries offered online and live webinars, retreats, seminars, and get together. Zoom became a place where members and community gathered to talk, encourage, study, discuss books, and pray together.

Established in 1898 at the urging of Ellen White, the Women's Ministries Offering funds evangelistic outreach events and leadership training for women across the North American Division who partner with God in service through ministries that impact girls, teens, young adults, and women.

Learn more about women's ministries and how you can impact your church and community at [nadwm.org](http://nadwm.org). Thank you for supporting women's ministries as we seek to encourage, equip and challenge girls, teens, and women to grow deeply in God and serve Him uniquely with their gifts and talents.

**Prayer:** Lord, we give you our hearts, we give you ourselves, and we give you these gifts. Thank you for this privilege, we love You and serve You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**June 18, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

Have you ever received a belated birthday note from someone whom you considered close and important to you? Perhaps the message came when they saw your social media post thanking others for their well-wishes. These belated notes are rarely the most valued. When we want to show someone that he or she counts and is special, we usually mark our calendar and even add a reminder for us not to miss the important event. The best expression of love is *both* spontaneous and planned.

Which type of giver are we when we have to express love and thanks to God? Do we depend solely on the prompting of our impulses and feelings? How do we honor the Savior who does not treat us as an afterthought?

This week, as we worship with our tithe and offerings let us show that our God is first and foremost a planned part of our giving. Giving that is spontaneous *and* planned honors the receiver.

**Prayer:** Lord, the plan of salvation tells us how important we are to you and how much You love us. Please help us to emulate the same consideration for You and others, both spontaneous and planned.

**June 25, 2022**

### **Wisconsin Conference Advance**

The mission of the Wisconsin Conference is to grow passionate disciples of Jesus, prepared for Christ's soon coming. Our vision is to transform communities by reflecting Christ. Our core values are God's Word, His people and His charge to share the gospel.

The Wisconsin Conference has four main events to help grow us as Christ's disciples: Campmeeting, Camp Wakonda Activities, Education and Evangelism.

Campmeeting is our 10 day convocation for worship, fellowship and training held at the Camp Wakonda campground every June.

Following Campmeeting, Camp Wakonda has summer camps for youth as well as numerous activities throughout the year, including Pathfinders.

Our schools in Wisconsin are scattered throughout the entire state and have been a blessing to thousands of young people, training them to become disciples of Jesus.

Evangelism happens regularly in Wisconsin, both corporately *and* individually.

God has abundantly blessed us and we have much to be thankful for. This week your tithe and offerings will help to support the mission and growth of our conference. Thank you for your faithfulness supporting God's work.

**Prayer:** Lord, please give us the courage to put You first with our tithe and offerings. Show us where we can grow as your disciples.

**July 2, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

On your birthday, you sometimes get a present. But in church many people *give* a gift on their special day. It's called a "Birthday Thank Offering." Have you ever given someone a thank-you gift? Well, church members sometimes offer a gift of pure gratitude to God. It might be on the occasion of a birthday, thanking God for the blessings of the past year. Or maybe thanking Him for one blessing in particular, such as a promotion at work. Or a new grandbaby. They mark it on their tithe envelope as a "Birthday Thank Offering."

What happens to the "Birthday Thank Offering?" This gift is directed to church divisions outside of North America to do mission work. Much of it is used in evangelistic activities. But some also goes to clinics, hospitals, and educational institutions. A portion of your gift goes to administer the General Conference Mission Program, helping to move missionaries into new fields and advance the Adventist message. So your gift of gratitude goes to missionaries and church institutions around the world who in turn will accept it with gratitude. It shows that being thankful can be contagious!

Have you had a birthday recently? Have you had a special blessing happen in your life that you would like to thank God for? Consider giving a "Birthday Thank Offering" and experience the contagious joy God gives when we show our gratitude!

This week our offerings are for the local church budget. Thank you for supporting your local church and the Adventist mission work around the world.

**Prayer:** Lord, we have so much to be thankful for. Thank You for our birthdays and the special occasions You bring in our lives.

**July 9, 2022**

## **World Budget**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is known throughout the world for its mission outreach. Your regular and systematic mission offerings are like a life-giving river with tributaries flowing around the world, carrying refreshing water to mission fields. Every time we give our mission offerings, we're adding water to a life-giving river that flows through often parched lands bringing life and hope. We're helping the church grow, not only locally but also in areas that we may not have even heard of. We're assisting missionaries we may never meet and building schools and clinics that we probably will never visit. We are helping plant churches we may never worship in. And we're bringing life to the church's mission by introducing Jesus' love to the hearts and minds of people all around the world.

Sometimes we want to give to a specific project or put our offerings towards something special that stirs our hearts. We see the results, and we feel satisfied. Giving to the mission offering may not be as glamorous as giving to a specific, well-advertised project or program. But mission offerings help sustain all mission projects.

Please prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to show you what more you can do to support and sustain our Lord's work until He comes.

**Prayer:** Father, thank You for blessing the offerings today for World Missions. Give us conviction and courage to go forward in missions where You call us.

**July 16, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

We worship the God who makes promises and provides instructions. Consider the counsel given in II Kings 4:7, “She went and told the man of God, and he said, ‘Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.’”

This Bible text describes the initiative of a widow after she has experienced a miracle, a room full of jars with oil. She returned to Elisha to express gratitude. Then, the prophet spoke these final words to her: “Live on what is Left!” These words stand as a promise about the sufficiency of God’s provision. She does not have to fear for her future.

They are also an instruction not to live on borrowed resources. Previously, her family contracted a huge debt which resulted in painful consequences. Elisha’s departing advice was for her to manage wisely. The Lord not only performs miracles, but He also teaches us how to use our blessings.

The instruction “live on what is left” is relevant for us today. Personal financial management is a major deficiency for our generation, bringing disastrous consequences. Believers who have the best intentions to partner in God’s mission often do not because their finances are in a mess.

As we claim His promises daily, let us also be diligent in the management of our resources. Let us learn to “live on what is left!”

**Prayer:** Lord, Your instructions bring peace and comfort to us, providing directions for our life. Give us discernment for all our financial decisions.

**July 23, 2022**

### **Wisconsin Conference Advance**

The story is told of a man who was a great provider for his family. Every month, on pay day, he would purchase everything that his wife and sons needed. This family lacked nothing except a happy father. Once, one of his sons questioned him: “Dad, why do you do all this for us?” His answer was: “I am legally married to your mother and you are my dependents, it is my responsibility to provide for you.” It wasn’t the answer the boy was expecting and later in life, he understood why the father was so sad when everyone was enjoying the goodies. The father faithfully kept his obligations and responsibilities but he lacked love.

Have you lost your first love? Do you give to others out of a sense of duty? Do you share your resources with the church because it’s an obligation? God calls us for something deeper. He asks us to give because we love. We worship with our resources because of the love that God has manifested to us. Without love obedience is of no value in the eyes of God. *We can give without loving but we cannot love without giving.*

Today our tithes and offerings will advance the growth and mission of the Wisconsin Conference. As we give may it be in response to God’s extravagant love.

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank you for your unfailing love for us. We pray that Christ’s love will be the compelling force for all of our giving.



**July 30, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

We worship with our offerings and donations because Jesus invites us to care for others as He does. “When we see human beings in distress, whether through affliction or through sin, we shall never say, this does not concern me.”—E. G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 504.

The story of Emilienne, from Madagascar, reminds us that we can put back a smile on people’s faces. Before 2015, Emilienne was always frowning. She was a single mother whose children were always hungry, and she could not afford to send them to school. Then, she joined the ADRA food security project in a town called Bikily. There she received training, access to farm tools, and drought-resistant seeds. As a result, she started her farm: planting sorghum, sweet potatoes, cassava, and pumpkin. Now, she has enough to feed and clothe her family, pay their school fees, and invest in the future. Above all, she always has a smile on her face.

Would you like to do mission work in the footsteps of Jesus and draw smiles on people’s faces? Does your church have a fund for helping those in need? Giving is one means established by God to alleviate sufferings, express His love, and bring back hope. This week, we can practice Christ’s ministry method by worshipping with our tithe and regular offerings.

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank You for the love and compassion that You have for us. Please help us today to be channels of Your blessings to others.

**August 6, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

Our generosity is inspired by God's generosity. No one can out-give God!

Abraham, a Masai man, had a similar mindset. He was the owner of 1,000 head of cattle and large herds of sheep and goats. Acknowledging that God was the Source of his blessing, he decided to be faithful to God. He placed his cattle in large pens and counted them as they walked through a chute. Each 10<sup>th</sup> cow Abraham dedicated as tithe for God. His friends and acquaintances were amazed. In their culture, a person's wealth is measured in cattle. One doesn't just give away his cows! They began to mock him, and many people declared him to be crazy. But the laughter abruptly stopped nine months later when 40 of Abraham's cows gave birth to twins! In addition, many of his goats and sheep birthed triplets!

Even if someone chooses to give everything, God has all the means to replenish that person's resources. As we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us reflect on the truthfulness of these words in our own life.

**Prayer:** Lord, Your generosity towards us has no limit and it embraces all aspects of our existence. Make us generous as You are.

**August 13, 2022**

### **Christian Record Services**

Today's offering is for Christian Record Services, Inc. This ministry of compassion of the Seventh-day Adventist Church provides support and resources to children and adults who are blind, with nearly 18,000 members throughout the United States and in countries around the world.

Christian Record offers an array of services and programs, including: Bible study lessons, books, magazines and Bibles in audio, Braille and large print from a library of more than 2,000 titles. Members also have the opportunity to deepen social, educational, and spiritual connections through PhoneFaith, scholarships for higher education, and National Camps for Blind Children.

These services and programs are free of charge to people who are legally blind. Your offerings today will help further the mission to empower people who are blind to engage their communities and embrace the Blessed Hope.

**Prayer:** Lord, we ask that You will bless the work of Christian Record Services for the blind. Bless us with discernment to know how we can help support this mission around the world.

**August 20, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

After building the tabernacle from the freewill offerings of the people, it was now time to set apart Aaron and his sons for the holy ministry. Exodus 29 provides details about the ordination service of the first priests in Israel. Interestingly, Moses, the leader, did not deliver a special speech or preach a sermon for this occasion. But one thing was prominent, offerings of various kinds: Sin offering, burnt offering, and wave offering. What were the messages conveyed by these offerings?

The sin offering was for the atonement of sin. The priests were reminded that they needed God's grace and forgiveness to qualify for their duty. The burnt offering was burned completely on the altar. It pointed to the total commitment that was required from those called to service. Finally, the wave offering was presented in a waving-type motion, elevated and swung to and fro toward heaven. It symbolized the priest's dedication to God's service and about God's provision for those who sacrificed themselves in service to Him. Through these multiple offerings, they learned the true meaning of their ordination.

Offerings are sermons without words. They remind us of God's gift of salvation, His daily blessings, and our adequate response of total commitment.

Where is God calling you to commit yourself? This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us be attentive to God's voice.

**Prayer:** Lord, we praise You for the multiple ways You talk to us, Your children. As we bring our offerings and tithe today, teach us the spiritual lessons we need.

**August 27, 2022**

### **Wisconsin Conference Advance**

The book of 2 Chronicles 29-31 tells us about the revival during the time of King Hezekiah: The temple was repaired. The worship services were restored. Passover was celebrated once again. Levites were reinstated to ministry. Restoration of true worship was at the heart of true revival.

The people's response to the call for revival comprised of a concrete element: "Then Hezekiah said, "You have now dedicated yourselves to the Lord. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the Lord. So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings." (2 Chr. 29:31). Spiritual revival acknowledges God as Lord, and filled with His Spirit, compels us to honor Him with our gifts.

The call for a spiritual revival is resounding loud in our churches. This week, as we support the Wisconsin conference with our tithe and offerings, pray for a revival to take root in our hearts.

**Prayer:** Lord, help us to respond to Your call of revival through prayers of repentance, praises, giving, and a dedicated life.

**September 3, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

Do God's instructions always make sense to you? Consider the instructions God gave the Hebrews about soil management in Leviticus 25:3-4, "For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather the crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards." It was an invitation for His children to trust Him.

We now know some of the benefits of putting the land to rest through knowledge acquired in Agricultural science. In those days, after receiving such unusual instruction, the Israelites would surely wonder what they would eat in the seventh year if they did not plant or harvest. However, God's order was backed up by a promise, "*Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land.*"

Have you ever gone through a situation where God's instructions did not make any sense to you? Remember the words of the hymn: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus."

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank You for the opportunity we have each new week to sharpen our confidence in You. Increase our faith and thank You for fulfilling Your promises.

**September 10, 2022**

**World Budget (Emphasis: Radio Ministries)**

Have you heard about “The Amazon of Hope,” a floating church? It is not known by most of us, and even fewer have visited this boat church. In 2016, God’s children from all over the world pulled funds together to support the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offering projects, and one implemented project was the floating church, “The Amazon of Hope,” in Brazil. The result is inspiring. In the first 12 full months of operation of the boat church, two hundred and eighty-six people were baptized, and planted three churches in 2017. And this is the testimony of Pastor Reno, who served on the Amazon of Hope: “The boat church is God’s way of saving people who have been forgotten by political, economic, and health systems.”

God’s has many ways of reaching His children and He blesses our creativity and commitment to advance His work.

This week as you give your tithes and offerings remember God’s many children who long to hear of Jesus.

**Prayer:** Lord, give us the courage to be creative and committed for the mission work You call us to.

**September 17, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

Perhaps you've read stories of pioneer families coming together for a barn raising. Some Amish communities still enjoy these events. Seventh-day Adventists also have projects where we all pitch in to accomplish a goal. That is the purpose of the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering. Every 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath, the church focuses on one of its world divisions to accomplish a mission goal. Often, the offering goes toward constructing a building that will be used for education, evangelism, or media outreach. The 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offerings have been used to establish schools, such as the Central Philippine Adventist College. A recent offering made a youth camp possible in Belize. All the church members around the world join hands on these projects through sacrificial giving.

Next week will be a 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath. Do you want to be a part of something big? You'll be a part of a worldwide community expanding Adventist mission work when you plan to give to the 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering. Remember, you can give a 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering anytime by marking it on your tithe envelope.

Our giving funds the mission to finish the work, at home and abroad.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for the privilege of being a part of a mission focus both locally and globally.



**September 24, 2022**

### **Wisconsin Conference Advance**

The mission of the Wisconsin Conference is to grow passionate disciples of Jesus, prepared for Christ's soon coming. Our vision is to transform communities by reflecting Christ. Our core values are God's Word, His people and His charge to share the gospel.

The Wisconsin Conference seeks to instill our vision and mission through four main events: Campmeeting, Camp Wakonda Youth Activities, Education and Evangelism.

Campmeeting, held in Westfield, WI every June, is a 10 day convocation for worship, fellowship and training. On average, Campmeeting campers represent 27 different states from the US and a few join us from Canada.

Following Campmeeting, Camp Wakonda summer camps are filled to capacity with lots of young people making first-time decisions for Jesus. Throughout the year Pathfinders and other youth activities keep Camp Wakonda busy in ministry!

Thousands of young people have been inspired to be faithful disciples of Jesus through their attendance of one of our schools, including Wisconsin Academy.

For members in Wisconsin, evangelism is both a corporate and an individual commitment.

This week, our tithes and offerings will help to support the vision and mission of the Wisconsin Conference. Thank you to each one for your faithfulness to help advance this work.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for your leadership in our lives and in our churches. Give us the courage to go forward in missions where You are calling us.

**October 1, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

When the Sabbath School Mission Offering envelope comes around, it is easy to slip in a dollar or two. But when you find out where it goes, you might want to give more!

The Mission Offering travels to church divisions outside North America where the needs are great. Much of it is used in evangelistic activities, but some also goes to aid clinics, hospitals, and educational institutions. Adventist World Radio gets help from this offering. And a portion of your gift goes to administer the General Conference's mission program, which helps to train and move missionaries into new fields to advance the Adventist message. The offering that you give in your Sabbath School room literally goes a long way as it aids mission work around the globe.

This week as we give our tithes and offerings to support our local church budget remember God's call to support missions both local and global.

**Prayer:** Lord, it's exciting to be a part of mission work at home and abroad. Bless us with a commitment to Your work wherever and however You need us.

**October 8, 2022.**

### **Outdoor Education**

Outdoor Education in Wisconsin takes place in the beautiful outdoor setting of Camp Wakonda. Students in grades 5 and 6 come together to form friendships and learn about their Creator through hands-on experiences in nature.

The goals for Outdoor Education in the Wisconsin Conference are: that students have a greater appreciation of God through nature, the science program is brought to life, students are able to see God's great power and love in creation, and that students will love and enjoy the outdoors.

While at Camp Wakonda, students enjoy worship, interactive activities in nature, science, team building with a focus on exploration of God's Word and His second book – Nature.

“Let the children learn to see in nature an expression of the love and wisdom of God; let the thought of Him be linked with bird and flower and tree.” (Education p. 102, 103).

Thank you for supporting the Outdoor Education offering today. Remember to take time this week to be outside and thank God for all His marvelous creations.

**Prayer:** Father, thank You for the opportunity to be in nature and grow in our understanding of You and Your amazing creations.

**October 15, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

On one occasion, a pastor accompanied by an elder visited a low-income family of the church. They were gladly welcomed and had a great time fellowshiping together. At some point, the pastor opened the Bible and read Malachi 3:10, “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”

The pastor encouraged the family about faithfulness in giving. Upon completing their visit, the elder shared with the pastor that he was much uncomfortable about the text he read because this family was struggling financially. Gently, but firmly the pastor responded: “I wanted to make sure that they are not missing God’s blessings.”

Have you missed God’s blessings? God is ready for you to try Him and see what He can do. Make a vow to Him now that you will be faithful to give where He leads you to give and see what blessings He has for you.

**Prayer:** Lord, we thank You for taking care of us. Help us trust Your wisdom and remain faithful.

**October 22, 2022**

### **Wisconsin Conference Advance**

The Wisconsin conference is a sisterhood of local churches that helps each congregation within its boundaries to accomplish important objectives that are beyond the reach of any one church alone. A Conference Advance offering addresses these specific needs as well as a variety of special projects.

One of the largest portions goes to fund Christian Education. Another substantial part of the Conference Advance offering is set aside for evangelism in the local community. It is also used to finance programs and advertising that most local churches cannot shoulder alone. Child evangelism, inner-city evangelism, Vacation Bible School, summer camps, and youth evangelism are also areas supported by the Conference Advance offering.

Another benefit of the Conference Advance offering are the union papers and magazines that are shipped free of charge to church members. The Wisconsin Conference also publishes an e-newsletter. These informative publications help to unite believers over a large area and create a sense of community.

All of these educational and life-changing programs are possible because individual members choose to contribute a portion of their income to the Wisconsin Conference Advance Offering. Thank you for your faithful commitment to bless your fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, in appreciation for the spiritual blessings we receive through your Church and designated resources we bring our tithe and offerings to You. We are blessed to be part of Your plan.

**October 29, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

Mark, from South China, was deeply moved by a call for offering, and so he brought 30% of his total saving as his offering. Unexpectedly, he experienced a severe financial crisis soon afterward. His new business collapsed, and he fell into debt. Life's uncertainties! During this time, he heard an appeal for a new church building at the cost of 10 million Chinese Yuen. Mark realized that it was a rare opportunity to advance God's mission in his province of over 60 million population. Impressed by the Spirit, he made a commitment of 400,000 Chinese Yuen, with no idea where the money will come from. Then something amazing happened: the shareholder of his former architecture company invited him to resume work with them. He accepted the offer and was promoted to be an executive officer and board director in a short time. Mark ended up contributing 1 million Chinese Yuen to the church building project. Looking backward at his life's experience, he wrote: "The grace of the Lord is like endless running water."

Mark demonstrated trust by giving His fleeting resources to worship the God who richly provides for everything. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us make a statement about where our hope resides.

**Prayer:** Lord, we praise You for being a sure hope for Your children. Protect us daily from the deception of misplaced hope.

November 5, 2022

### Local Church Budget

Fred Stirewalt, a farmer from Hollister, California, shares an experience that showed him the value of obedience in claiming God's promises. One afternoon Fred observed that army beetles had covered his field. Immediately, he realized the disastrous outcome awaiting: these small creatures eat until there is nothing green left.

Feeling powerless, he had an insightful conversation with his daughter Helen: Helen asked, "Daddy, you pay your tithe, don't you?" "Yes," he replied.

"Then why not ask God to keep His promise and drive the beetles away?"

Convinced by these words, they knelt and prayed, claiming the promise of Malachi 3:10, 11: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, ... I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe.." Right after praying, they saw a cloud of blackbirds descending on their fields. The blackbirds remained for a short time, but there wasn't a beetle left when they flew away.

God has a heaven full of blessings for those who will cooperate with Him. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we are placing ourselves in a position to claim His promises.

**Prayer:** Lord, we are thankful for Your promises of spiritual and temporal blessings. We claim them over our lives. Remove all doubts and unfaithfulness that could be obstacles.

*Story of Fred Stirewalt adapted from <http://guidemagazine.org/pdfs/Guide-5-23-20.pdf>. PP. 12-14.*

**November 12, 2022**

**World Budget (Emphasis: Annual Sacrifice)**

We can worship with our resources when we follow God's instructions about economy and savings. In several instances, God has taught the practice of saving to His children. He inspired Joseph, the son of Jacob, to advise Pharaoh not to eat everything during the seven years of abundance but to keep 20% for later. At the end of the multiplication of bread and fish, the clear admonition was "let nothing be wasted." Jesus and His missionary crew were supported by a group of women who used their own means (Lk. 8:3).

Saving will help us to prepare for life emergencies, realize major financial goals, prepare for retirement, leave a financial legacy, and in some cases, break the cycle of poverty. Furthermore, we will be in a better position to partner in God's mission.

This week let's take the time to fix the leakages in our financial lives and begin to save. We can become partners with God in His work!

**Prayer:** Lord, You have designed us to enjoy an abundant life and to partner with You. Please give us the wisdom to manage our resources.



**November 19, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

We all know the popular formula for a happy life: Parents send kids to school, kids study hard and pass their exams, embrace a well-paid career, get married, and live a long and peaceful life. Unfortunately, real life often fails to match this ideal. Unexpected troubles become lifelong companions. The longed for career does not materialize. The house is repossessed by the bank. A lingering illness causes one to long for rest. We find that life is unfair and unpredictable.

While experiencing trials, grief and humiliation the prophet Jeremiah spoke about God's compassion and mercies. As David fled from his enemies he wrote Psalms of praise and thanksgiving for God's faithfulness. As Job sat in the ashes with his boils he said, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.

Are you experiencing trials? Probably... everyone has issues to deal with and sorrows to bear. Nevertheless, in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit we can praise God and continue to serve Him where He needs us.

This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, let us recall that God's care for us is constant and regular. We can count on Him to be what we need in all of our circumstances.

**Prayer:** Lord, we are thankful for Your abundant and regular care. In response, we choose to worship You regularly and set aside a percentage of our income as regular offerings. Sustain our commitment, Father. Amen.

**November 26, 2022**

### **Wisconsin Conference Advance**

We worship God with our resources because He gives us the power to produce wealth. The parable of Talents tells the story of three servants who received a share of their Master's property and their reports about how they used them to produce more wealth. The three servants had this in common: They faithfully returned to the Master what belonged to Him. However, the first two did something in addition. They produced wealth with what they received, and they were rewarded for that practice. As God promises the "ability to produce wealth" to all His servants, it is unfortunate that the third servant fails in this area and was deprived of His master's reward.

As believers, we are responsible for what we have received and for what we can produce. Growth in all areas of life and participation in the production of resources is a divine assignment. This responsibility often needs courage, strength, perseverance, and self-discipline. It is a daily uphill journey. However, no one has to be discouraged or to quit. God made a permanent promise: the ability to produce wealth.

Today, through our faithful giving, we are a source of blessing. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us reflect and pray on how to become a greater blessing by growing our resources to their real potential.

**Prayer:** Lord, we praise You for entrusting us with Your resources. In partnership with You, we commit to grow our resources and become larger channels of Your blessings to humanity.

**December 3, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, a family witnessed how God acted in anticipation of their needs. Because they were staying in a foreign country, the wife had to renew her employment authorization. The process took much longer than expected. After some months of waiting, her current work authorization expired, and she was terminated from her job. The family budget was not balancing anymore. At first, they thought that the authorization would come in a few days. It was not so.

Interestingly, exactly 7 months *before* she lost her job, the week that many companies were closing down and dismissing employees, causing a record high unemployment rate, she miraculously held onto her job. This allowed the family to consolidate their emergency fund not knowing the challenge they would soon face. Regularly, they would check the status of her application. The waiting time grew from 3 months, to 4 months, 5 months, and finally up to 9 months. It was a testing time. During this extended time, their consolidated emergency fund kept them afloat. God had foreseen their emergency and He had made provision for them.

Our needs and emergencies of today never take God by surprise or put Him off balance. This week as we worship with our tithes and regular offerings let us show our gratitude to the Provider who already has solutions for our unforeseen crises.

**Prayer:** Lord, we worship because you not only know the future, but you have also prepared a way for us. You are our special Provider.

**December 10, 2022**

### **Adventist Community Services**

Adventist Community Services is God's invitation to do amazing things with Him. Hard times come in all shapes, sizes, and colors, and Adventist Community Services is responding to individual needs, developing relationships, and committing to make a difference in people's lives.

ACS supports community outreach programs by funding development projects that make a major impact in your communities. A washer/dryer serves thousands of homeless to bring dignity and value to their lives. A shelter provides protection and offers hope. A portable shower trailer prepares someone for a job interview. And so much more.

"I love this facility (New Life Food Pantry, Fultondale, AL) because their Christian walk shows in their attitude of the volunteers and the way they treat the pantry participants." – Client

As you give your tithe and offerings today, thank you for making a lasting impact in someone's life.

**Prayer:** Lord in your infinite grace, you do not look down on what we have brought to you. We thank you for the privilege of participating in your mission.

**December 17, 2022**

### **Local Church Budget**

We worship with our resources because we follow the example of our God, who is a Blind Giver. When God gives, He rarely focuses on the nature of the recipients or even the outcome. He gives out of love. Faithful to this attribute, “He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matt. 5:45). In contrast, we are inclined to give exclusively to what we see and whose outcome we can control.

Jesus came to this earth as a “blind giver.” His salvation is for all. Will you choose Him to be your Saviour? Will you choose to be a “blind giver” for those whom the Saviour died for?

**Prayer:** Lord, we are inspired by Your universal and blindfolded generosity towards humanity. Please help us be givers in Your likeness.

**December 24, 2022**

### **Wisconsin Conference Advance**

The birth of a royal baby often creates a buzz in the media, and people feed on the most minute details out of curiosity and admiration. The birth of Baby Jesus, our royal King, also stirred interest. Seeing His star, the three magi embarked on a tiresome, time-consuming, and unsafe journey beyond the boundaries of their homeland. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they disclosed the purpose of their trip: we have come to worship the King, born of the Jews. They honored the royal baby with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The celebration of the birth of Jesus remains a major event in most countries and for many Christians. Singing carols, enjoying some favorite seasonal food, blessing our loved ones with gifts, planning outreach activities and participating in some uplifting church services defines Christmas for many of us.

This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let's remember how the Magi worshipped the royal baby: by giving of their resources.

**Prayer:** Lord, as we talk, sing, and reflect about the birth of Jesus help us to dedicate time and energy to seek You and to use our resources to honor You as King.

**December 31, 2022**

### **Public Campus Ministries**

Some young people today are dedicating their lives to bring the Gospel to some hard-to-reach peoples and groups in the Middle East. In the tradition of the Waldensians of the Middle Ages, they pursue secular activities as a vehicle for preaching the gospel. Some are enrolled in Universities. Though they are students, their first aim and focus is to find opportunities to bring the love and message of Jesus to their peers. One modern-day Waldensian wrote these words: “Being in a foreign land is challenging. You miss your family, your home country, and your friends. You also have to adapt to a new culture, the people, the climate, and so forth.” But her commitment remains unshakable because “Universities are amazing mission fields. You meet people your age, you easily make friends, and you have many opportunities to share about God with open-minded, inquisitive people.”

This week our offerings will support Public Campus Ministries. Please pray daily for the young people here in Wisconsin and those who are abroad who have made a commitment to be missionaries in public schools and universities. Your support is much appreciated.

**Prayer:** Lord, we pray that You will lead us to experience a higher level of dedication as we step into a new year. Thank You for protecting our youth who have made a commitment to be missionaries for You in difficult places.