# **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...

# 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.

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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...

### 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...