

2020 OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Church Leaders,

Thank you for your faithfulness in leading, empowering and caring for your local congregations. This resource jointly developed between your local conference and the Australia Union Conference provides information and inspirational readings on stewardship, tithes and offerings for each Sabbath of 2020. Thank you again for your ministry and may God multiply the fruit of your labour.

Pr. Lyndelle Peterson
Director for Stewardship, AUC



We would like to give special thanks to **Dave Gosling Photography** for his work featured on pages 12, 15, 18, 20, 24-26, 29-33, 35, 37-38, 42, 46, 53, 56. This inspired series celebrates God as the Creator, and showcases an array of Australian nature in all its beauty.

Table of Content

JANUARY	Page number	JULY	Page number
4 Local Church	6	4 Local Church	32
11 Local Church	7	11 World Mission Budget.....	33
18 Education	8	18 Union Global Partnership Project: Timor-Leste	34
25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired	9	25 Local Church	35
FEBRUARY		AUGUST	
1 Local Church	10	1 Local Church	36
8 Local Church	11	8 SPD Strategy: Comprehensive Media Evangelism.....	37
15 Disaster & Famine Relief: Administered by Union.....	12	15 Education	38
22 Local Church	13	22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College.....	39
29 Local Church	14	29 Local Church	40
MARCH		SEPTEMBER	
7 Conference Wide Offering: Landsborough Church.....	15	5 Local Church	41
14 Adventist World Radio.....	16	12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities.....	42
21 Local Church	17	19 Annual Convention.....	43
28 Education	18	26 Annual Convention.....	44
APRIL		OCTOBER	
4 Local Church	19	3 ADRA Projects within Australia.....	45
11 Hope Channel	20	10 Local Church	46
18 Local Church	21	17 Education	47
25 Local Church	22	24 Local Church	48
MAY		31 Local Church	49
2 South Pacific Record.....	23	NOVEMBER	
9 Education	24	7 Education	50
16 SPD Strategy: Comprehensive Health Ministry	25	14 World Mission Budget: Unusual Opportunities.....	51
23 Local Church	26	21 Local Church	52
30 Local Church	27	28 Local Church	53
JUNE		DECEMBER	
6 Avondale College	28	5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities	54
13 Local Church	29	12 Conference Wide Offering: Beaudesert Church	55
20 Local Church	30	19 Local Church	56
27 Conference Wide Offering: Adventist Residential Care	31	26 Local Church	57
		Conferences Offering Calendar Index	58

Local Church



NEW YEAR

With a New Year comes new opportunities! Resolutions. Have you already established or renewed your decisions or purposes for this year? Do those purposes include God and your relationship with Him? Maybe you've resolved to get into a habit of waking up early each morning to spend time with Him? Or you're seriously planning to enrich your personal devotional time this year by seeking Him faithfully, developing the habit of praying regularly, and studying your Bible? Perhaps you've resolved as a family to get into the habit of having daily worship together?

Now is a great time to reaffirm your commitment to keeping the Sabbath, to dedicate this day not to simply just rest, but to the rest of the soul? Maybe you've resolved to attend church and Sabbath School on Sabbath, or to be more intentional about focusing on God, trusting that He will provide for your needs?

Have you thought about establishing or renewing your purpose to put God first and to learn to trust in Him as the Provider and Sustainer by tithing and by giving offerings? Have you already decided to set both apart, tithe and offering, immediately after any income or increase, and from all your income or increase?

04
JAN

Appeal

As we worship Him this morning, take a moment to prayerfully reflect and ask God to help you establish or renew a decision to put Him first in every aspect of your life.

Prayer

Dear God, please accept and bless the decisions that we are making in Your presence, as we worship You with Your tithes and offerings!

Local Church



MIRACLES

Fleeing from Cuba, the violinist Jaime Jorge was only 10 years old when he arrived with his family and without his violin in Miami, Florida, United States, in 1980. Struggling hard to survive, miracles started to happen when his parents decided to move with the family to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, arriving during the worst winter in 80 years. Owning nothing, the family received strong support from the church members and neighbours, and finally Jaime's mother was able to acquire for him a violin for his practices! As they couldn't afford to buy sheet music, his mother also purchased an old turntable and a vinyl disc of a Beethoven violin concert. "You must hear and rehearse it," she told Jaime.

While applying for a scholarship for the Milwaukee Conservatory, Jaime rehearsed that specific music many times! During the test, when a professor was wondering how a boy was able to play that kind of music, Jaime told him about his family's struggles, the turntable, and why that was his only music. The professor, who had arrived from Europe just three months before, asked who the performer on the disc was. When Jaime answered, the professor said: "I could immediately recognise him by the way you are playing. He was my professor there!" And Jaime Jorge got the scholarship!

God coordinated the time the Jorge family arrived in the United States with the time that Jaime's professor arrived from Europe. The Lord also led the Jorge family to that specific city, and provided for their basic needs during the winter. He provided the violin, the turntable, the right vinyl disc, the conservatory, and the connection with that specific professor and scholarship as well!

Jaime Jorge became a well-known Adventist violin performer, using his musical gifts to preach and minister to people around the world.

Appeal

As you put your tithes and offerings into the offering plate, close your eyes and worship Him who has a plan for your life and is fully able to provide for you according to your needs.

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, please accept our worship and help us to trust in Your power to provide not only for our daily needs but also for our special ones, according to Your plans for our good. Amen.

11
JAN

Education



A WORLDWIDE MISSION

Daniel was sick for many days, unable to perform his work, because he was “astonished by the vision,” which “no one understood” (Dan. 8:27). While in Babylon, Daniel knew from the book of Jeremiah that the restoration of Israel would happen immediately after 70 years of captivity.

But now, partially understanding some developments of the great controversy and the sufferings of God’s people through the ages, Daniel was overwhelmed! Instead of a detailed explanation, God told him twice to seal up the vision because it referred to the future, to the time of the end (Dan. 8:26; 12:4).

Centuries later, as John saw a mighty angel holding that “little book open in his hand” (Rev. 10:2), he was figuratively commanded to eat it. It was sweet as honey in the mouth but bitter in the stomach. This vision was referring to the Millerite movement, the 1844 disappointment, and to the Seventh-day Adventist movement—the very time we are living in now. This was the time that Daniel was looking forward to in the future, just before Jesus’ second coming, when the knowledge of the book of Daniel would increase (12:4).

But the command for John to eat that book was followed by a very clear mission: “You must prophesy again about [or ‘to’] many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings” (Rev. 10:11).

It means that our mission, as well as our offerings (regular, percentage-based offerings), must reach far more than the limited range of our local church or neighbourhood. By bringing our offerings and by gathering them together in the “storehouse,” we will be able to plan more effectively to do far more for others, and to go farther and faster. And according to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, this is God’s plan for our regular and systematic offerings.

18
JAN

Appeal

As we put our offerings together today, let us pray that “many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings” may learn to worship God as the Creator, while there is time, because the hour of His judgment has come.

Prayer

Dear Lord, let us ourselves be prepared for the day of Your coming, and by our tithes and offerings be able to invite others as well! Amen.

South Pacific Division Strategy: Discipleship of Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired



So what does CSFBHI actually do? For those who love to “read” it provides denominational audio books and the weekly Sabbath School lessons. To access this free service, a person must be certified as unable to read by a medical professional. Many in this group are in nursing homes, but not all.

Its work for the Deaf is largely in providing assistance—sponsoring interpreters for church services, the New Hope church plant in western Sydney, for example, which is livestreamed Sabbath mornings and replayed on Hope Channel. It also sponsors the guest speaker to the annual Deaf Camp, run by Logan Reserve church (Qld). Last November CSFBHI supplied interpreters for General Conference president Ted Wilson’s Wairoona Sabbath service, which was live-streamed.

The Deaf are the Church’s largest unreached people group or “tongue”, as the Bible puts it. Very few are Christian, let alone Adventist. And of those who might be, they fellowship in signed Sunday churches that cater for them, where there are others who “speak” their language.

“IT’S ABOUT THE INCLUSION OF ALL IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND WORSHIP; FOR ALL ARE GIFTED, ALL ARE NEEDED, ALL ARE TREASURED.”

Someone once said to me that one day we will all be special needs people, referring to ageing, I think. But in the meantime we need to be mindful that in God’s eyes, as a result of sin, we are all broken in some way. And viewed in that way, yes, we all do have a “disability problem”. It’s just a matter of degree. We all are broken and are in need of wholeness. Only at home in heaven, when, having been changed in a moment from mortal to immortal, will we become whole.

With 27 of the 35 recorded miracles of Jesus relating to healing someone with a special need, the focus of a special needs ministry and witness is evident. So this Sabbath, in your giving, follow the example of Christ and give generously, and help CSFBHI help some of the millions living with disability.

**CSFBHI is a registered charity with tax-deductible status.*

25
JAN

Local Church



JUDEA, SAMARIA AND BEYOND

01
FEB

Appeal

As we put our offerings together today, let us pray that “many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings” may learn to worship God as the Creator.

Prayer

Dear Lord, let us ourselves be prepared for the day of Your coming, and by our tithes and offerings be able to invite others as well! Amen.

One of the last things that Jesus spoke about before he ascended to heaven was the importance of mission, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 NIV) By declaring that mission extends far beyond our own cities but throughout the world Jesus was charging us to have a global impact. But a global impact needs significant resources.

Not only does our mission focus extend beyond our own walls but our offering must reach far more than the limited range of our local church or neighbourhood. By bringing our offerings and by gathering them together in the “storehouse,” we will be able to plan more effectively to do far more for others, and to go farther and faster. And according to the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, this is God’s plan for our regular and systematic offerings.

Local Church



WHY AM I BRINGING MY OFFERING?

David wrote about our tithes and offerings as an act of worship in the Psalms: “I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows” (Ps. 66:13)

According to the Bible, tithe is returned to God as an act of worship, God is the true recipient, and it's to be returned to Him through the 'storehouse'. In the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the local church stands as an outpost of the storehouse, which is the conference. And God has the capacity to determine how the tithe should be used: to be equally distributed (2 Chron. 31:14-21) to support the authorised gospel ministry worldwide (Num. 18:21; Matt. 28:19, 20; Rev. 14:6).

Tithes and offerings are not to be considered as rewards, leverage, or punishment tools for a leader's behaviour, but as a way to worship God for His many blessings and is an act of obedience to his commands.

Appeal

Tithes and offerings are an opportunity to honour God and his faithfulness. They are an act of worship from a humble and meek heart. Let us ask the Lord to give us the right motivation, as we worship Him this morning.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for giving us the privilege to worship You today, as we humbly bring our tithes and offerings to You and into Your house. Amen!

08
FEB

Disaster & Famine Relief

Administered by Union



“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”
Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

We hear disasters beyond our control being referred to as “Acts of God”, and it often makes us feel distant to the problem and hopeless that anything can change. Every year, these disasters, leave thousands of children, women and men stranded.

They often need safe shelter, enough food to eat, clean drinking water, physical safety and the ability to rebuild their lives. And they can’t do this without our help.

Today, by supporting this Disaster and Famine Relief Offering, you will enable ADRA to respond to disasters as soon as they happen.

In Australia, your offering will help deliver emergency accommodation and crisis assistance to people in need, while overseas it will help provide food, shelter, medical help and other basic needs to those affected.

15
FEB

Appeal

Your gift today will also help communities in Australia and around the world prepare for disasters to prevent lives and livelihoods from being lost.

Prayer

Thank you Lord for being a God of grace and mercy. Please open our hearts today to those who need hope in times of distress. Bless and multiply our offerings so that others can feel the comfort of your love when facing uncertain times. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Local Church



THE RIGHT INVESTMENT

“And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, ‘God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you’” (Exod. 13:19).

What do Joseph’s bones teach us? Almost spoiled by the love of his father, Joseph was highly favoured above his brothers and wore the finest clothes his father could get. He lived an easy life until because of the jealousy of his brothers was taken far from his home, suddenly left with nothing but his life and health.

But instead of feeling discouraged, Joseph decided to make a commitment to put God first in all things. And his resolve was not shaken even after he was unjustly sent to prison. But from there, the Lord brought him directly to the second-highest position in the most powerful country in the then-known world. All the comforts of life were again available to him.

When Satan is not able to knock us down with trials, he often is more successful by offering sophistication and ease. Would Joseph’s character thrive under this new ensnaring trial? Would he keep his eyes focused on his eternal future, or would he be charmed by the life at the court? A very strange request that

he later made of his brothers reveals that he stood firm in his commitment to God! His eyes were still on the Promised Land, and not on the luxury or pomp of Egypt. “God will surely visit you,” he said to his brothers, “and you shall carry up my bones from here [Gen. 50:25].” Joseph was not planning to be distracted by Egypt’s easy life. His eyes were fixed on God’s plan for the future, in another land, yet to be given by the Lord to His people!

Appeal

By returning our tithe and giving our offerings we regularly remind ourselves that our spiritual, emotional, and material resources should be invested in another Land!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please accept our tithes and offerings as a symbol of our desire to put You first in all things here!

22
FEB

Local Church



THAT SPECIAL TREE

29
FEB

Appeal

Let us recognise God's authority, dominion and goodness, as we worship Him with our tithe and offerings now!

Prayer

Take what is Yours, our dear Creator and Redeemer! Amen!

When God created the earth he instituted Adam and Eve as the first caretakers of not only the animals but the ground, trees and flowers as well. They were to cultivate the land and take care of the garden. All food was available for them to eat in abundance, the only exception was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Our Heavenly Father gave all the trees of the garden to Adam and Eve, except one, which He reserved to Himself. Had they respected His command, our first parents would not only be expressing gratitude for all that they had received, but they would have also recognised God's authority and ownership over the garden and their lives. And the same happens today as we tithe.

Commenting about Solomon's suggestion to "honour the Lord with your possessions, and with the first-fruits of all your increase (Prov. 3:9)," and the resulting blessings (v. 10), Ellen G. White says: "This scripture teaches that God, as the Giver of all our benefits, has a claim upon them all; that His claim should be our first consideration; and that a special blessing would attend all who honour this claim (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 65)."

Conference Wide Offering

Landsborough Church



I BECAME DEBT-FREE!

Debts ate up my salary. It was my fault.

My salary shrank significantly when I changed jobs, but my spending habits remained the same. As a result, I sank deeper into debt. After returning the tithe, I barely had enough money to cover the bills.

I felt horrible. Before changing jobs, I had given 10 percent of my gross income as tithe; 10 percent for offerings; and 10 percent for charity. Now I was only returning tithe, and it would take at least four years for me to become debt-free. Unwilling to wait that long, I thought about Malachi 3, where God challenges us to test Him with our tithes and offerings.

With a deep breath, I resolved to start giving 10 percent of my gross income as a missionary offering, in addition to the tithe, hoping to find some freelance work so I could recuperate the offering money. But even though no extra work showed up, ten months after I started giving the offerings, I was debt-free! It's hard to explain what happened. This is God's math, as He never gave extra money; instead, He made my life cheaper.

Shortly after I began to give offerings, I had to buy an airline ticket to fly to visit with my ill father. The round-trip ticket, purchased at the last minute, cost only \$110, a considerable discount from the usual \$250. After that, a friend volunteered to drive me to the airport, sparing me the cost of an Uber ride. Then some friends invited me to stay in their spare bedroom, rent-free. The list could go on and on.

Appeal

"I believe," says Andrew, "God blesses those who give to Him with more than we could ever ask or think!"

Prayer

Heavenly Father! Please, increase our faith, so that we may dare to taste and see that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8)!

07
MAR

Adventist World Radio



Adventist World Radio is your mission radio, broadcasting the Advent message of hope to people around the world. Radio is one of the most inexpensive ways to reach the world, blanketing over 80% of the world's population including countries where Christianity is against the law. So AWR can make your mission dollars go further.

A specific project for AWR in 2020 - Papua New Guinea is one of the most primitive areas in the world. Access to these villages is very difficult. AWR 360 is seeking to bring the gospel to these very hard to reach places. A gift of \$40 will assist AWR to bring GodPods with pre-recorded health and Bible talks to one of these locations. These GodPods will be followed up with an evangelism series across 2,000 sites in April and May 2020.

AWR is unique in that the salaries and office expenses are funded by the General Conference. So any additional donations and funds is used directly for outreach expansion.

14
MAR

Local Church



TRUE VALUE

A wise person once said if you want to see what a many truly values, look at his bank and credit card statements. What would your bank statements say? If someone were to look at where you spent your time and energy and money, what would they conclude were your priorities? Is it family? Holidays? Work? Paying the bills?

The Bible calls us to put God as our number one priority. Seek His Kingdom first and let God worry about the rest. Every time we pause in our worship service to shift our focus to giving we are declaring that God is the number one in our life, that all other things are secondary.

As we pause this morning to return our tithes and offerings let's take some time to reflect on our priorities and ask ourselves if God really does come first in our lives.

Appeal

God is calling us to put Him first in all aspects of life, including our relationships, and even finances. And we put God first in our finances when we set apart His tithe and our Promise (regular, percentage-based offerings), even before any other expenses are met. God's assurance is that all the other things we need "shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33).

Prayer

Dear God, we recognise You as our heavenly Provider and Sustainer. Please teach us to put You first in every area of life and accept the tithes and offerings that we bring today, after recognising that You care for us. Amen.

21
MAR

Education



IS IT A CHURCH'S INVENTION?

Some may wonder who invented the tithing practice, why the Church is requiring it, or even why should it be exactly ten percent. Wouldn't a different percentage be acceptable? The answer is that the practice

of tithing is not the Church's invention. Like the Sabbath and marriage, tithing has been established by God Himself for all humanity (not only for the Jews), long before the establishment of the Jewish nation, and it is practiced today by all those who recognize God as Creator and Provider, and who accept the whole Bible as His word.

Abraham and Jacob paid the tithe long before the establishment of the Jewish nation, and the law of tithing was reaffirmed for the Israelites when they were about to be established as a nation (Lev. 27:30, 32). But how can we know if the tithe should be ten percent (10%) of all our income or increase? Can we not give another percentage or a different amount? Should we return it only from our salary? What about other income?

The very word 'tithe' is a translation from the Hebrew word 'maaser' which means "a tenth" or ten percent. Not more, not less. So, any other percentage cannot be called 'tithe;' it is very important for the believer to regularly verify his income or increase, from any source, recognize it as a blessing from God and calculate the exact amount that represents one-tenth of the blessing.

28
MAR

Appeal

Let us follow Solomon's invitation: "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with wine" (Proverbs 3:9, NKJV).

Prayer

Dear Lord, we recommit our lives to you today, as well as our desire to trust in you, returning the correct percentage of your financial blessings as our tithe. Please, bless us as we worship You!

Local Church



LEAVE YOUR BICYCLE

Marcelo, 43, was riding his bicycle when the clouds started building up in Sao Bernardo do Campo, one of the most affluent municipalities in Brazil. What he didn't anticipate was that this would be no ordinary ride. A widely circulated video shows the moment in which a flash flood caught him during the rain, downtown, and how he bravely tried to resist the rapidly rising waters while holding onto his bicycle.

"Leave your bicycle," someone cried out to him from a balcony, as he rode close to a pole, and was struggling to stand against the strong current. Many others shouted the same suggestion, as the waters gradually increased in speed and volume, with Marcelo still grasping his bicycle. The video finally shows the moment in which Marcelo falls, still clinging to his bicycle. His body was found later that day by the firefighters and was buried on November 25, 2018. He lost far more than the bicycle he was trying to keep!

What is the "bicycle" that the Lord is asking us to leave today? Is it a relationship that is driving you far from God? A job that is preventing you from keeping the Sabbath? An unhealthy habit that is destroying your life, or spending habits that are preventing us from returning tithes and offerings?

What is Jesus calling you to surrender? To surrender is a real blessing. Ellen G. White says that "Jesus does not require of man any real sacrifice; for whatever we are asked to surrender is only that which we are better off without."—Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 300).

Appeal

As we worship the Lord by returning our tithes and offerings now, let us pray that our hearts may be disconnected from the things of this world and connected to Him and His eternal plan for us!

Prayer

Heavenly Father! Please accept what we bring to you today as a symbol of our desire to lay everything at your feet!

04
APR

Hope Channel



As the official television network of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hope Channel offers programs on wholistic Christian living and focuses of faith, health, relationships, and community. It's television that will change your life! We produce more than 95 percent of our programs and broadcast worldwide.

Local HopeChannel broadcasts are a faith ministry and are supported by donors and sponsorship. Hope Channel endeavours to use the broadcast media (terrestrial, satellite, cable, digital) or a combination of media, that reaches the largest possible viewing audience.

Hope Channel began broadcasting in the United States in 2003. But today, Hope Channel is a **global network with 45 Channels** that cover **Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, Australia and New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific**. Where possible programs on each channel are contextualized for their local culture and are broadcast in many languages including Spanish, Portuguese, German, Romanian, Mandarin, Russian, Tamil, Hindi, Ukrainian, Arabic, Farsi and Telugu.

11
APR

Local Church



IS IT A CHURCH'S INVENTION?

Some may wonder who invented the tithing practice, why the Church is requiring it, or even why should it be exactly ten percent. Wouldn't a different percentage be acceptable? The answer is that the practice of tithing is not the Church's invention. Like the Sabbath and marriage, tithing has been established by God Himself for all humanity (not only for the Jews), long before the establishment of the Jewish nation, and it is practiced today by all those who recognise God as Creator and Provider, and who accept the whole Bible as His word.

Abraham and Jacob paid the tithe long before the establishment of the Jewish nation, and the law of tithing was reaffirmed for the Israelites when they were about to be established as a nation (Lev. 27:30, 32). But how can we know if the tithe should be ten percent (10%) of all our income or increase? Can we not give another percentage or a different amount? Should we return it only from our salary? What about other income?

The very word 'tithe' is a translation from the Hebrew word 'maaser' which means "a tenth" or ten percent. Not more, not less.

So, any other percentage cannot be called 'tithe;' it is very important for the believer to regularly verify his income or increase, from any source, recognise it as a blessing from God and calculate the exact amount that represents one-tenth of the blessing.

Appeal

Let us follow Solomon's invitation:

"Honour 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 wine" (Proverbs 3:9, NKJV).

Prayer

Dear Lord, we recommit our lives to you today, as well as our desire to trust in you, returning the correct percentage of your financial blessings as our tithe. Please, bless us as we worship You!

18
APR

Local Church



A TITHE OF ZERO

25
APR

Appeal

As the Lord is always the first to give, He invites us to give back to Him only after He has first given us something. We give every time we are blessed, not in order to be blessed, but because we have been already blessed, recognizing Him as the Originator of all that we have.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we return tithe and give our offerings, help us to recognize You as the Giver and Maintainer of us all!

Did you know that generosity and stewardship can be best started when you have nothing to give?

How can we be generous without an income? How can we be good stewards with nothing to take care of? But a tithe of zero is zero... But this is perhaps the best time to give because you can be faithful in prayer and anything that the Lord adds becomes an opportunity to give.

If you are sitting in Church this morning and thinking, "but I can't afford to give" then consider this prayer: Lord, I want to be a faithful steward, I want to give generously to forward your work on this earth. Please give me something to give."

See that God doesn't provide for all your needs and above and beyond so that you can give generously to God's mission so that many can come into a saving relationship with Jesus.

South Pacific *Record*



STARVING TO DEATH

Starving for many days, Pavel prayed, “Dear Lord, please forgive me for using your tithes in a time of need. But if You help me to repay it, I promise never again to use your resources to benefit myself, even if I die.”

Living as a married student in the communist-era Romania, and without any income, Pavel decided some time before to resort to the 40 lei (Romanian currency) tithe he had set apart, in order to purchase food for his family. He and Dana, his wife, were starving as the cans he was collecting and selling were barely able to provide for his little son’s milk. He took the money planning to return what he “borrowed” from the Lord as soon as possible, expecting that God would “understand.” But then his father died, and things grew even worse because the stipend he had been receiving from his father stopped coming!

Arriving at home from the university that day, Pavel found a letter containing 50 lei. He resisted the temptation to help himself to the money; instead, he immediately mailed to the church treasurer the 40 lei he owed to God, plus the 5 lei due as tithe for this new gift. With the remaining 5 lei, he and Dana were able to buy only some bread and yogurt. “How are you doing, Pavel?” a 92-year-old man who was a fellow church member asked him a few days later. “You don’t look OK. What’s happening? Why don’t you take the bus instead of walking?” suggested the man. Pavel was unable to escape his questions.

The man then said, “Well, I’m a retired lawyer and have some funds. I was praying to God asking whom I could help. Now I have found him. From now on, until you finish your university education, I will send you 500 lei every month to take care of your needs.” And then he added, “But don’t forget to share with others when you are blessed.”

Pavel Goia is now the editor of Ministry Magazine and works at the General Conference office in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA.

Appeal

Let us take advantage of any crisis to strengthen our trust in the Lord, learning about His mighty power to save!

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to trust that You are the Provider. Please, help us to exercise that trust by returning what belongs to You with a grateful heart!

02
MAY

Education



AN IMPORTANT RITUAL

Rituals, such as weddings, graduations, or funerals, are ceremonies that help us to understand and assimilate significant times or changes in life. Dedications of children, baptism, family worship, and the Sabbath public worship, likewise, are important practices for those wanting to experience spiritual growth.

The Lord determined that the Sabbath should become a weekly collective ritual, a Holy Convocation (Lev. 23:3, from the Hebrew *Miqra*), which means meeting, or assembly. It indicates that He expects us to be regularly

together to worship Him every Sabbath. Ellen G. White says that “communing together [on Sabbath] in regard to Christ will strengthen the soul for life’s trials and conflicts” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 322). Stressing the importance of public, nonvirtual worship in the last days, we are warned not to forsake “the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some” (Heb. 10:25).

And what do we do while we worship together on Sabbath? Essentially, we do four things: (1) we bring our tithes and offerings, thanking Him as the Provider; (2) we pray, talking to Him; (3) we study His word, hearing from Him; and (4) we sing, praising Him. Offering, the first element established by God for public worship immediately after the Fall, is still key in the liturgy, as it points to Christ not only as the Provider but also as God’s Offering for the world.

Even though all the tithe and the main portion of the offerings may be given electronically, it is still very important that each family member learn to worship the Lord as their Creator, Provider, and Redeemer by bringing offerings in every public service in which they are collected. Instead of considering them merely as a formality, or even a “contribution” to the church projects and ministries, tithes and offerings are to be viewed as a way to worship God, strengthening our love and developing trust in Him.

09
MAY

Appeal

After leaving your offering on the offering plate, bow your head and thank God for supplying all your needs. Ask Him to increase your faith so that you may recognize His care every time there is an income or increase.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please accept the tithes and offerings that we bring today as a token of our desire to serve and worship you! Amen!

South Pacific Division Strategy: Comprehensive Health Ministry



EMPOWERING WHOLE PERSON HEALTH

Health is more than just physical health. It includes social health, mental wellbeing and spiritual health.

Our focus for health week in May 2020 is whole person health with the goal of helping people living abundantly. The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognises that positive lifestyle choices act as preventative medicine and that evidence based lifestyle medicine, integrated with conventional medicine, may assist to prevent, arrest and reverse chronic disease.

The Health offering will be 50% for the local conference health department. And the other 50% is for the South Pacific Division Comprehensive health strategy which will go towards supporting programs such as the Live More Project, Forgive to Live, Retirement Ready, Complete Health Improvement program, Elia Kitchen and a My Wellness app.

16
MAY

Local Church



MOTIVATIONS

Why do we give? Is it because something about the cause stirs within our heart and compels us to respond? Or perhaps it's because it's just something that we've always done? Maybe you give because it makes you feel good? Or you return tithes because it just gets taken out of your pay before you even see it?

Ellen White in talking about what compels us to give says. "it is unsafe [for us] to be controlled by feelings or impulse" when we give our gifts, because our natural inclination for selfishness is stronger than love, and so, as a rule, "evil gains the victory." She also says that "if we are controlled by impulse or mere human sympathy," we may stop giving "if our efforts... are repaid with ingratitude" or if "our gifts are abused or squandered." That is why "Christians should act from a fixed principle, following the Saviour's example of self-denial and self-sacrifice (E. G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 25)."

A vow, a promise, or a 'fixed principle' of giving, humbly taken by seeking the will of God and asking Him how and what we should give will allow the Holy Spirit to replace our selfish hearts working a miracle within, allowing God to do good works in us for his pleasure (Phil. 2:13)

Seek God's will for your giving this morning, ask him to replace your selfish heart with a generous heart, ask him to reveal how much you should consistently give.

23
MAY

Appeal

"Make vows to the Lord your God, and pay them; let all who are around Him bring presents to Him who ought to be feared (Ps. 76:11)."

Prayer

Please, Lord, accept the vows that we make before you today!

Local Church



EMPTY HANDED

Some books of the Old Testament contain pages and pages of laws around offerings and giving as well as the how, why and who of bringing sacrifices to the temple. One of the principles that seems to transcend is found in Deuteronomy 16:16-17 (NIV) “No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.”

At the end of the week it is easy to approach the house of God feeling very empty handed. We are often emotional drained, physically exhausted and mentally fatigued. But not that it says our gifts should be in proportion to the way that God has blessed. Let's take a moment to pause and reflect on the blessings of God. It may be an answer to prayer, a miraculous encounter or the simple reality that we have food on the table and a roof over our heads. We have so many things to be thankful for and so many reasons to give generously in response to what God has given and done for us. As we pause this morning let's consider the wondrous generosity and steadfast faithfulness of God as we bring our tithes and offerings before Him this morning.

Appeal

As regularly as He blesses us, let us also bring what is due to Him!

Prayer

Dear Lord! Please, accept what is yours now, in Jesus name, Amen!

30
MAY

Avondale College



Power to think and do: it's a gift from the Creator. Seventh-day Adventist Church pioneer Ellen White makes the statement to encourage us to explore and to engage (Education, p. 17). Giving to Avondale University College through its Think&Do campaign demonstrates your support for her philosophy.

Journey with us as we accept the challenge of developing quality infrastructure. And as we use these resources to improve lives. Your donation will help us create new and contemporary classrooms and learning spaces for our students as part of the renovation and refurbishment of the former Sanitarium Health Food Company factory in Cooranbong.

Donations above \$2 are tax deductible in Australia.

The gift of thinking and doing. Accept it. Use it. Support it.

Give to the Avondale University College in church or online
(www.avondale.edu.au/egiving or www.avondale.edu.au/giving).

06
JUN



Local Church



PRINCIPLE OF PURPOSE

When it comes to returning our tithe the Bible is clear that we are to give 10%, but what about our offerings? What principles can the Bible teach us about how much we should give for our offerings?

The Principle of Purpose

In 2 Corinthians 9:7 Paul teaches that “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Here Paul establishes the principle of purpose around what you give, deciding in our hearts what is appropriate and asking the Spirit to lead our decision making.

Great leaps and bounds in the spreading of the Gospel could be made if each one of us were to search our heart and ask God to help us decide in advance what to give, not just popping whatever we can find into the offering bag. Imagine what our Church could achieve by God’s Spirit if each of us gave not out of reluctance or compulsion but from the heart, not just our offerings but our time, our energy, our commitment.

Appeal

God also calls us to joy in giving, let’s consider and purpose in our heart today to give without reluctance or compulsion.

Prayer

Lord, please, accept the offering of our heart today! Amen!

13
JUN

Local Church



PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTION

When giving offerings the Bible talks about the principle of purpose, that we should purpose and decide in our heart what to give but the Bible also talks about a principle of proportion.

The Principle of Proportion

Deuteronomy 16:17 talks about giving 'according to the blessing' or according to our prosperity, which implies a proportional attitude toward giving. What capacity could be released for Gods kingdom if we gave our

offerings proportionally to our blessing. In a percentage based system of offerings those who earn more give more and those who earn less give less; and those who earn nothing, give nothing and are considered truly faithful!

Ellen G. White says, "It was by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who gave His life for the world, that this plan for systematic giving was devised." She also says that if this plan is adopted, "the cause ... [of God] would no longer be dependent on the **uncertain gifts of impulse and vary according to the changing feelings of men**" (E. G. White, Counsels on Stewardship, pp. 66, 199, 200).

Consider this morning taking the time to prayerfully vow a percentage of your income for regular offerings in proportion to the way God has blessed you.

20
JUN

Appeal

God help us to be faithful in all things.

Prayer

Take these tithes and offerings, an act of worship in response to how you have blessed each and every one of use, Amen.

Conference Wide Offering

Adventist Residential Care



LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE

How do we help children and youth develop wise management of their resources, and invite God to be involved in their financial life while they are still young? Ellen G. White suggests that (1) parents and teachers should make the study of figures something practical very early in children's lives; (2) children should learn through practice how to rightly use money, "whether supplied by their parents or by their own earnings"; children should "learn to select and purchase their own clothing, their books and other necessities; and by [3] keeping an account of their expenses, they will learn, as they could learn in no other way, the value and the use of money" (see Education, p. 238).

This practice, if "rightly directed," says God's messenger, "will encourage habits of benevolence" and "will aid the youth in learning to give, not from the mere impulse of the moment, as their feelings are stirred, but regularly, and systematically" (Ibid.), as God is giving to them. Actually, the returning of tithe and the giving of Promise is an important exercise that connects children and young people to God every time they receive something from Him. God is then remembered by them as the Source of every blessing.

Are your children learning how to handle money in a practical way? Are they instructed to keep an account of their expenses? Are they learning how to live a simple life in order to save and then provide for the needy? Are they being educated to put God first, by returning His tithe and their offerings, before any other expense may be met? Do they have their own tithe envelope and encouraged to use it every time they have an income?

Children are a God-given treasure loaned to parents in trust. The Lord requires parents to teach them how to trust in Him and connect with Him, including in their financial life.

Appeal

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart," says Solomon, "and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Prov. 3:5, 6).

Prayer

Lord, help us to trust in You, as the Provider and Maintainer of life, and teach our children to experience it themselves as well! Amen.

27
JUN

Local Church



ALL YOUR HEART

Although we can assume that all who marry intend to remain in the relationship, the harsh reality is that almost half of the couples in the western world will lose their love and end up in divorce. Perhaps even more sobering is the statistics that reveal a similar proportion of Adventists will lose their love toward God and for various reasons drift away from the Church. The question is, how do we prevent this drift?

To “love the Lord your God with all your heart,” soul, strength, and mind was Christ’s answer (Luke 10:27). In the same way as an emotional connection between two persons will grow according to the time they

spend together in a relationship of trust, an emotional connection with God will be developed as a result of the time that is daily spent in relationship with Him.

But Jesus, established still another important principle for developing that relationships with God: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21), He said. If what I’ve blessed you with are used purely for earthly things then that’s where your heart will be focused. But if this treasure is invested in heaven, by helping the poor and supporting God’s cause, by tithing and giving offerings, then that’s where our heart will be also.

A link between *giving* and *emotional attachment* is suggested by a study done with 1,054,367 members who left the church between 2015-2017 in one division. About 90 percent of them have no record of returning tithes or giving offerings at least three years before drifting away. This connection between giving to God’s cause and emotional attachment to Him is also emphasised by Ellen G. White. She says that “through every investment made [in God’s treasury], they [givers] will become more wedded to the cause of present truth” (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 73).

04
JUL

Appeal

Let us strengthen our connection with God today, by worshipping Him also with our tithes and offerings!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please accept our worship today, in Jesus name, amen!

World Mission Budget



WHEN DOCTORS HURT (by Sylva Keshishian)

Every morning little Haroun* cheerfully waited for Dr. Bland, the American missionary surgeon, to come “hurt” him. He was 10 years old and had suffered a nasty fracture of his left leg. Dr. Bland had removed a large portion of his tibia, but he still had an infection. Each morning, the doctor and his team removed the dressings, squeezed out pus, and repacked the wound with bleach-soaked gauze. Haroun was brave; as soon as the procedure was over, his bright smile returned. Every time Dr. Bland and his medical team at the Bere Adventist Hospital in Chad visited Haroun, they would speak French with him and teach him intricate handshakes. Since Haroun was alone at the hospital, this was the highlight of his day. The rest of the time he played with other young patients or watched the “Jesus movie.”

In medicine sometimes, doctors have to cause pain to achieve healing. Patients like this young boy must trust that the physician has their best interest in mind and that the outcome will be an improvement.

In Matthew 19:13, children approach Jesus to spend time in His presence, trusting Him to bless them. Do you trust God to take care of you? Do you trust Him to take your offerings and bless those who are hurting in the world?

Appeal

Part of your regular offerings and gifts today will automatically be sent to the World Mission fund, supporting the ministry of more than 400 missionary families. You may also give directly to the World Mission in addition to your “Promise” (regular and systematic offerings) by writing “World Mission Offering” on your tithe envelope, or by visiting Giving.AdventistMission.org, then clicking on “My donation is for” and selecting “World Mission Offerings.” Thank you in advance for your generous giving!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please make us as generous as You are!
Bring us closer to You as we participate in Your mission!

11
JUL

Union Global Partnership Project

Timor-Leste



- ADRA is already working in Timor-Leste with a focus on providing clean drinking water and sanitation.
- In Timor-Leste (population 1 266 000) we have a membership, 536 but until recently only 1 church. We have church buildings ready to construct.
- In a similar way to how we have worked in Mongolia we are working with churches in Australia to put together teams to support the work already happening. The teams will help with building projects, serve in the community and facilitate evangelism.
- At the moment we are particularly focusing on the Timor Adventist International School in Dili where we are encouraging churches to raise funds for classrooms.
- Other projects will include building centres of influence in Same, Atauro Island, Liquica and Ossu.
- The AUC is also sponsoring young people in Timor to become pastors and teachers. We currently only have one ordained Adventist pastor in Timor-Leste.
- Our Mission Partnership offering will go toward supporting community building projects in Timor-Leste and funding the development of pastors and teachers who can come back and serve in their communities. Your offering today really will make a difference for our neighbours in Timor-Leste.

18
JUL

Local Church



THE HEART OF GIVING

Does the heart have a role to play in the giving of our tithes and offerings?

The Bible teaches that unfaithfulness to God in tithes and offerings brings a curse (Mal. 3:8-10), it is also clear that He cannot bless those who give them while disregarding other known aspects of His will. “If I regard iniquity in my heart [any iniquity], the Lord will not hear” (Ps. 66:18), said David. Solomon also says that the “one who turns away his ear from hearing the law [in all its points], even his prayer is an abomination” (Prov. 28:9). God is not moved by religious exercises, including returning tithe and giving offerings, while the giver harbours a haughty heart or is stubbornly breaking any other aspect of His will (Isa. 1:11-15). But because the Bible says that “all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23) and deserve death (Rom. 6:23), how can a sinner have their offerings and tithes accepted by God?

The answer is that Christ died to pay for our sins (Rom. 6:23); and to those who confess their sins, “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Cleansing is a work of the Holy Spirit that changes the heart (Eze. 36:26), and should precede any act of worship. It is as important as forgiveness.

Cleansing is so critical that in the book of Malachi it is said that it is only after that experience that “the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord” (Mal. 3:2-4). God accepts tithes and offerings only from those who accept Jesus’ death on their behalf, confess their sins, and keep asking for the Holy Spirit to change their hearts.

Appeal

While you bring your tithe and offering today, take time to confess your sins and to ask for a new, purified heart.

Prayer

Lord, as we bring our tithes and offerings, please accept the offering of our whole heart. Take it, cleanse it, and heal its unfaithfulness!

25
JUL

Local Church



RITUAL

Rituals, such as weddings, graduations, or funerals, are ceremonies that help us to understand and assimilate significant times or changes in life. Dedications of children, baptism, family worship, and the Sabbath public worship, likewise, are important practices for those wanting to experience spiritual growth.

The Lord determined that the Sabbath should become a weekly collective ritual. He desires for us to be regularly together to worship Him every Sabbath. Stressing the importance of public worship, a coming together in community, in the last days, we are warned not to forsake “the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some” (Heb. 10:25).

And what do we do while we worship together? Essentially, we do four things: (1) we bring our tithes and offerings, thanking Him as the Provider; (2) we pray, talking to Him; (3) we study His word, hearing from Him; and (4) we sing, praising Him. Offering was the first element established by God for public worship immediately after the Fall, it points to Christ not only as the Provider but also as God’s Offering for the world.

Every time we give we acknowledge the Lord as our Creator, Provider, and Redeemer. Instead of considering them merely as a formality, or even a “contribution” to the church projects and ministries, tithes and offerings are an act of worship toward God, strengthening our love and developing trust in Him.

01
AUG

Appeal

As we give this morning, thank God for supplying all your needs. Ask Him to increase your faith so that you may recognise His provision in all things.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please accept the tithes and offerings that we bring today as a token of our desire to serve and worship you! Amen!

South Pacific Division Strategy: Comprehensive Media Evangelism



A BIRTH OFFERING

Herbert Boger was pastoring a district in Canoas, Brazil, when Beth, his wife, became pregnant. During her third month of pregnancy, the couple was visited by a pastor of their conference, who read to them some texts from the book *Child Guidance*, by Ellen G. White. Among other things, he suggested that they bring a Thank Offering when they dedicate the child months later. And so they prepared an envelope with an offering for the occasion.

But life became very challenging! Besides suffering from uncommonly severe anaemia during her seventh month of pregnancy, the upper part of Beth's uterine bag broke, and amniotic fluid poured out. She rushed to the hospital and was told to get total rest until the baby's birth. But then she got an infection, which continued to worsen to the point where the physician told her that if he wouldn't be aware of the peculiarity of her case, the exams, taken alone, would suggest terminal leukaemia.

Beth's situation was very risky, and with sadness she and Herbert considered what to do with the offering in the envelope if the baby did not survive. The couple spent much time in prayer. All the pastors attending a ministerial council at the time also joined them in prayer, stopping their meeting to pray together for them, each a full hour. Later that same day Beth had additional tests, which showed that her infection was no longer growing. So the doctors scheduled and performed a Caesarean Section.

Herbert and Beth know that the birth of their son, William, on March 12, 2005, was a miracle. Mother and baby stayed in the hospital for two weeks until Beth's infection cleared up. While there, the same pastor visited Beth again and assured her that an angel of God had been caring for William since his birth. After Beth was discharged and went home, she and Herbert added to the envelope five times more than the original amount, concluding that no sum, however large, could represent their gratitude to the Lord!

In front of all the church members the couple not only dedicated William to God, but with tears in their eyes they placed the envelope into a basket held by a deacon.

(Herbert Boger is now the Personal Ministries director for the South America Division.)

Appeal

Let's thank God now, and recognize His wonderful workings with our offerings!

Prayer

Please, God, accept what we place in Your hands today!

8
AUG

Education



A YEARLY RITUAL

“Here is your Birthday Offering,” said Irene to her son, Marcos, 8, before they left for the church that Sabbath. “Please tell the Sabbath School teacher that your birthday was last week, and don’t forget to give that offering, as you do every year,” said Mother, touching Marcos’ pocket. She reminded him how sick he had been since he was a baby, how bad the prognosis was, how he was dedicated by his parents to serve God, and that through three very difficult surgeries the Lord graciously saved his life! So Marcos proudly gave to God that special offering.

Years ago, Osvaldino Bomfim, the father, left a small business to become a colporteur, battling against his passion to accumulate money. After marrying Irene, he decided to go to the Adventist Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil to become a pastor. His desire for wealth, however, led him to seriously consider a friend’s proposal to leave the seminary and to partner with him in purchasing a gas station. Maybe I can get more and more money, and then participate in mission by financially supporting missionaries, he thought. But then Marcos became very sick!

While his son, who was near death, was having surgery, Osvaldino knelt in one of the hospital’s restrooms and prayed: “Dear Lord, I know You are the Owner of the universe, totally able to do anything. If this child will later enlarge Satan’s lines, please allow him to rest; but if he will serve You, please perform a miracle!” Then he added: “I now give up my desire to become rich. I rededicate myself to serve You for my whole life, doing whatever You want me to do, and going wherever You send me. I will also dedicate this child to You, and will prepare all my other children to serve You!”

After Marcos’ healing, the Birthday Offering became a meaningful experience of gratitude and rededication to God for this family, which raised two pastors, Marcos and Eduardo, and a pastor’s wife, Junia.

15
AUG

Appeal

Who is supposed to be honored with a special gift for any anniversary celebration? Is it the one who is just enjoying life, or He who created and redeemed the person’s life? Praise Him as you bring Him your tithes and offerings today!

Prayer

Lord, please accept the dedication of our lives to You today!

Australian Union: Mamarapha College



Mamarapha College is a tertiary Christian Bible College owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church offering Certificate II up to Advanced Diploma in Indigenous Studies (streams of Ministry Bible Work and Lifestyle Health Promotion).

Set in the beautiful bush surrounds of Perth's orchard region, Mamarapha is a quiet, peaceful place where each year dozens of indigenous students connect with God and discover how to share Him with their communities in a culturally sensitive way.

Mamarapha College graduates have made positive, life-changing differences in the lives of thousands of indigenous Australians through lifestyle programs, community service, public evangelism and personal faith sharing initiatives.

Your offerings today will support Mamarapha's ongoing work of making disciple makers for the indigenous community throughout Australia.

22
AUG

Local Church



God is love, and christianity is all about loving relationships, not just with God but others as well. To “have love” for one another is so important that Jesus Himself described it as being a true indicator of discipleship (John 13:35).

God also set apart a day, specifically for relationship. The Sabbath, a time for us to regularly connect with Him and with our brothers and sisters. But it sometimes requires sacrifice. In places such as the Amazon region, for example, where people may have to travel long distances to church, some families start their journey on Friday evening, returning home on Sunday. And they do that not because they have time to waste, but because they see it as a spiritual exercise

that strengthens their love for God and for their neighbours. They see fellowship with other Christians and worshipping God together on Sabbath as essential for spiritual growth.

In the apostolic era, there were already some who were quite lax on gathering together regularly with fellow believers. But God warned them that the act of gathering with others would increase in importance as the day of His coming approaches (Heb. 10:25). In Leviticus 23:3, the Lord also stresses the importance of strengthening connections with one another on Sabbath: “Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation”. The word “convocation” (Heb. Miqra), means meetings, assemblies, gatherings; and the Lord considers them as being holy and an integral part of Sabbath keeping.

In the Adventist Church, our connections with one another have an even broader dimension. By returning tithes and giving Promise to the church, the outpost of the storehouse, we strengthen the connections with our brothers and sisters from around the world that are doing the same. We exercise our mutual trust, and we testify that we are connected, that we love and care for each other, and that we have a common goal—to work for God not only as individuals but also as a well-organised army, speeding the final preaching of the gospel and Jesus’ second coming. Working together, we do more, we can go farther and faster because we are better together.

29
AUG

Appeal

As we come into God’s presence today, let us worship Him in community and strengthen our ties to each other by returning our tithes and bringing our offerings to His storehouse!

Prayer

We are Yours, Lord! Please accept our worship today! Amen!

Local Church



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

What is the Church? If you were to ask the average person on the street, “What is the church?” they might reply, “It’s a building where Christians meet for worship services.” But we as Christians know that the church is much more than a building – it is a gathering of people. 1 Peter 2:5 says that we are living stones being built into a spiritual building. The Holy Spirit lives inside us. We are literally God’s temple.

There are different types of buildings, and there are different types of building materials. There are foundation stones, and there are windows, and shingles, and many other parts, and in their place they each have a unique function and purpose. Shingles don’t make good windows, and windows don’t make good foundations, but in fulfilling their role they are indispensable. Paul related this in 1 Corinthians 12, using the metaphor of the body, each part with a different, but important role.

What would this building be without all of its valuable parts, and what if you were missing body parts? You would be impaired, less able to function. The same with the Church, which is made up of people. Without everyone doing their part, we are not able to function as we could. And just as an arm or a leg would get weak and atrophy without exercise, so the individual Christian will grow weak without using their gifts.

Appeal

Today, we have the opportunity to contribute to the body of the Church. Each ministry, every volunteer plays an important role in building up our Church.

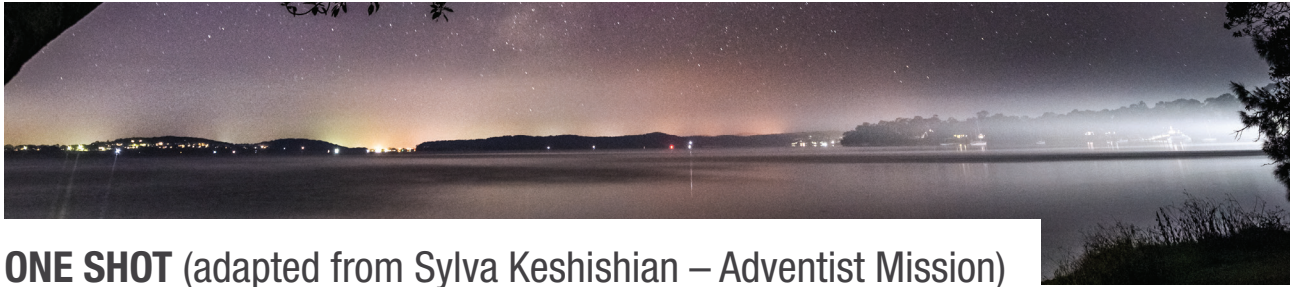
Prayer

Dear God, thank you that we have the Church, a place to come and meet together, worship you and be inspired as we reach out to others. Amen.

05
SEP

Annual Sacrifice:

Unusual Opportunities



ONE SHOT (adapted from Sylva Keshishian – Adventist Mission)

If you had one shot to make a sudden, big difference in someone's life, would you take it . . . or let it slip away? Unusual opportunities don't happen every day; but when they do, they require a rapid response from God's church. The Unusual Opportunities Offering is a special funding pool that enables the General Conference to respond rapidly to urgent projects as soon as they arise.

Let's suppose, for instance, that there is an unexpected door opened in a country that before was completely closed to the Adventist message. This fund will allow the Church to move quickly as the opportunity appears and be established in this country on a more solid basis.

Such a situation occurred after 1991, when the Iron Curtain fell, and the former Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries were suddenly opened to the gospel. Fortunately, the church was able to take advantage of the opportunity, organizing more than 250 evangelistic series in Russia, one of them, conducted in 1992 by Mark Finley, inside the Kremlin—the very center of a power that had declared religion as dead and the atheism as the state religion! The following year, the Olympic Stadium was rented for another five-week series, also with Elder Finley. As a result of these endeavours, the number of Adventist members in the former Soviet Union jumped from 35,000 to 85,000 in just three years after the fall of the Berlin Wall! ("Super evangelism in Moscow". Ministry Magazine, Nov. 1993, page 15).

Part of your regular offerings and gifts today will automatically be sent to the Unusual Opportunities Offering fund to support critical necessities as they appear. You may also give your freewill offerings directly to this fund, beyond and above your Promise (regular and systematic offerings) by marking Unusual Opportunities Offering on your envelope, or by visiting AdventistMission.org/donate, and selecting "GC Unusual Opportunity Fund."

12

SEP

Appeal

So, let's seize the moment. Let's speed the work of the gospel by giving generously, anticipating God's miraculous acts!

Prayer

Dear God! Let us work together, as a well-prepared army, ready to go wherever you will send us in these last days of this world. Amen.

Annual Convention



RISKING WITH GOD

More than one hundred years ago a group of German immigrants settled in Pozuzo, an isolated place in the Peruvian jungle. As there was no longer land available in Pozuzo, Juan and Teresa Heidinger decided to relocate after their marriage to the region of Puerto Inca, close to the Pachitea river. It was also a remote place, accessible only by the river, but with extensive land available. Far from civilization, they would need to be self-sufficient and provide for almost all their own needs.

After Teresa developed serious kidney problems, the only available medical facility was the Maranatha Clinic, accessible only by boat from their farm. The American owners, Monroe and Patricia Duerksen, after working for a while in Bolivia as regular Adventist missionaries, decided to leave the USA again, as self-supported missionaries, opening a clinic in a place without any Adventist presence. In faith, they volunteered to sacrifice and to risk all with God, believing that He would provide for all their needs.

In addition to the treatment in the clinic, Teresa also received the book “The Great Controversy”, followed by a warm invitation to join the Duerksens for Sabbath services. Impacted by the book and the kindness of the missionaries, Tereza was baptized, followed by Juan, his mother, and finally the four children.

Thanks to the missionaries’ self-denying initiative, all four of the Heidenger’s children studied at the Peruvian Adventist University. Maritza holds a specialization to teach Biology and Chemistry in the High School, and is married to a pastor; Daisy, a food engineer, served as mayor of Puerto Inca and is now a member of the staff of Peru’s Assistant Minister of Education; Lisseth studied Psychology and married a pharmaceutical chemist, both actively serving in their local church in Los Angeles, USA; and Edward, a pastor, is currently the Secretary of the South America Division, with headquarters in Brazil.

Appeal

Self-denial and sacrifice, are ever the fuel that ignites precious fruits for God! In what other way is God calling you to risk something for Him today? Do you believe that if you risk with Him, He will also provide for all your needs? Tithes and offerings are a practical witness of that belief, strengthening our trust in our Divine Provider!

Prayer

Dear Lord! As we worship you, help us to trust in you more and more!

19
SEP

Annual Convention



A RADICAL CHOICE

Becoming a Christian means that I now (1) accept the fact that I am a sinner, (2) accept Christ's death in my place for the forgiveness of my sins, (3) want to receive a new heart, and (4) accept the lordship of Christ in my life. It is a radical choice that will affect all areas of my life!

My own criteria or perceptions are no longer the parameter for making decisions, because I know that my "heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9). Instead, I now accept the lordship of Jesus, submitting my life to His word. One cannot have Jesus while rejecting His Word, because He and His Word are inseparable!

This submission is what Solomon meant in his appeal: "Trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones" (Prov. 3:5-8).

Solomon then uses the financial life to suggest a way through which we may exercise our submission to Jesus and to His word: "Honour 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" (Prov. 3:9, 10). There are promised blessings for returning tithes and giving offerings regularly, as first-fruits of every income. To honour the Lord with first-fruits means that we give our best to God first before meeting any other expenses. On the other hand, one of the first signs of our unwillingness to submit to Jesus and to His word is the disinclination to return tithes and to give offerings of all our increase, before any other expense. Limited submission generates limited blessings, while unlimited submission brings overflowing blessings.

26
SEP

Appeal

While we humbly bring our tithes and offerings to the Lord today, as the first part of all our increase, let us ask Him to give us a submissive heart and to help us to be willing to say, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears" (1 Sam. 3:9).

Prayer

Dear Lord! Please speak to us today and change our hearts, making us willing to submit to Your guidance and power. Please fulfil your promises of overflowing blessings, according to Your great generosity. Amen.

ADRA Projects

within Australia

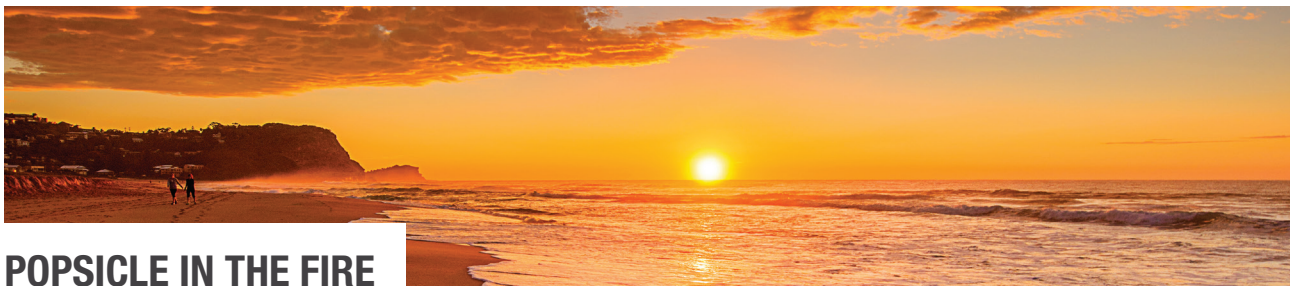


ADRA COMMUNITY PROJECTS OFFERING

There are broken people in every corner of Australia. Our neighbours are just surviving under the weight of financial stress, poor health, strained relationships, loneliness and a lack of connections. Every person facing hardship is an opportunity for us, as Adventists, to reach out and demonstrate Christ's grace and hope in practical ways. Today's offerings will support ADRA Community Projects in Australia such as community meals, crisis support, youth and disaster response. Each project is run in partnership with a local Adventist Church and helps feed, clothe, house and connect Australians doing it tough. Give generously today to help Australians live and serve as God intended.

03
OCT

Local Church



POPSICLE IN THE FIRE

10
OCT

Appeal

Whether we live in poverty or affluence, do we need to experience some loss before being able to sympathise with those who are suffering? Or do we instead allow the Holy Spirit to change our heart, giving us empathy and true love? Are we ready to imitate Christ, sacrificing all, even our lives, for the redemption and well-being of others?

Of course, tithes and offerings do not represent all the popsicles in our box! But they are a token of our desire to help others, feeding with spiritual food those who have been ravaged by the fire of sin!

As we partner with Him in this holy work, we may be sure that He will provide for us (Prov. 3:9, 10). There is nothing to fear!

Prayer

Dear Lord, make us instruments of Your grace and love, using what You gave us to bring spiritual nourishment to those who need to know You through us!

The evening of Monday, December 17, 2018 saw the second worst fire in the history of Manaus, a city of 2.1 million located in the heart of the northern Brazilian Amazon rain forest. About 600 houses in a very poor neighbourhood were destroyed, leaving 2,500 people without shelter or personal belongings.

On the evening of the next day, local Adventist churches and ADRA had already served 300 meals and given 500 basic food baskets, clothes, bedding, shoes, and other necessities to those who had lost almost everything. While many residents stood in line to receive help from the church or government for their basic needs, one Haitian popsicle seller thrilled the relief teams. Even though most of Haitians living in Brazil struggle to survive as refugees after an earthquake ravaged their country in 2010, this man decided to sacrifice. Walking up the line of the survivors, he gave away all the popsicles remaining in his box, which were his only source of income—a small act with a huge impact. This man was moved to help others, giving all that God had placed in his hand.



THAT SPECIAL ORANGE TREE

“I didn’t learn to tithe in the baptismal class,” says Angelo Donaldo, an Angolan Adventist pastor. He explained that in 1977, his father was an Adventist pastor in Luau, at the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo, 1,580 km (981 miles) from Luanda, the capital of the country. “Even though I was very young,” says Angelo, “I can remember very well how around our home there were ten orange trees.”

“My seven siblings and I could freely eat from nine of them, but on the tenth, the most fruitful of all, we were not allowed to touch, because my father would bring all the produce to the church as the tithe,” Angelo recalls. “Sometimes, my father would even hide himself all the night near the tree to prevent thieves from ravaging its produce”, says Angelo. “Today, I feel myself blessed by my father’s faithful life,” testifies the pastor, because his example influenced some of his spiritual choices. “I believe that my father’s coherent life is one of the reasons why all his children, except one, are now faithful church members,” he ponders. “It was at home, not at the church, that I learned to respect God and to tithe,” he says.

Like Angelo’s father, our Heavenly Father also gave all the trees of the garden to Adam and Eve, except one, which He reserved to Himself. Had they respected His command, our first parents would only be expressing gratitude for all that they had received, but they would have also recognized God’s authority and ownership over the garden and their lives. And the same happens today as we tithe.

Commenting about Solomon’s suggestion to “honour the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase (Prov. 3:9),” and the resulting blessings (v. 10), Ellen G. White says: “This scripture teaches that God, as the Giver of all our benefits, [1] has a claim upon them all; that [2] His claim should be our first consideration; and that [3] a special blessing would attend all who honour this claim (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 65).”

Appeal

Let us recognize God’s authority, dominion and goodness, as we worship Him with our tithe and offerings now!

Prayer

Take what is Yours, our dear Creator and Redeemer! Amen!

17
OCT

Local Church



LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE

How did you first learn about tithes and offerings? Perhaps it was through Sabbath school or you served as a junior deacon and were able to assist taking up the collection in the worship service? Maybe you saw your parents generosity and modelled your life in the same way?

Ellen G. White suggests that parents and teachers should make the handling of money something practical very early in children's lives; children should learn through practice how to rightly use money.

Modelling good stewardship, if “rightly directed will encourage habits of benevolence” and “will aid the youth in learning to give, not from the mere impulse of the moment, as their feelings are stirred, but regularly, and systematically” as God is giving to them.

Actually, the returning of tithe and the giving of offerings is an important exercise that connects children and young people to God every time they receive something from Him. God is then remembered by them as the Source of every blessing. Are we modelling to our children how to handle money in a practical way? Are we modelling to them the blessing of a simple life in order to save and then provide for the needy? Are they being educated to put God first, by returning His tithe and their offering, before any other expense may be met? Children are a God-given treasure loaned to parents in trust. The Lord requires parents to teach them how to trust in Him and connect with Him, including in their financial life.

24
OCT

Appeal

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,” says Solomon, “and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Prov. 3:5, 6).

Prayer

Lord, help us to trust in You, as the Provider and Maintainer of life, and teach our children to experience it themselves as well! Amen.

Local Church



RISKING WITH GOD

More than one hundred years ago a group of German immigrants settled in Pozuzo, an isolated place in the Peruvian jungle. As there was no longer land available in Pozuzo, Juan and Teresa Heidinger decided to relocate after their marriage to the region of Puerto Inca, close to the Pachitea river. It was also a remote place, accessible only by the river, but with extensive land available. Far from civilisation, they would need to be self-sufficient and provide for almost all their own needs.

After Teresa developed serious kidney problems, the only available medical facility was the Maranatha Clinic, accessible only by boat from their farm. The American owners, Monroe and Patricia Duerksen, after working for a while in Bolivia as regular Adventist missionaries, decided to leave the USA again, as self-supported missionaries, opening a clinic in a place without any Adventist presence. In faith, they volunteered to sacrifice and to risk all with God, believing that He would provide for all their needs.

In addition to the treatment in the clinic, Teresa also received the book “The Great Controversy”, followed by a warm invitation to join the Duerksens for Sabbath services. Impacted by the book and the kindness of the missionaries, Tereza was baptised, followed by Juan, his mother, and finally the four children, thanks to the missionaries’ self-denying initiative.

Appeal

Self-denial and sacrifice, are ever the fuel that ignites precious fruits for God! In what other way is God calling you to risk something for Him today? Do you believe that if you risk with Him, He will also provide for all your needs? Tithes and offerings are a practical witness of that belief, strengthening our trust in our Divine Provider!

Prayer

Dear Lord! As we worship you, help us to trust in you more and more!

31
OCT

Education



A WEEKLY APPOINTMENT

Heavily addicted to alcohol and living with his family in the Amazon jungle, Luis Augusto was never sober whenever he returned home from the small city of Rodrigo Alves, Acre, Brazil. Sometimes he would be gone, drinking, for several days, which was harmful not only to himself but also to his family. But this time he was going to town for a different reason.

While watching an evangelist preaching in the Novo Tempo TV (Brazilian Hope Channel) days before, Luis decided for the first time to accept the lordship of Jesus and to look for the Adventist church he had learned about from the TV program. The following Sabbath, he left his home at 3:00 a.m. for a four-hour walk through the jungle, looking for the Adventist church. Not able to locate

the church, he sat on a curb for a while until some church-dressed people passed by. By following them, he finally found the house of God. When the receptionist asked him if he was visiting the church, his answer was clear: “No. I came to stay.” And so he did!

After the Lord delivered him from his bad habits, Luis was baptized. Then his family joined him every Sabbath, walking four hours one way to church! Some may wonder whether it was worth that sacrifice. Would it not be more convenient to stay home and watch religious programs on TV, “as in the manner of some”? (See Heb. 10:25.)

God’s Word is clear when it says that “in order to stir up love and good works,” we need to “consider one another” (Heb. 10:24), connecting with them constantly. And the next verse warns us: “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as in the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (vs. 25).

The Lord indicates, and Luis understood, that there is no virtual experience that can replace regular worship with our brothers and sisters in church. The church is also the outpost of the storehouse, the place where we are commanded to bring tithes and offerings. Putting convenience last and God first, we connect all family members to Him there by (1) praying, (2) singing, (3) studying His Word, and (4) worshiping Him with tithes and offering.

07
NOV

Appeal

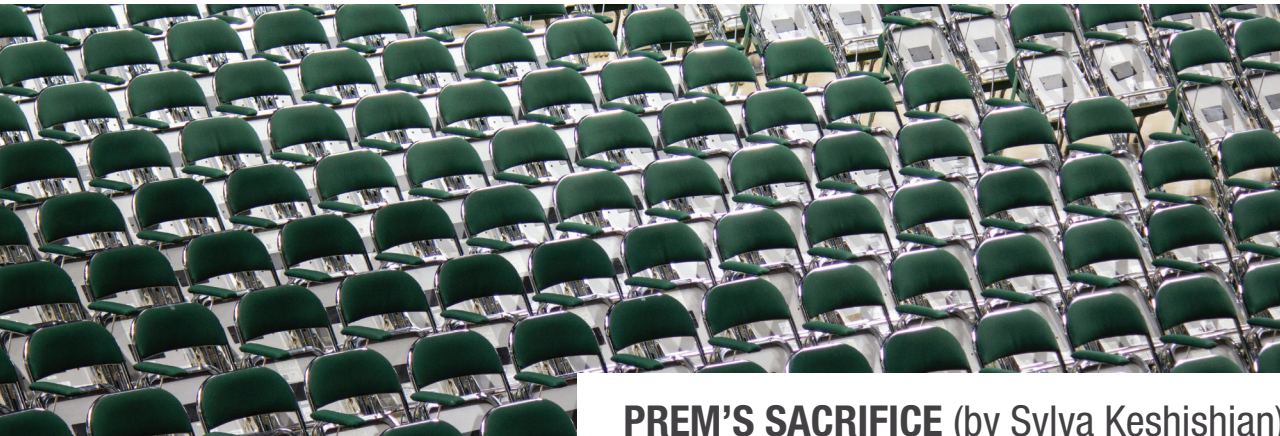
Let’s bring our tithes and offering, presenting them as reminders of what the Lord had done for us this week! Let us rejoice and worship Him!

Prayer

Dear God, Creator of the universe, please accept the offering of our heart! Take it and cleanse it, making it Yours.

World Mission Budget:

Unusual Opportunities



PREM'S SACRIFICE (by Sylva Keshishian)

After Prem completed his medical training, he chose to live on a small stipend in a remote town in India as a Global Mission pioneer. Before Prem arrived there were no Adventists in the region. The nearest hospital is several hours away, so pioneer Prem uses the talents God has given him to serve the town's sick. He transformed his living room into a clinic, where he lovingly teaches the locals how to adopt a wholistic lifestyle; he also treats their illnesses. He then prays for the heavenly Physician to heal and bless them.

Through Prem's compassionate words and actions, many of his former patients now come each Sabbath to the local church building. There they eagerly wait for Prem to finish treating patients in his clinic so he can teach them more about Jesus.

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143.

Appeal

Global Mission Pioneers sacrifice much to take Jesus to the unreached cities, towns, and villages around the world and to put His method of outreach into action. The question is, what are you willing to sacrifice to help support them?

The Annual Sacrifice Offering, collected in some countries on November 14, is a good time to make a special gift to support the work of Global Mission Pioneers.

Part of your Promise (regular and systematic offering) already supports the Global Mission Pioneers, but if in addition you would like to help share Jesus with unreached people, write "Annual Sacrifice Offering" on your tithe envelope or visit global-mission.org/giving and select "Global Mission's Annual Sacrifice Offering."

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to sacrifice for mission, as You sacrificed all in our behalf!

14
NOV

Local Church



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

21
NOV

Appeal

God invites you to join your brothers and sisters from all the world, to worship Him with tithes and offerings, funding also His work around the globe.

Prayer

Take what belongs to You, dear God, for we worship you today!

It was at a Church planting conference in the US that the beauty of the Adventist administrative system was really made clear. One of the workshops talked about funding a Church Plant and the many challenges that arise. The workshop host upheld that Adventist Church as a unique system that had great capacity when it came to the distribution of funds for mission. They concluded that with our administrative structure we had the potential and power, by the Holy Spirit and faithful membership to have exponential growth.

The system adopted by the Adventist Church was established upon biblical principles, fostering unity and equity. No one individual or interest group is owner or controls all the funds. Local church representatives elect leaders for limited terms, and leaders are paid on the basis of a common salary scale. The church is thriving in 212 out of the 235 countries and areas recognized by the UN, because instead of each one doing what is right in their own eyes, 21 million members contribute to the same “pot” with tithes and offerings. United, they are stronger, are able to do more, and go farther! We are better together!

Local Church



THE POWER GOD HAS

In an 1885 sermon delivered to the Adventist Church in Denmark, Ellen White described how we are called to be a peculiar people in the world we live. What does it mean to be peculiar? More often than not, our practicing Christianity can make us appear strange or crazy to non-believers, nothing more so than the giving of tithe! To the secular world the idea of giving 10% can seem ridiculous!

We are called to be a peculiar people. To be crazy for the world means to be wise for God and to inherit eternal life! And this is the power God has! The world does not understand what we do, but we do it by faith in His Word! To be faithful to our God; to keep the Sabbath; to return tithe and give offerings—all behaviours that are contrary to our natural impulses and tendencies—are evidences that our eyes are fixed far beyond earthly realities!

Appeal

Let's be crazy for God today, as we gratefully worship Him by returning our tithes and giving offerings!

Prayer

Dear Father, please make us crazy for the world and wise for You! Give us the privilege of being partakers in building Your kingdom and saving others!

28
NOV

South Pacific Division Strategy: Mission to the Cities



BIG TREES REPLACED BY SMALL TREES

“We’ve already told you many times to stop sharing Bibles and building churches,” said the officer to Pavel’s father (also named Pavel). During the Romanian communist era, those who were against the government or who were sharing Bibles were often arrested and beaten badly. “So many of my friends were beaten very badly,” says the son, Pavel Goya, Ministry magazine editor, “but it didn’t stop anything.” Nevertheless, for some well-known people, additional consequences could be even worse.

One comedian, for instance, after speaking on TV for many years, started to subtly make fun of the dictator. Not wanting to make the comedian a martyr, the government officials decided to kill him in such a way that they wouldn’t appear guilty of his death. So, they radiated him without his knowledge and sent him home to die.

That time, instead of beating Pavel (the father), the officers just warned him again and, strangely, let him alone in a room during the whole night. In the morning he was allowed to go home, apparently unharmed. Goya smiled and asked, “You just left me alone in a room?” But they shook their heads and said, “You don’t get it, do you?”

But after a few days Goya experienced extreme diarrhoea, started to lose his hair, and then began losing his nails. The doctor told him that he had leukaemia caused by high radiation. “If I live, I live for Jesus”, said Goya before resting in the Lord. “If I die, I die for Jesus. Sometimes, it is good to take out a big tree so that small trees may grow. Please, God, give fire to my children.” He longed for his children to love and witness for the Lord, and God granted his request!

05
DEC

Appeal

How much are our children ready to sacrifice for Christ? If they are not willing to sacrifice something in order to keep the Sabbath, to retain moral purity, to live a healthful lifestyle, or to return tithes and Promise, will they in the future be willing to sacrifice even their lives for Jesus? It is today that we must teach them by instruction and example how to sacrifice for Christ.

Prayer

While we worship You with tithes and Promise, help us to learn how to sacrifice for You, and how to teach the next generation to do the same! Amen.

Conference Wide Offering

Beaudesert Church



SAVED BY THE GOD FIRST PRINCIPLE

“Quickly, quickly!” cried Edison Choque. “We must leave immediately.” It was December 26, 1999, and Edison was an Adventist pastor in Trujillo, Perú. Along with Ruth, his wife, and their two children, Mercy and Kevin, they were excited about traveling to Lima, the capital, for vacation. “The bus will depart at 7:00 A.M. and will not wait for us!” he warned.

Edison was concerned about the time because they had woken up late, after packing the night before. But because the bus station was only 3 kilometres (1.9 miles) away, and the taxi was already waiting for them at the door, it seemed that they would make it.

But just as they were walking out the door, Mercy, their 5-year-old child, asked: “What about family worship? Are we not supposed to have it today?” “Well,” said Edison, looking to Ruth, “we will have worship inside the bus while we’re traveling.” But Mercy was firm: “You’ve said many times that we should never leave this house without having family worship.”

Father and Mother looked at each other again and nodded their heads. They decided that it was more important to keep the God First principle than their vacation plans. So they quickly read the Sabbath School quarterly for Mercy and Kevin, and then hurried to the bus station—only to realize that the bus had already left! All eyes then turned to Mercy,

because the tickets were not refundable, and the next bus wouldn’t depart for four hours!

Later that day they were shocked to learn that the very bus they had missed had crashed with a truck, instantly killing 16 people! The Choque family wept for the people who had been killed and for their families, but at the same time, they were also filled with gratitude to God for using the God First principle to save their lives!

(Edison and Ruth now work at the South America Division office, in Brazil; Mercy is a pastor’s wife; and Kevin is a pastor. Both Mercy and Kevin also live in Brazil.)

Appeal

Let us plan to start the new year by putting God first in all aspects of our life, including our financial life. Let us honor Him with our tithes and offerings, and to do it before any other expense are met!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please accept our tithes and offerings as our worship! Please help us to put You first in every aspect of our life. Amen!

12
DEC

Local Church



SUBMISSION

19
DEC

Appeal

Tithing is an act of submission to the God who established it, and who gave specific directions about how to deliver and distribute it. As we give today let's pause and take a moment to recommit and resubmit our lives to God once more.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to accept Your guidance in this matter! Amen!

Submission is a word that can have negative connotations. In our contemporary society it implies weakness, powerlessness and a lack of ability or influence. But submission as talked about in the Bible is something to be sought after and greatly admired, especially when it comes to God. In James we read that when we submit ourselves to the Lord and resist the devil, he will flee from us. This act of submission to the power of God comes with a hedge of protection of evil, it reminds us of our daily dependence on God and our inability to resist sin, temptation and the devil in our own power.

When we return our tithes and give offerings in worship we are practicing submission to God. We are simply recognising that all things come from Him and that he is the source of all that we are and have.

Local Church



YEAR END

Have you ever been in a position where you might be anxious about where your next meal may come from? The reality is that living in a country like Australia means that you probably haven't had to worry about this particular issue. When Jesus declared, "Do not be anxious, saying 'What shall we eat?'" We may very well read this words having never had to miss a meal. But what is the overarching principle here. Trusting God regardless of our circumstances, and we do that by seeking God above all else and before all else, then the rest will fall into place. TO really trust God like this is a lot harder than wondering where our next meal might come from. As we close of the year and enter a new one we have many opportunities to trust God more. Let's make today the beginning of something truly difficult, giving everything over to God.

Appeal

Let us plan to start the new year by putting God first in all aspects of our life, including our financial life. Let us honour Him with our tithes and offerings, and to do it before any other expense are met!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please accept our tithes and offerings as our worship! Please help us to put You first in every aspect of our life. Amen!

26
DEC

Greater Sydney Conference

JANUARY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Local Church
- 18 School Evangelism
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Local Church
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 School Evangelism

MARCH

- 7 Local Church
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Education - Auburn Scholarships

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Hope Channel
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Local Church

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Local Church
- 16 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Education - Wahroonga Scholarships
- 30 Local Church

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Local Church
- 20 Education - Macarthur Scholarships
- 27 Local Church

JULY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Union Global Partnership Project

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Local Church
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Education - Hurstville Scholarships

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Education - Hills Scholarships
- 26 Local Church

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Projects within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 Education - MVAC Scholarships
- 24 Local Church
- 31 Local Church

NOVEMBER

- 7 Local Church
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 Local Church
- 19 Fund for the Needy
- 26 Local Church

Northern New South Wales

JANUARY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Local Church
- 18 Local Church
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Local Church
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 Local Church

MARCH

- 7 Local Church
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Education

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Hope Channel
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Big Camp Appeal

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Local Church
- 16 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Local Church
- 30 Local Church

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Local Church
- 20 Local Church
- 27 Education

JULY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Union Global Partnership Project

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Local Church
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Local Church

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Education

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Projects within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 Local Church
- 24 Local Church
- 31 Local Church

NOVEMBER

- 7 Local Church
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 Local Church
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Education

Northern Australian Conference

JANUARY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Local Church
- 18 Local Church
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Education
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 Local Church

MARCH

- 7 Local Church
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Hope Channel
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Local Church

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Local Church
- 16 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Education
- 30 Local Church

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Local Church
- 20 Local Church
- 27 Camp

JULY

- 4 Camp
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Union Global Partnership Project

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Education
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Local Church

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Conference Evangelism

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Project within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 Conference-wide Church Building Fund
- 24 Local Church
- 31 Local Church

NOVEMBER

- 7 Local Church
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Education
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 Local Church
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Local Church

South Australian Conference

JANUARY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Local Church
- 18 Local Church
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Education Scholarship Fund
(Tax Deductible)
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 Local Church

MARCH

- 7 Local Church
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 Education Scholarship Fund
(Tax Deductible)
- 28 Local Church

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Hope Channel
- 18 Conference Special Projects
- 25 Local Church

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Education Scholarship Fund (Tax Deductible)
- 16 SPD Strategy: Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Local Church
- 30 Local Church

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Local Church
- 20 Education Scholarship Fund
(Tax Deductible)
- 27 Local Church

JULY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Union Global Partnership Project

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Education Scholarship Fund (Tax Deductible)
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Local Church

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Education Scholarship Fund (Tax Deductible)
- 26 Local Church

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Projects within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 Education Scholarship Fund
(Tax Deductible)
- 24 Conference Special Projects
- 31 Local Church

NOVEMBER

- 7 Local Church
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Education Scholarship Fund
(Tax Deductible)
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 Local Church
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Local Church

South New South Wales Conference

JANUARY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Annual Camp Meeting Expenses
- 18 SNSW Special Projects Offering
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Education
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 Local Church

MARCH

- 7 Local Church
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 SNSW Special Projects Offering
- 28 Local Church

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Hope Channel
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Local Church

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Local Church
- 16 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Local Church
- 30 Border Christian College

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Local Church
- 20 Local Church
- 27 SNSW Special Projects Offering

JULY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Union Global Partnership Project

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Canberra Christian School
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Local Church

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Education

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Projects within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 Local Church
- 24 Local Church
- 31 Narromine Christian School

NOVEMBER

- 7 Local Church
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Education
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 Local Church
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Local Church

South Queensland Conference

JANUARY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Local Church
- 18 Education
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Local Church
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 Local Church

MARCH

- 7 Conference Wide Offering (CWO):
Landsborough Church
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Education

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Hope Channel
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Local Church

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Education
- 16 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Local Church
- 30 Local Church

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Local Church
- 20 Local Church
- 27 CWO: Adventist Residential Care

JULY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Union Global Partnership Project
- 25 Local Church

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Education
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Local Church

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Annual Convention
- 26 Annual Convention

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Projects within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 Education
- 24 Local Church
- 31 Local Church

NOVEMBER

- 7 Education
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 CWO: Beaudesert Church
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Local Church

Tasmanian Conference

JANUARY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Education
- 18 Local Church
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Local Church
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 Local Church

MARCH

- 7 Education
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Hope Channel
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Spring Beach Youth Camp

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Local Church
- 16 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Local Church
- 30 Education

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Conference Evangelism
- 20 Local Church
- 27 Local Church

JULY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Union Global Partnership Project

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Education
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Local Church

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Local Church

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Projects within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 Education
- 24 Devonport Camp Ground
- 31 Local Church

NOVEMBER

- 7 Local Church
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 Education
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Local Church

Victorian Conference

JANUARY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Local Church
- 18 Education
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Local Church
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 Education

MARCH

- 7 Local Church
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 Education
- 28 Local Church

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 Hope Channel
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Conference Evangelism

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Local Church
- 16 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Local Church
- 30 Education

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Local Church
- 20 Local Church
- 27 Education

JULY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Union Global Partnership Project

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Education
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Local Church

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Education
- 26 Local Church

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Projects within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 Education
- 24 Local Church
- 31 Local Church

NOVEMBER

- 7 Education
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 Local Church
- 19 Local Church
- 26 New Church Buildings

Western Australian Conference

JANUARY

- 4 WA Church Buildings
- 11 Local Church
- 18 Local Church
- 25 SPD Strategy: Blind & Hearing Impaired

FEBRUARY

- 1 Local Church
- 8 Local Church
- 15 Disaster & Famine Relief:
Administered by Union
- 22 Local Church
- 29 Local Church

MARCH

- 7 Local Church
- 14 Adventist World Radio
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

APRIL

- 4 Local Church
- 11 WAC Mission Project
- 18 Hope Channel
- 25 Local Church

MAY

- 2 South Pacific Record
- 9 Local Church
- 16 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 23 Local Church
- 30 Local Church

JUNE

- 6 Avondale College
- 13 Local Church
- 20 Local Church
- 27 Local Church

JULY

- 4 Local Church
- 11 World Mission Budget
- 18 Local Church
- 25 Union Global Partnership Project

AUGUST

- 1 Local Church
- 8 SPD Strategy:
Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 15 Local Church
- 22 Australian Union: Mamarapha College
- 29 Local Church

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Local Church
- 12 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 19 Local Church
- 26 WA ATSIM & Ethnic Ministries

OCTOBER

- 3 ADRA Projects within Australia
- 10 Local Church
- 17 WA Bible Society
- 24 Local Church
- 31 Local Church

NOVEMBER

- 7 Local Church
- 14 World Mission Budget:
Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Local Church
- 28 Local Church

DECEMBER

- 5 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 12 Local Church
- 19 Local Church
- 26 Local Church



Seventh-day
Adventist Church™

Australia

Australian Union Conference

PO Box 4368, Ringwood, Victoria 3134

Telephone: +61 3 9871 7555

Email: auc@adventist.org.au

www.auc.adventist.org.au