

Dear Presenters,

Thank you for sharing the 2025 “Call to Offerings” with your local church family.

These offertory readings have been **edited** and **personalized** by the **Wisconsin Conference**. They are similar but NOT originals of the online offering appeals from the NAD. They can also be found online at wi.adventist.org/offering-schedule-sunset-calendar.

If you're able, please read the call to offering in advance to practice and be able to **tell it like a story**. If you do need to read it, be sure to read clearly with much expression. If you have a personal (short) story to share that you think will add strength to the appeal, please share it. People connect with worship through stories. Another option is to print the reading in your weekly bulletin.

For your convenience, there is also an extensive selection of videos emphasizing various offerings on the website www.nadstewardship.org/videos. If you decide to use these make sure they synchronize with the Wisconsin Conference schedule of offerings.

Thank you again for your ministry to your local church. You are MUCH appreciated!

Stewardship Department of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh day Adventists.

Suggestion: Post this on the bulletin board in the church office for easy reference each week.

2025 North American Division Sabbath School Mission Investment Projects

MID-AMERICA UNION

The Tentmaker Mission in the Minnesota Conference will train lay church members to start small Bible study groups in their workplaces.

As part of its ministry to people experiencing homelessness the New Haven Church (Overland Park, Kansas) proposes to create an Extreme Cold Weather Small Group Station to shelter 8-12 individuals between 6pm and 8am when the overnight temperatures are expected to fall below 25 degrees (Fahrenheit).

NORTH PACIFIC UNION

The Seattle/Tacoma metro area is one of the least reached areas in the United States, with an Adventist to general population ratio of 1:900. The Washington Conference is launching an athletics-based Center of Influence to reach those who aren't looking for a church but are looking for community.

PACIFIC UNION

The Lanai Church, which serves a small island population of just under 3,000 people, needs to expand their facility. This project will provide more space for children's Sabbath School, events, and

guest speaker housing (the cheapest hotel room on the island costs more than \$1,000 a night).

January 4

Local Church Budget

The first Sabbath of the New Year is an opportunity to press the reset button of our lives, goals, and relationship with God. If you keep a prayer journal, take it out sometime today and reflect on how God has led in your life and your family's life. How has He led in your church life?

During this self-evaluation, ask God what changes you need to make for the coming year. Surrender these needed changes to Him and ask for the Holy Spirit to transform you into a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Jesus emphasized the great principle of life when He said, "But seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33, NKJV). When God comes first, He will reorder our lives and show His power by blessing us in all ways according to His purpose.

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let's pray...

January 11, 2025

Religious Liberty

It's often said that religious liberty is in the DNA of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. From the very start of the Advent movement, we stood for an idea that was radical for its time—that religious freedom was for *everyone*, regardless of who they were or what they believed.

What shaped this belief? It was our conviction that God doesn't want forced obedience. As Ellen White wrote, "God desires from all His creatures the service of love—service that springs from an appreciation of His character."

And so, in the very first issue of *Liberty* magazine, which rolled off the presses in 1906, the editor described this unique Adventist understanding of religious liberty. He wrote: "We believe no power but the power of love can rightfully compel the human conscience."

Almost 120 years later, the culture around us has changed dramatically. But our commitment to religious liberty has not changed.

God calls us be His ambassadors of liberty—to faithfully reflect His character and His love within our communities and our nation.

Today, thank you for continuing in the footsteps of our early Adventist pioneers in generously supporting the religious liberty ministries of our church.

January 18

Local Church Budget

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

Here's an example involving a Christmas Cactus plant. *Christy, a member here in the Wisconsin conference, thought very carefully about what she could do for a mission investment offering. After much prayer Christy decided to dedicate her Christmas cactus to God and told God she would set aside \$1 for every blossom on the plant for an entire year. The plant had not been blooming and Christy had done everything she could think of to make it bloom again.

After Christy dedicated the Christmas Cactus to God the plant began to bloom again! Imagine her surprise when over the course of one year the plant had more than 100 blossoms! Christy was faithful to set aside one dollar for every blossom and at the end of the year she happily gave it all to God for a special mission offering.

How about you? Would you like to partner with God and start a mission investment project for the new year? The Wisconsin Conference has a list of projects that will benefit from our mission investment offerings. Let's pray...

**Not her real name.*

January 25

Wisconsin Conference Budget

Today's offering is for the Wisconsin Conference budget. 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 each June.

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

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

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, today is a wonderful opportunity to give God a thank offering for all His blessings. Let's pray...

February 1

Local Church Budget

Proverbs 3 says, “Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so, your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10, NKJV).

When we accept Christ as our Savior we enter into a partnership with God and become stewards of our material possessions. Everything we own is God's; we are merely stewards managing these things on His behalf.

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. As stewards for Christ let's be filled to overflowing by giving back to God and sharing our blessings. Let's pray...

February 8, 2025

Adventist Television Ministries Evangelism

In 1 Corinthians 9:22 Paul says, “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some” (NIV). As one of those possible means to save some, the Adventist church in North America is using television. There are millions of people who watch Adventist media programs every year.

We are living in a time when people are watching more TV than reading books or pamphlets. The average person watches TV for around 2 hours and 51 minutes while reading for no more than 16 minutes and 48 seconds during the average day.

Ellen White said this in 1914, “the circulation of the printed page has come to be a mighty factor in the dissemination of the truths of the third angel's message.” (*Review & Herald*, November 5, 1914). If she was alive today, we believe Mrs. White would point to TV as the mighty factor in preaching the three angels’ message.

Your offering today will help Adventist Television Ministries continue to reach millions of people around the world and help spread the gospel to those who are searching and those who are lost. Thank you for helping us fulfill the great commission.

February 15

Local Church Budget

Our local churches function only because of members working together as a team to keep the ministries running. Several volunteers help with things such as Sabbath School ministry, prayer meeting, youth activities, hospitality, just to name a few.

The Bible tells us, “One sows and another reaps” and this is true (John 4:37). Each person serves a different, yet important role, to help with the church function.

Today’s offering will go to support our local church budget. There are many ways to support what our church does, and giving financially is just one of them. Pray and consider how God can use you to continue to move forward in the mission of the church. Also, look for ways you can say thank you to those who faithfully fulfill the ministries of the church.

Let’s pray...

February 22

Wisconsin Conference Budget

Today's offering is for the Wisconsin Conference budget. For the past couple of years the Wisconsin Conference has been moving forward by faith to renovate the campground of Camp Wakonda.

Our motto "Building Our Future" has spurred us into action and we have completed many projects. The campground now has a new medical building and various pavilions. Renovations across the campground continue to improve our experience both for Campmeeting and the summer youth camp activities.

"We witnessed the true spirit of Christian fellowship and unity in every project phase...None of this would have been possible without the unwavering faith, hard work and contributions of every Wisconsin Conference member."

"Now that the project is almost completed, we can clearly see its impact, not only on the members in Wisconsin, but also on anyone who visits the camp. The new facilities will serve as a space for worship, fellowship and outreach enabling us to welcome more people into our fold, especially children and youth. We are excited to see how God will continue to use this space to fulfill His mission." *Elder Titus Naftanaila (Lamp Letter, Nov. 2024)*

If you have never visited Camp Wakonda we hope you are able to visit for an event this year. Thank you for your generous offerings today to support the Wisconsin Conference budget. Let's pray...

March 1

Local Church Budget

This week our tithe 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, Pathfinders and Church School. However, many are not so obvious: children's magazines, Sabbath school Bible study guides, teaching supplies, staff salaries, cleaning services, property insurance, community outreach, family emergency fund and the list goes on and on.

These are just 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 members share both in the blessings and the responsibilities of the local congregation.

Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting your local church, your local family. Let's pray...

March 8, 2025

Adventist World Radio

(Note to the offering reader: Download the AWR 2025 video and the latest offering resources at awr.org/offering)

Adventist World Radio (AWR) uses many forms of technology to reach people where they are, in their local dialect. From AWR's shortwave towers in Guam to 2,000 radio stations around the world, these messages are broadcasting in more than 130 languages every day. And for those who aren't in range of a radio station, AWR's YouTube videos, ministry app, and tracts are ministering to millions.

In addition, solar-powered Godpods are reaching everyone from prisoners to shepherds! And the ministry's semi-truck in Ukraine is both meeting needs in the community and broadcasting Bible-based messages of hope wherever it goes.

In 2023 and 2024, the ministry joined with the General Conference's "Total Member Involvement" initiative to hold more than 1,500 meetings across 40+ countries during *Christ for Europe*. From the UK to Italy to Ukraine, people made decisions for baptism. Shortly after these events, meetings in Zambia, Rwanda and Papua New Guinea saw record crowds and baptisms.

God predicted that one day we would be "utterly amazed" (Habakkuk 1:5, NIV) at what He would do—and we are!

Thank you for your support for the ministry of Adventist World Radio.

March 15

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

I visited a country during a mission trip where the people didn't have many conveniences or material things like we do in North America. They lived in dilapidated homes where conditions were deplorable. No one owned vehicles so they walked. Despite their sad state of affairs, the people seemed happy and content with what little they had.

Their faith in God was rich and genuine, resulting in praise and melodious singing as they went about their daily activities. They didn't seem to worry as much. I was humbled and ashamed to say that I required many things to be comfortable.

I learned that the greatest danger is the accumulation of things. Why? Because we focus most of our time and energy on what is not kingdom-worthy. We feel entitled to spend more on ourselves instead of helping those in need.

“If the hearts of God's people were filled with love for Christ, if every church member were thoroughly imbued with the spirit of self-sacrifice, if all manifested through earnestness, there would be no lack of funds for home or foreign missions. Our resources would be multiplied; a thousand doors of usefulness would be opened, and we would be invited to enter” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol.6, p.449).

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let's ask God to give us contentment and cheerful hearts ready to give where He calls us. Let's pray...

March 22

Wisconsin Conference Budget

How many of you here today are thankful for God's blessings? Although we don't deserve these blessings, they are generously given to us by our Father in heaven.

I've discovered the Bible's teachings of God as the Owner and we as managers. Every tenth of our income or possessions, known as a tithe, is God's. However, He entrusts us with the management of the remaining 90%. We manage it according to His will and what will give Him glory.

Today's offering is for the Wisconsin Conference Budget. Let's ask Him to fulfill His desires for us in our giving and in our managing of His blessings to us. Let's pray...

March 29

Local Church Budget

Jesus shared the parable of the talents to illustrate our relationship with Him and purpose in life. Matthew 25 records the story of three servants who were each given talents according to their abilities. In the end, two were commended for investing their talents wisely, and one was not.

The parable teaches us that we need to use the talents we've been given to grow God's kingdom and for God's glory. We shouldn't hide or neglect them. God rewards those who act in faith by investing what He has given.

Are you wondering what talents God has given you? Think of your time, talents, treasures, temple, and testimony. God has committed these things to us; how we invest them reveals whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches. By using and growing these talents, they develop in us Christ-like characters and He then multiplies what He gave to us.

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Ask yourself, how can your talents, your gifts be a blessing for your church family? Let's pray...

April 5

Local Church Budget

Researchers estimate that there are 10 quadrillion ants on earth. Ants live in colonies and are very industrious with various tasks. Everything they do is for the sake of the “queen” ant. It’s been noted that an ant is helpless without its colony, but when ants work as a team, they are practically unstoppable.

If we insist on doing our own thing, we are no better than the anonymous ant, just struggling ineffectively to store enough food for the next winter. However, when we choose to work together we become effective for the kingdom of God.

Our offering today is for the local church budget. Consider what areas you need to work together with your church family to become effective for the King. Let’s pray...

April 12, 2025

Hope Channel International

Hope Channel International (HCI) is an Adventist global media network that offers programs on Christian living with a holistic focus on faith, health, relationships, and community. Hope Channel began broadcasting in North America in 2003. Today, Hope Channel is a global network with more than 80 channels broadcasting in over 100 languages. In December 2023, in response to the heightened sense of loneliness prevalent during the holiday season, Hope Channel International stepped forward with a heartfelt campaign to foster connections and address the epidemic of isolation in our society. At the heart of this initiative was a strategic billboard placement in the iconic Times Square in New York City. Positioned where an average of 330,000 people pass through daily, this strategic move amplifies Hope Channel's reach to millions from diverse backgrounds.

Jesus quoted the following passage from Isaiah 61:1, "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me; Because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted." (NKJV).

Thank you for your support for the ministry of Hope Channel as they preach the good news to all the world.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, out of the blessings we have received from your hand, we give back these offerings. Bless Hope Channel as they reach not only the homes, but the hearts of many people.

April 19

Local Church Budget

Jesus gave solid investment advice, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6: NKJV). In other words, invest your treasures in the kingdom of heaven.

God has a simple plan in place to finance His kingdom work here on earth. First, He blesses His children, and then they return faithfully the tithe and freewill offerings. That’s it.

As there are greater needs in growing God’s kingdom, He increases the blessings He gives to His children. So, the more faithfully we return, the more He gives. This is the divine partnership God wants His people to understand.

There is no other plan, no substitute, no alternate. An all-wise God knew the right plan from the beginning. His investment system is fail-proof.

Do you want to see God do a miracle? Do you want to increase your faith? Invest in God’s Kingdom and watch Him work His wonders.

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let’s pray...

April 26

Wisconsin Conference Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

When I was little boy, I was asked to help collect the offerings with the adult deacons and deaconesses. I wondered how in the world we get the money to God. My young innocent mind was trying to process this dilemma. Is there a special place we deposit the money and God sends His angels to pick it up later? Then I learned that the church represents the body of Christ on earth. So, when we give to the church, we really give it to God by faith.

God doesn't need our money to do His work on earth. He owns the universe and galaxies. But He allows us to partner with Him so He can bless us, make us the funnel to bless others, and grow His kingdom. God's systematic giving plan enables us to develop His character. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to join heavenly agencies in the great plan of redemption.

Today's offering is for the Wisconsin Conference Budget. Let's consider how we can be partners with God to further His kingdom in our conference. Let's pray...

May 3

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

One day, while shopping at Lowe's hardware store, I saw a bird trapped inside the store. The bird probably had entered through the outdoor garden section. Its wing seemed broken and it was too weak to fly. If left alone this bird would die. I found a discarded box and went over to get the bird. I took that bird home and placed it in a makeshift birdcage and gave it water and food. The next day the bird was more alert and flapping its wings. I took it outside and opened the cage door. The bird slowly walked out and flew to the nearest tree. I felt great that I was able to help one of God's little creatures live another day!

Jesus' words, "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?" (Luke 12:24, NKJV). Jesus wants us to trust Him because God the Father cares so much for us.

God has placed the church to care for the broken hearted, to help the downtrodden, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and to share the love of Jesus.

Our offering today is for the local church budget. Let's continue to be that point person God can use to support His people and His ministries. Let us pray...

May 10

Disaster and Famine Relief

This Sabbath, our church joins many others in collecting a special offering to support ongoing disaster relief efforts. Funds collected today support both Adventist humanitarian organizations, Adventist Community Services and ADRA. Each serves in different geographical areas.

Adventist Community Services, also known as ACS, responds to disasters of all kinds across the North American Division which includes the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Guam, and Micronesia.

As we approach Christ's return, the Bible tells us that crisis events will increase. Emergency Management records have tracked disasters for over 50 years and confirm tornadoes are touching down with greater impact, hurricanes are moving at greater speeds, and violent killings in the form of mass shootings increase with alarming frequency.

Adventist Community Services stands ready to serve those affected by these and other tragedies. ACS Volunteers:

- open collection centers to receive and sort donations, sending them to areas of greatest need,
- provide emotional and spiritual care to the distraught,
- and deliver essential supplies to areas hardest hit by a disaster.

I John 3:18 tells us to love with action and in truth. Today, we ask that you give liberally, and we thank you for joining the team who extends the hand of mercy to people in crisis. Together we are serving communities in Christ's name.

May 17

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

When our kids were of age to work, it warmed our hearts when we saw them buying gifts for each other for special occasions such as birthdays and Christmas, or no occasion at all. They received great joy in seeing their siblings' reactions when opening the gifts.

God too, loves a cheerful giver. However, giving results from two motives -- either from unselfish love, or for personal reward.

The gifts exchanged between family and friends may serve as an example of unselfish devotion. On the other hand, many gifts are not gifts at all, but a means to an end. They may be given to promote, to influence, or to bribe. Some give out of pressure or obligation.

God measures the gift by the motive of the giver. "The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor." (*Desire of Ages*, p.65)

Today, let's give from a heart that loves our God. Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let's pray...

May 24

Wisconsin Conference Budget

The COVID-19 pandemic caused thousands of deaths around the world and made people rethink their purpose in life. We've all been affected by this. Recent wars displaced millions from their homes creating major cultural, political, and population shifts. These crises created openness in spiritual things. People are searching for meaning and peace. They're hungry to make sense out of all the chaos in the world.

Churches in our conference can be that haven and point of contact for people to hear about Jesus. Offerings collected monthly for the Wisconsin Conference Budget give opportunities for ministries in all churches to be funded so they can plant seeds of hope and love.

Now is the time to invest in God's work. Why not ask God for bigger requests so He can bless us abundantly? We don't need to wait until we have more to give more. We can flex our faith in God now. He's ready!

Our offering for today is for the Wisconsin Conference Budget. Let's lay all on the altar and give our all to God. Let's pray...

May 31

Local Church Budget

When our finances are a mess, we can hardly enjoy a happy life, and that makes it difficult to honor God with a faithful tithe and adequate offerings. Would you like to enjoy a quality of life that your heavenly 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.

Optional prayer: Lord, as good stewards of Your blessings, give us the wisdom and discipline to reflect Your orderliness in the management of our personal affairs.

June 7

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

For many years gardening was often a challenge to us. It seemed like the vegetable plants we planted and cared for preferred to die! We never harvested anything. It was very disappointing. Every year, we would try again but with the same results. Finally, after watching enough YouTube channels on how to garden successfully, we learned that you need to have the right soil, watering system, and care. Little by little we started to implement the recommendations.

For the first time, we were able to grow tomatoes, kale, and zucchinis. We were amazed to see such a big harvest. Gardening became one of our favorite hobbies in the summer!

One of our goals was to produce enough crops so we could share with our neighbors. We were able to do just that this past summer.

The apostle Paul used farming terminology to convey the principles of giving. “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully” (2 Corinthians 9:6, NKJV).

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let’s remember that when we sow bountifully then we reap bountifully. Everyone around us is blessed by our generosity! Let’s pray...

June 14

Women's Ministries

Our offering today helps provide opportunities for Adventist women of North America to create deeper connections with other women—connections both within and beyond our church walls whose ultimate purpose is to invite every woman closer to Jesus.

We form connections - like those found in a group for mothers of young children. “This mom’s group has ignited my journey of finding faith in motherhood,” one mother said. “Knowing I am prayed over daily, and having Godly mentor moms in my life means more than I can tell you.”

We form connections - like those of the dedicated women who lead an after-school life skills group for teen girls in their neighborhood, providing essential help and a brighter future.

We form connections - like evangelistic meetings spearheaded by women bringing a message of hope and wholeness to their communities. These and many more touch points are made possible through the women’s ministries offering.

Additionally, this offering helps provide funds for leadership training, equipping women of all ages to better serve Jesus in a variety of ways in their homes, churches, and beyond. Thank you for generously supporting the Adventist women of North America in our mission to make a tangible difference for eternity.

June 21

Local Church Budget

We live in a world that says our hearts will be glad the more we get and the more we hoard. God says, “No. I have designed your heart to be glad when you give.” Now this is the heart of God!

What God promises is that when we give He will open wide the windows of heaven to pour out all His blessings. Wow! Can you imagine this? His blessings may be spiritual, emotional, and/or physical blessings! It will be overflowing.

Today, let's try God and bring our tithes and offerings into His storehouse so we can witness how He will perform miracles in our lives. Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let's pray...

June 28

Wisconsin Conference Budget

Today as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we will be supporting the work in the Wisconsin Conference and the many resources God uses throughout 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, Lay-Pastor training, VBS, Pathfinders & Adventurers, the Endowment fund, Education, etc.. The list goes on and on. God has blessed us abundantly and we have much to be thankful for.

But remember, the advancement of the work in the Wisconsin Conference requires more than finances - it also needs volunteers. Prayerfully consider where God is asking you to give. Let's pray...

July 5

Local Church Budget

At some point in our lives everyone has a moment or many moments when they are tempted to worry or have anxiety about how their needs will be taken care of. Jesus addressed the concerns of people today, “For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:32-33, NKJV).

The promise is that if we put Christ and His work first in everything, He will take care of all our needs. No need to be concerned about our food, clothing, or anything. God will surely come through and not only “add these things” but abundantly open the windows of heaven for us.

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let’s return our gifts to the Lord by faith because of His gracious love for us. He knows your needs and He will provide. Let’s pray...

July 12

World Budget

We thank God for the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since Global Mission began some three decades ago. We've reached many new people groups and entered new countries. We've planted thousands of new churches. We've seen literally millions of people find hope and salvation in Jesus.

When the good news about Jesus spread from Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago, it happened because the disciples came together and prayed together. Then the Holy Spirit gave power to those gathered in the upper room and they responded to God by saying, "I will go."

Today, the Adventist church is supporting hundreds of missionaries around the world, who face many obstacles to preach the gospel. How do we even begin to reach people who don't believe in God and have never seen a Bible? How do you begin to reach people who are rich and increased with goods and feel they have need of nothing? Or preach to people who live in refugee camps in very poor conditions?

In the face of such huge mission challenges, some see walls, but we see opportunities. Many see a lack of funds, but we see the Source of all funds. Many see our weakness, but we see His strength.

God is inviting you to participate with Him in His mission of salvation here on earth. Who is willing to support our global outreach with your special offering? Better yet, who will say, "I will go?" Let's pray...

July 19

Local Church Budget

When finances are tight, it requires more faith to return your tithes and offerings. Some will rationalize, "God really does not need my funds." That's true, our God is wealthy. But it's especially important to remember that when funds are tight, that's when it's critical that you can't afford NOT to return your tithe and offerings.

Tough times force us to demonstrate our faith that God as our Partner will come through to provide even when it seems impossible. This is His part of the covenant. Trust in the Lord that He will provide as He promised.

"The more we bring to God's treasure house, the more we shall have to bring; for He will open ways before us, increasing our substance"(*Our High Calling*, p. 197).

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let's continue to trust in the Lord by bringing our tithes and offerings to Him. You will see Him work!! Let's pray...

July 26

Wisconsin Conference Budget

A pastoral couple opened a chain of health clinics years ago. During the financial crash, they invested their funds to sustain clinic operations. On Sabbath, during the offering, the wife gave the last twenty-dollar bill in her purse. She figured that God could make better use of this money. Her husband also put the last twenty dollars in his wallet into the offering plate. Both wondered silently how they would pay the bills knowing they had only \$75 left in their checking account for food for their family and pay for school tuition until their next paychecks came. But they trusted God.

The next day she cleaned her home office and saw a pile of papers. She had forgotten to bill her corporate client for her consulting services for several months. Six months had passed since she provided the service. She was sure the company would decline payment.

But in faith, she called the company and informed them of her failure to bill them on time. Upon receiving the message, the company apologized profusely for this oversight and sent an overnight check for \$6,000!

God provided for this couple's dilemma six months before their crisis. Before they even knew they would be in a bind, God had the answer planned.

Our offering for today is for the Wisconsin Conference budget. Regardless of the mountains you're facing, step out in faith and choose to trust God. Let's pray...

August 2

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

Birthdays were always a special and happy occasion in our home. When it's one of the sibling's birthdays, we gave all our kids gifts to enjoy, not just the celebrant. But when it was our birthday, during their younger years, they would draw pictures and color them expressing their creativity and love for their parents. They didn't have the money to purchase gifts or nice Hallmark cards. Yet when they presented them to us, we cherished those handmade cards more than all the commercial cards produced by Hallmark. Why? Because they were our children's expression of love from the heart. It's hard not to express this love without giving a gift.

Have you thought of giving a birthday thank offering to God? We could never give as much as God gives us but a birthday can give us the opportunity to give a special offering to thank Him for all He has done for us.

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let's thank God for each birthday He has given us and the weekly birthday of His world, the Sabbath. Let's pray...

August 9

Christian Record Services for the Blind

In the heart of compassion and dedication, Christian Record Services (CRS) stands tall as it celebrates an incredible milestone—125 years of unwavering commitment to serving individuals worldwide who are blind or visually impaired. Since its inception, CRS has been a beacon of hope, breaking down barriers and providing life-changing services to individuals facing vision challenges.

I love that we can share the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ with people who are blind or experiencing vision loss. One such person was Elizabeth, who was blinded by a shotgun blast to the face. Through her love for Jesus she was able to forgive the ones responsible. Elizabeth attends National Camps for Blind Children, a service of CRS. She says, “There is so much love, happiness, and joy at camp.”

Camps are just one of the services Christian Record Services offers. Other programs include Bible study lessons, books, magazines, and Bibles in audio, braille, and large print from a library of over 2,000 titles. Members can also deepen social, educational, and spiritual connections through PhoneFaith, scholarships for higher education, and, of course, National Camps for Blind Children.

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

August 16

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

Gardening is fun if you know what you're doing. When I first heard about pruning, I thought this was harming the poor plant but actually the opposite occurs. When you prune fruit-bearing plants you will stimulate the production of more flowers which will, in turn, develop into fruits. Also, pruning reduces the number of stems, branches, and leaves that may be competing for the resources which are needed to produce fruit.

Likewise, giving to the Lord our time, talents, temple, treasure, and our testimony is like pruning. What logically sounds as if it's taking away from us, is really allowing us to bear more fruit for God's glory. The more we cut away from personal use and give it to God, the more He multiplies what we gave Him and the more fruitful we become.

The offering for today is for the local church budget. By faith let's answer God's call and let Him prune us of anything unneeded in our lives. Let's pray...

August 23

Wisconsin Conference Budget

There are two types of givers. One group says, “they give until it hurts!” and the other group says, “every time they give, it hurts!”

The apostle Paul says we should give “not out of necessity or grudgingly. For God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7, NKJV).

So how does one become a cheerful giver? As God to give you a heart that gives cheerfully. A heart that delights to be a blessing to others and loves to give!

Our offering for today is for the Wisconsin Conference Budget. With the Holy Spirit filling our hearts we will give cheerfully and willingly. Our hearts will be filled with thankfulness that together we are able to help advance the work here in Wisconsin.

August 30

Local Church Budget

Perhaps in your journey of life someone gave to you and that inspired you to give to someone else. Data from a Barna Group research project called “Why Giving Is Good” reveals that generosity is reciprocated. This is especially true among practicing Christians—the 65% majority—say they have been the recipient of someone’s generosity and now are motivated to model generosity for others.¹

How has God blessed you this month and this year? As we grow in our understanding that every good gift is from the Lord it fills our hearts to overflowing and we reciprocate that giving. We give according to the blessings He has given us.

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. How has God given to you? How have you given to God? Let’s pray...

¹ (Barna Group, “Why Giving Is Good”, Nov. 2021).

September 6

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

My mother was a great cook. Growing up in a family of eight, my mother cooked meals using the largest pots. I was amazed how she could create big meals from a very small pantry. I called my mom the miracle chef.

As a boy, I was often intrigued how Jesus performed the miracle of the five loaves and two fish. One of the lessons I learned from this story was not about the miracle, but why Jesus chose to focus on the generosity of the little boy who gave up his lunch! The disciples didn't coerce the boy or purchase his lunch. The boy freely gave his lunch to Jesus. (John 6 NKJV).

Now, Jesus could have performed the miracle from nothing, but instead He chose to use the boy's lunch offering to multiply it into a feast to feed thousands of men, women, and children. God looks at our willingness to give. This is the basis Jesus performs His greatest miracles...our willingness to give!

Today's offering is for the local church budget. Let's share with the Lord our five loaves and two fish. Our willingness to share gives God an opportunity to bless! Let's pray...

September 13

World Budget (Radio Ministries)

We recommend playing the video at awr.org/offering, but if you can't, feel free to use this reading!

Imagine learning about God through a message in a bottle! That's exactly what happened to a devout Muslim in Israel, who found a bottle containing a flyer for Adventist World Radio's video Bible study series. It made him curious, so he, his wife, and their 10 children decided to watch. His daughter Sarah gasped during one of the videos. She'd recently started having dreams where she was learning about the Bible, and she exclaimed to her family, "The woman in this video is saying exactly what the man in my dream told me!" After watching these videos, the entire family decided to get baptized.

This wasn't an isolated incident. AWR's radio station in Nazareth has started broadcasting programs in Israel, the West Bank, Palestine and beyond, and hundreds have been contacting the station and studying the Bible as a result.

But the Middle East isn't the only supposedly "impossible" place being reached with the gospel! Last year, in Europe, 1,530 churches across 38 European countries participated in AWR and Total Member Involvement's *Christ for Europe* initiative. Attendees included everyone from refugees in Ukraine to people who found out about the meetings during Coronation celebrations in London.

We thank you for giving generously to support all the radio ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Let's pray...

September 20

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

My favorite fruit is mango. A mango boasts an exotic and captivating flavor. The richness and complexity of a mango's taste make it a truly indulgent fruit! The initial taste is a burst of luscious sweetness, followed by a slightly tart undertone that provides a perfect balance.

Psalm 34:8, “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him.” This verse invites me to not just believe in God's rich goodness, but actively experience it in my life.

Just as we use our sense of taste to savor and appreciate different flavors, we are called to savor and appreciate a relationship with God in a deeply personal and intimate way. It means opening our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit and allowing God's word to nourish and guide us.

Today's offering is for the local church budget. As we step out in faith to give back to God we will “taste and see” one of the many ways that the Lord is good. Let's pray...

September 27

Wisconsin Conference Budget

Nature has so many lessons for us! For example, consider the ants. Like humans, ants exhibit social behavior, thriving in meticulously structured societies known as colonies. The unity within these ant colonies is so profound that they collectively work towards the shared goals of survival, growth, and reproduction, functioning much like a unified entity or a "superorganism."² Worker ants often use teamwork to move larger objects, coordinating their movements to ensure successful transportation.

Once a month, a Sabbath is set aside for the Wisconsin Conference Budget offering. These offerings help to fund educational and life-changing programs which are only possible because individual members choose to contribute to the larger task. The offering may be used for local evangelism to finance programs local churches cannot shoulder on their own. Elementary education, youth evangelism, academy operation, summer camps, the Lamp Letter and Lake Union Herald magazines...these are all supported by the conference budget offering.

Like the ants – together we are an effective team for God's kingdom! Let's pray...

² Heather Campbell & Benjamin Blanchard, *Ants: A Visual Guide*, Princeton University Press, 2023.

October 4

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

My wife and I were committed to teaching our children to be self-reliant from an early age. We encouraged them to master basic tasks such as washing hands and dressing, and to take responsibility for their life choices.

However, while cultivating their independence was a priority, we also wanted them to understand the importance of spiritual dependence. In a spiritual sense, the Bible does not promote self-reliance. Instead, it champions the idea of depending on God in all aspects of life. It teaches us that we must learn to trust God completely and surrender our plans to Him.

In our pursuit of self-reliance, we often find it difficult to let go and trust God. We fret over things we cannot control, which leaves us anxious and stressed. This stress consumes our thoughts and energy, diverting us from the time we should be devoting to prayer, worship, and service to others.

Today's offering is for the local church budget. Our giving back to God is an opportunity for us to practice our dependence upon Him. We trust Him completely to provide for our needs, rather than depending on our own wisdom, our own self-reliance. Let's pray...

October 11

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 goal for Outdoor Education in the Wisconsin Conference is for students to have a greater appreciation of God through nature.

To accomplish this goal, while at Camp Wakonda students enjoy worship, interactive activities in nature, science programs, 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! Let's pray...

October 18

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

My wife and I have the privilege of conducting discipleship training for pastors and church members around the country, speaking to diverse cultures and backgrounds. One of these encounters with the Samoan community left a lasting impression on us. What struck us most was their deep respect for pastors and elders, a reverence that is almost akin to the honor bestowed upon royalty.

The younger members serve the adults first during potluck with a unique level of respect towards their pastors, treating them with reverence. This act of respect wasn't just a duty, but a privilege and joy.

Reflecting on this cultural practice, it made us ponder upon the importance of prioritizing Christ in everything we do. "It is the humble, grateful, reverential heart that makes the offering as a sweet-smelling savor, acceptable to God" (*Our High Calling*, p.197). It is this act of giving with love and respect that connects our heart with heaven.

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. As you give today think of the ways you can show love and respect to those around you. Let's pray...

October 25

Wisconsin Conference Budget

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 and retreats, Education and Evangelism.

Perhaps your journey as a believer has been enriched through one of more of these events. If so, this is a wonderful opportunity to give God a thank offering for all His blessings. Consider also how you can be a volunteer, giving of your time and talents to help advance God's work in our local conference.

Let's pray...

November 1

Local Church Budget

“Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years” (Deuteronomy 8:4, NIV).

When the Israelites trusted in God for their needs and were faithful to Him, He always came through. Imagine clothes and sandals that did not wear out over 40 years of use!

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

My wife and I remind ourselves that everything we own belongs to God! The first microwave we purchased as a married couple became a living testimony of God’s faithfulness.

This microwave, after ten years of usage, became a topic of discussion. My wife said, “Any time now, I want to replace this microwave when it stops working!” One morning, the microwave stopped working! My wife rejoiced at the thought of a replacement. I didn’t know anything about fixing appliances. Well, as I was visiting a church member that afternoon, he heard of our dilemma and offered to look at the appliance. In two minutes, he said, “Pastor, here’s the problem. I replaced the fuse and it’s now working!” The cost of the fuse? Twelve cents. That microwave continued to work for a total of 21 years—to my wife’s dismay—until we finally donated it to a family member!

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Trust God and see how He will take care of our needs today. Let’s pray...

November 8

Annual Sacrifice for Global Mission

In 1857 David Livingstone was invited to receive a tribute and speak to students at Cambridge University in England. He had left behind a prosperous life in Europe to devote himself to preaching the gospel on the African continent. As he stood in front of the students, he uttered the following words,

People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay?—Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter?—Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought! . . . I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk, when we remember the great sacrifice which HE made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us.

Today, we continue our tradition for every member of the Adventist church to give sacrificially so the General Conference can continue with the endeavor of Global Mission.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we thank you for the sacrifice you made by coming to this world to save us. We want to give sacrificially of our offerings, that signify part of our lives. Bless these tithes and offerings.

November 15

Local Church Budget

A recent article by McKinsey & Company noted that nearly two-thirds of US-based employees who were surveyed said that COVID-19 has caused them to reflect on their purpose in life. Nearly half said that they're reconsidering the kind of work they do because of the pandemic.

The research stated that people who live their purpose at work are more productive than people who don't. They're also healthier, more resilient, and more likely to stay with the company.³

God gives us the privilege of partnering with Him in His kingdom work. Is our purpose aligned with His purpose?

Our offering for today is for the local church budget. Let's practice our purpose in life by partnering with God in His calling for us. Let's pray...

³ (McKinsey & Company, April 5, 2021, article, "Help your Employees find Purpose -or Watch them Leave.)

November 22

Wisconsin Conference Budget

Do you have a mission plan? Does your church have a mission plan? We are saved because God had a mission plan. He emptied heaven and sent His Son, 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).

God may be calling you to give more than just tithe and offerings. He may be calling you to give time and talents. Are you willing? Today’s offering is for the Wisconsin Conference budget. Please pray about how you can help advance the mission of our local conference. Let’s pray...

November 29

Wisconsin Academy

Today's offering is for Wisconsin Academy. The mission of Wisconsin Academy is "Developing Leaders today who will walk with Jesus into eternity." To accomplish this mission the academy seeks to provide opportunities to develop leadership skills in each of the students through campus ministries, mission trips and various outreach endeavors.

Through daily worships, Bible study groups and regularly scheduled Weeks of Prayer, the staff at Wisconsin Academy strive to provide spiritual growth and mentorship for the students.

Perhaps you have been blessed to have the WAY team (Wisconsin Academy Youth) come to your church and you have heard the students share their testimonies and music. God is truly working in the lives of so many of our young people.

To continue the ministry of Wisconsin Academy they are in the midst of a four-year plan to renovate all buildings and the grounds on campus. If you would like to view the current projects that are underway and which projects are planned for next you can visit the development page on the Wisconsin Academy website wisacad.org.

Thank you for your support of the ministry at Wisconsin Academy. Please pray for the continued growth and success as they seek to develop leaders for His kingdom. Let's pray...

December 6

Local Church Budget

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

When I was young, I was confused about why there was an offering call every worship service. After all, God owns the universe! Why doesn't He just provide for our needs miraculously? He could!

Then I read a passage in Psalms and began to understand why, "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness. Offer to God thanksgiving and pay your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." (Psalm 50: 12,14-15, NKJV).

This is where I learned that God wants His children to trust Him for their needs. Through this experience God wants a **RELATIONSHIP** with His children, not a donation. This giving, however, builds the relational experience where we learn to trust and glorify Him in all areas of our lives. As we give, God blesses so we can bless others and grow His kingdom.

Today we are called to be partners with God and our fellow church members as we give to our local church budget. Let's pray...

December 13

Adventist Community Services

In Luke 10:30-37 Jesus tells a parable about a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan who came upon a man who had been beaten and robbed. When the priest and the Levite saw the man, they concluded that their help was optional. They *could* help, but they did not *have* to help, and in the face of competing priorities, they opted *not* to help.

The Samaritan, on the other hand, did not see his help as optional. Not even the hatred between his country and the other man's could overcome his compassion. He saw no alternative but to help.

In Luke 10:37 Jesus tells us all to “go and do likewise.” As Christians we see each person in need as a beloved son or daughter of God and we are compelled to help.

Adventist Community Services, or ACS, is part of this response, serving communities in Christ's name. ACS is the Adventist Church—you and me—helping our neighbors in need.

Across the North American Division our offerings go to work, helping the hurting. Whether by providing food, teaching literacy, distributing diapers, organizing job fairs, or opening dental clinics, our help is not optional. It is the extension of God's love to His creation.

Today's offering is an invitation to join the ACS team through your gift. Thank you for helping to bring relief and comfort to your neighbors and making compassion your priority.

December 20

Local Church Budget

The Christmas season is upon us. For some the calendar is filled with Christmas programs, family traditions and various gatherings of the people we love. It can be a time of great joy as we experience the most wonderful time of the year. For others it can be a time of great sorrow, depending on many factors. The holiday season can feel lonely and long.

Whatever you are experiencing this week, remember to let your thoughts and affections be turned to Jesus, the “Reason for the season.” God emptied heaven when He sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. He is our greatest Gift. Take time to reflect and recognize how Jesus has shown up for you this year.

Our offering for today is for our local church budget. Thank you for your support and commitment as we seek to uplift Jesus to the community around us. Let’s pray...

December 27

Wisconsin Conference Budget

Today's offering is for the Wisconsin Conference Budget. This offering addresses specific needs as well as a variety of special projects. As of this printing, the Wisconsin Conference is a sisterhood of 86 churches, companies and mission groups that help each other to accomplish important objectives that are beyond the reach of any one church alone.

"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet" (*Ministry of Healing*, p.481).

Let's make this our motto and aim for the coming new year! Encourage your church to keep a journal of all the amazing ways God provides and the opportunities He gives for you to provide for others, locally and beyond our community.

Through the spirit of generosity and sacrifice we partner with God and take the work forward for His kingdom. Let's pray...



About the Author

Melvin Santos serves as the Vice President for Administration and Stewardship Director for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. He is also the author and speaker of the *Discipleship Master Plan: A Disciple-making Strategy for Churches and Conferences*. At a young age he was greatly influenced by the teachings of Elder Mel Rees, a former GC Stewardship director.

Melvin is passionate about establishing discipleship-driven churches and maximizing every member's ministry potential and effectiveness as lay ministers. He also enjoys mentoring and training pastors and church leaders around the country.

He firmly believes that a successful disciple-maker also needs to be a committed steward. In his leisure time, he enjoys being a digital creator and influencer, traveling, gardening, exploring different countries, and learning new languages.

He currently lives in Kansas, with his wife, Juliet Santos, who is a board-certified family practice nurse practitioner and the co-founder and co-speaker of the Discipleship Master Plan Institute. They are proud parents of three wonderful adult children and sons-in-law: Elizabeth (Paul), Lauren (Brad), and their youngest son, Michael.

About the Readings

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Primary Author: Melvin Santos

Editors: Michael Harpe, Rudy Salazar, & Lisa Rasmussen

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