

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...