

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...