

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...