



# Principles of True Worship

2024

Tithe & Offerings  
Devotional Readings

**Josanan Alves, Jr.**



**GOD FIRST**  
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



# WHEN YOU REALISE YOU ARE BLESSED, BUILD A LONGER TABLE, NOT A TALLER FENCE.

*Everybody loves a banquet feast with friends.*

Every year across the South Pacific Division, tens of thousands of precious people decide to join us at the 'banquet table' of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Kingdom growth through baptisms and professions of faith has never been higher.

*Thank you* for your faithfulness in giving your time, talents, finances and so much more to invite, welcome and feed such a precious multitude.

*Thank you* for recognising God's blessings in your life, by systematically returning a faithful portion of all your income through your local church.

*Thank you* for creating an environment where your tithes and offerings are being used in frontline mission to win souls for the kingdom, more souls than ever before!

*The marriage supper of the Lamb is coming soon. What a day of rejoicing that will be!*

**GOD FIRST**



ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

*South Pacific*



# 2024

Tithe & Offerings  
Devotional Readings

---

## Principles of True Worship

Josanan Alves, Jr.



**GOD FIRST**  
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



# Acknowledgement

## COPYRIGHT

Copyright © 2024

General Conference of the Churches of Seventh-day Adventists®.  
All rights reserved. Published by Review and Herald® Publishing Association.

## PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR

Josanan Alves, Jr.

## EDITOR

Aniel Barbe

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Johnetta B. Flomo

## COPY EDITOR

Megan Mason

## DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Jacinda Turnbull, Dinda Productions

## COVER

Matt Vasquez, Lightstock

## IMAGES

Creation Swap

Getty Images

iStock

Lightstock

Unsplash

## DIVISION COLLABORATORS

Edison Nsengiyumva, ECD; Vyacheslav Buchnev, ESD; Roberto Herrera, IAD; Michael Harpe, NAD; NakHyung Kim, NSD; Josanan Alves, Jr., SAD; Mundia Liywalii, SID; Julian Archer, SPD; Jibil Simbah, SSD; Sunderraj Paulmoney, SUD; Maureen Rock, TED; Paul Sampah, WAD; Amir Ghali, MENA; Julio Mendez, IF; Karen Hui, CHUM; Konstantin Kampen, Ukraine.

## PERMISSIONS

This material may be translated, printed, or photocopied “as is” by Seventh-day Adventist entities without obtaining additional permission. Republished documents must include credit: Stewardship Ministries of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## BIBLE VERSION

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## CONTACT

General Conference

Address: 12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904, USA

E-mail: [gcstewardship@gc.adventist.org](mailto:gcstewardship@gc.adventist.org)

Visit: <https://stewardship.adventist.org>

South Pacific Division

Address: 148 Fox Valley Road  
Wahroonga  
NSW 2076, Australia

E-mail: [dianesamani@adventist.org.au](mailto:dianesamani@adventist.org.au)

Visit: <https://stewardship.adventistchurch.com>

Australian Union Conference

Address: 289 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood, Vic 3140

E-mail: [dierdreharvey@adventist.org.au](mailto:dierdreharvey@adventist.org.au)

Visit: [www.disciple.org.au](http://www.disciple.org.au)



# Contents

Foreword	6
A Simple Guide to the Offering Devotional Videos	7
How to announce offerings	8
Calendar of Offerings	9
13th Sabbath Offerings For 2024	9
About the Author	11
<b>DEVOTIONAL READINGS</b>	
January	10
February	16
March	22
April	28
May	34
June	40
July	46
August	52
September	58
October	64
November	70
December	76
<b>ADVERTISEMENTS</b>	
Introducing Grateful Living	15
The Message is Simple: Love Gives	21
Where Do We Bring Our Tithe?	33
Stewardship Week of Revival 2024	39
Fiji Mission M-PAiSA App	51
Dynamic Steward Magazine	63
Adventist Stewardship Ministry Resources	69
The Giving Equation	82
Ellen G. White, Messages to Young People	83
God First Monthly E-Newsletter	86
Readings Index	84



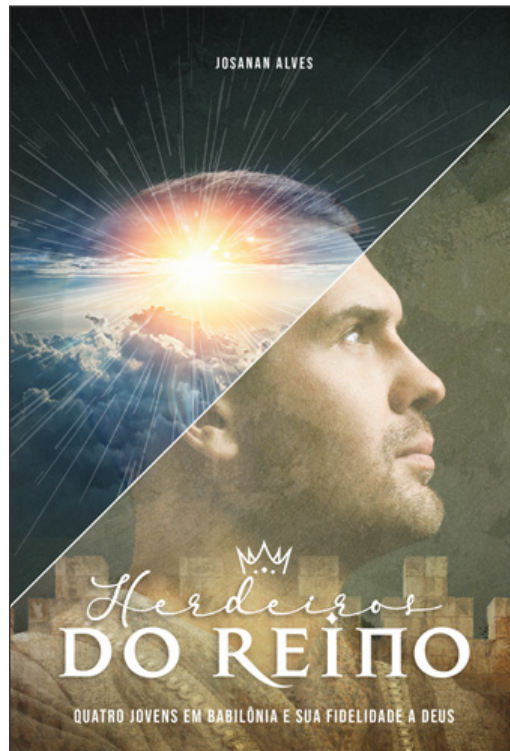


# Foreword

I cannot recall the first time that I met the author of this devotional, Josanan Alves, but it was many years ago. It was probably in Recife, Brazil, where he was the Northeast Brazil Union Mission Stewardship Director.

And since then, Josanan's great love for God, His church, and its mission has been something of an inspiration to me. Son of a godly woman, he gave his heart to Jesus very early in life, becoming a pastor when he was only 20.

Josanan is a widely read writer in the South American Adventist Church. His two books, *Primeiro o Reino* (First the Kingdom) and *Herdeiros do Reino* (Heirs of the Kingdom), both available in Portuguese and Spanish, have already sold together more than 1,100,000 copies in South America. His first book, *First the Kingdom*, is already available in a PDF format in English, and, out of the author's generosity, it can be freely downloaded on our website.<sup>1</sup>



I am sure the church will be tremendously blessed by this resource, intended to be presented every Sabbath before the offering collection. But if by chance you are reading it for any other reason, I am sure that your spiritual life will also be impacted. Even though this is an offertory devotional, the author seems to be much more concerned about the spiritual growth of his readers and the growth of God's kingdom than about the church's revenue in tithes and offerings.<sup>2</sup>

I pray that the author's aim may be accomplished as you or your church unfold the pages of this devotional or watch the videos that were originated by it.

Marcos Faiock Bomfim  
General Conference Stewardship Ministries

<sup>1</sup> First the Kingdom may be freely downloaded in the PDF format here: <https://stewardship.adventist.org/first-the-kingdom.pdf>  
<sup>2</sup> You will find the corresponding videos here: <https://stewardship.adventist.org/2024-offertory-devotional-videos>





## A Simple Guide to the Offering Devotional Videos

The Offertory Devotional Readings you have in hand gave origin to the Offertory Devotional Videos. These two-minute educational and motivational videos are planned to be presented every Sabbath in your church, before the offering collection.

You may play or download the two-minute videos (for this and previous years) by using the QR code below. The following are instructions on how to use them:

- The videos are to be presented in the church before the offering collection.
- They do not include the appeal or the final prayer, which should be supplied by the person scheduled to promote the offerings.
- The videos may (and should) also be shared through social media or during congresses, youth programs, small group meetings, camp meetings, church boards, Stewardship Weeks of Prayer, etc.
- The videos were recorded in English, but each division or union is permitted to translate them into their various languages or customise them with regional accents.
- The entire video with original soundtrack — no voiceover/no letterings — will also be available, upon request, to divisions and unions at no charge from the GC Stewardship Ministries Department.
- Local church pastors and stewardship ministries directors must be informed about the videos and how to down-load them and share them in their churches, especially before the offering collection.
- You may watch the videos using this link: <https://stewardship.adventist.org/weekly-offertory-videos>

---

**“Money is an exact index to a person’s true character. All through Scripture there is an intimate correlation between the development of a person’s character and how they handle their money.”~Richard Halverson**

---



# How to Announce the Offering

## The Offering as Worship

In the Adventist Church the act of giving is an integral part of the worship services. Not only is it an opportunity for those in attendance to express their gratitude to God but it's also love response that aids in supporting the mission and ministries of the Church. Church Pastors, elders, and worship coordinators are rightly intentional about who they choose to preach and deliver the weekly sermon or prayer. Yet, the person who announces the offering is rarely selected because of their ability to deliver a positive message about giving or because they live generous lives. In many cases, they either don't know what the offering is for, haven't taken the time to investigate it or no one has helped them craft an appropriate giving message. So, how can we make sure that giving in our worship services is an act of worship?

Be intentional.

Prepare in Advance

Study Biblical Principles – familiarise yourself with what the Bible teaches about stewardship, generosity and the importance of faithfulness. This will help you have content to draw from when you craft your announcement.

Gather Relevant Information – check the offering calendar and the Tithe and Offering Readings booklet to determine what the offering is for that week.

Be Knowledgeable about the Purpose – Do some research on the specific purpose of the offering; is it supporting the local budget? If so, what are some ministries or initiatives in your local Church that you can highlight?

Craft the Announcement

Script the Announcement – Take the time to prepare a concise and thoughtful script, don't 'wing it'. Emphasise the spiritual significance and principles of the offering. Keep the message clear, simple and easy to understand with a clear appeal to give.

Choose the Appropriate Time – Work with whoever is

coordinating the program to determine the best time to make the announcement. Consider aligning it with a relevant part of the program ie. a related worship song or before the sermon.

Delivering the Announcement

Express the Purpose – Clearly communicate the name and purpose of the offering, emphasizing how it aligns with the mission and ministries of the Church or the broader worldwide mission. Use personal stories or examples to illustrate the impact of their giving.

Share Biblical Insight – Incorporate relevant Bible verses that highlight the principles of stewardship, generosity and giving. Help the congregation to understand how their giving is an act of worship.

Explain the Logistics – Provide clear instructions on the many ways that they can give. Ie. egiving, offering collection etc. Be clear about any specific instructions or deadlines; consider making a slide for the screen to be shown during collection time.

Encourage Participation – Inspire the congregation to participate wilfully and joyfully in the act of giving. Emphasise how their contributions, no matter the amount, make a difference in advancing Gods work.

Conclude with Gratitude – Express gratitude to the congregation for their generosity and willingness to support mission. Offer a closing prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for the offering and their commitment to God.

Follow Up and Communication

Show Appreciation – Regularly express appreciation to the congregation for their faithful giving. Find opportunities to highlight the impact of their contribution and share updates through bulletins, newsletters or Church announcements for greater transparency and accountability.



# Calendar Of Offerings

In the Calendar of Offerings, the original option, different destinations for offerings are pro-moted each Sabbath during the worship service following the approved calendar of offerings as voted by the General Conference committee every year. A calendar of the weeks of each year is drawn with certain offerings designated accordingly. About 26 Sabbath offerings are assigned to the local church, and the others are allocated.

between the other levels of church organisation or designations in the local field. All loose offerings (not in marked envelopes) will go to the offering of the day. There are six Special Offerings days for particular ministries. Divisions ascribing to this plan currently include the EUD, Israel Field, SPD, TED.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath Offerings For 2024

First Quarter	Southern Asia Division (SUD)	March 30
Second Quarter	Euro-Asia Division (ESD)	June 29
Third Quarter	Inter-American Division (IAD)	September 28
Fourth Quarter	North American Division (NAD)	December 28

## Personal Giving Plan

The Personal Giving Plan is an optional guide for members. It organises the financial needs of the church into three categories (roughly the same three categories covered by the Combined Offering Plan) and offers a suggested percentage of the member's income to be dedicated to each category. They are:

1. Local Church Budget (3-5%). This would include utilities, maintenance, insurance, school operating expenses, children's magazines, teaching supplies, staff salaries, bulletins.
2. Local Conference Offerings (1-2%) for Christian education, local evangelism, Vacation Bible School, summer camps, union magazines, etc.
3. World Budget (1-3%) to support the global mission needs of the church as promoted in the approved Calendar of Offerings. Sabbath School offerings are received and treated the same way as in the Calendar of Offerings plan. This plan also makes provision for giving toward special projects.





# January

## Local

# Attention or Just Intention?

Romans 12:1 — “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

Reformer Martin Luther used to live in a monastery in Germany where he shared a room with a close friend of his. Both had the same beliefs regarding the Christian faith and expressed a strong love for the cause of truth. However, while Luther decided to wage “war” on behalf of the Reformation, his friend would rather stay in the monastery, praying and interceding for him. One night, Luther’s friend had a dream. He saw an endless field that seemed to touch the horizon. The field was ready for harvest. He also saw a man trying to gather all the crops by himself — an impossible task! Soon he was able to see the face of the lone worker: Martin Luther himself! The dream taught him a great truth: He’d better stop praying for his friend and start working with him. Getting started is what differentiates action from intention.

Many people make decisions at the end of each year. Some decide to start a regular physical activity program, others decide to save money, and others decide to lose weight. Due to lack of action, by the end of the new year, these decisions become just intentions.

But no resolution is as important as the ones related to our spiritual life. We must start the year with the renewal or establishment of principles of faithfulness and commitment to God. The following resolutions should be at the top of our list:

1. Set aside a time each day for personal communion through the reading of the Bible, the Sabbath School lesson, and prayer.
2. Gather daily for a brief family worship at the beginning and end of each day.
3. Each week reaffirm the decision to keep the Sabbath from sunset to sunset.
4. As much as possible, attend church services regularly, not allowing virtual communion to replace personal communion.
5. Renew your commitment to faithfulness by returning tithes and offerings regularly. The tithe must be 10% of all income. And for the offering, you must set a percentage (\_\_\_\_ %) that must be given proportionately to all income received.

**Appeal:** Ask God for help each day to make these resolutions a reality in your life throughout the year.

**Prayer:** Dear God, a new year brings new opportunities, a time to recommit ourselves to you and faithfully follow your leading in our lives. Open our eyes to the ways that you want to partner with us, and help us to faithfully follow you. Amen.



## Local

# The One-Person Church

Ephesians 5:27 — “That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

Have you ever thought about what the church would be like if all its members were like you? Think of what church fellowship could be if everyone prayed and read the Bible as you do. Imagine what missionary work would be like if all church members took the same time as you do to share the truth with others. Imagine what church up-keeping and mission investment would be like if all members returned tithes and offerings as regularly as you do.

What would this church formed by people like you be like? What church picture did you manage to paint in your mind? This one-person church exists: It is you! Sometimes we think that our attitudes as individuals do not affect the church as a whole. We might think, *If I don't give Bible studies, someone will, and the message will be preached to the whole world; or, If I'm not faithful in returning tithes and offerings someone will, and the church will have resources for the maintenance of the local church and the preaching around the world.* In a sense, this is true. God's cause will triumph with or without your resources. Similarly, the gospel will be preached all over the world with or without your involvement.

The big question here is that this church formed by me alone always exerts influence on someone close to me, like my children, spouse, parents, and siblings. Commitment or carelessness to God's faithfulness and cause can make or break people around me. One day a father said, “The greatest legacy I am leaving to my children is the example set by a life dedicated to the cause of God, and I hope they dedicate themselves to this cause more diligently than I do.”

Appeal: If someone asked you, how much do you love Jesus' cause, how would you answer? The best way to respond is not with words, but with a life completely dedicated and committed to God's work. We need to understand that this is the acid test of our Christian discipleship.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to be fully involved and committed to the work that you are doing within our Church and community. May we commit ourselves to taking ownership for your Church and participating not only through our giving but our serving as well. Amen.

# Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired

SPD Strategy: Discipleship of Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired  
[eGiving: Blind & Hearing Impaired, SPD]

1 Corinthians 12:12 – “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

More than a billion people worldwide live with a disability — blindness, deafness, mental or physical impairment — and some are in your church. Please reach out to them and their families with the gift of friendship and inclusion. Always include those with special needs, and give consideration, support and loving care to the families and carers of those with special needs. And remember, it isn't about their needs and limitations, but their possibilities.

The Adventist church's Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired is supported by church offerings, donations and bequests, which together fund its free services. These include advocacy and awareness building, audio and braille resources for the blind, captioning and audio augmentation for the deaf and hard of hearing, and development grants to qualifying blind or deaf individuals or related organisations.

**Appeal:** Please give generously. You can also make an online, tax-deductible donation at any time via eGiving.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for the work of the Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired ministry and may they continue to bring light and life across Australia. Amen.



# Local

## True Surrender

Matthew 19:21—“If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”

That was Christ’s answer to the rich young ruler who wanted to know what he should do to gain eternal life. Now, what did Jesus want from the young man? He wanted all. It is interesting to note that when the young man “went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions” (Matthew 19:22), Jesus did not run after him saying, “Hey, come back! Relax, I was speaking in parables. You just have to bring in your tithes and offerings and that’s fine.” No! Money had become a god in that young man’s life, and only a complete surrender would be acceptable.

If we read the Bible honestly, we will conclude that God does want everything. One day, as a mother of five listened to a sermon, she decided to give everything she had as a sacrifice for God’s cause. Upon returning home, she searched among her belongings for something she could give away only to find that, in her extreme poverty, she couldn’t dispose of anything useful or valuable. Suddenly, her attention was drawn to her precious five children— three girls and two boys. She went to her room and prayed, “Lord, I do not have material riches that can be used for Your cause, but I do have five children. Right now, I dedicate them to the missions. Use them as missionaries.” A few years later, all her children were serving God’s cause as missionaries.

Ellen White helps us understand this concept in these words:

“At the moment of success, when the nets were filled with fish, and the impulses of the old life were strongest, Jesus asked the disciples at the sea to leave all for the work of the gospel. So, every soul is tested as to whether the desire for temporal good or for fellowship with Christ is strongest.”— *The Desire of Ages*, p. 273.

**Appeal:** This is the kind of surrender that comes from the compelling love of God. Everything you have and are, committed into the Lord’s hands. God gave all and asks for all of us in response.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us by your spirit to commit our entire selves to you. Lead us into a deeper relationship as we serve and give ourselves to you. Amen.





# GRATEFUL LIVING









EVERY CHURCH.

EVERY AGE.

READY TO MODIFY,

OR JUST STAND & DELIVER.

Jesus came so that we can have a truly abundant life, but sometimes we look at parts of our lives and we desire more 'abundance'. Grateful Living is a local-church-tested, eight-Sabbath sermon series that can lead your entire church family, including the children, to a whole new level of Christ-centred, abundant living.

-  ✓ Sermons
-  ✓ PowerPoints
-  ✓ Children's Activity Sheets
-  ✓ Videos
-  ✓ Songs & Lyrics
-  ✓ Music Scores
-  ✓ Promotional Kit
-  ✓ AU/NZ and Pacific versions available



Download  
your church's kit here →



or Visit  
[stewardship.adventistchurch.com/grateful-living/](https://stewardship.adventistchurch.com/grateful-living/)





# February



## Local

# Who's the Owner?

Psalm 50:12—“If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.”

One day a businessman called a lawyer and an accountant and asked them to make some changes to his company's documents. He wanted to demonstrate through these documents that he had understood what faithfulness to God is. He had decided that God would be his business partner, and he asked these professionals to modify the company's documents so that God's name would appear as his partner in the firm. The lawyer and the accountant soon realised that they were facing a big problem because, according to the laws of the land, a partner would have to produce a document number and a fixed address in the country. Now, how would they give God a document or prove his address? They then returned to the owner of the company and proved that legally and officially this would be impossible.

That man returned home sad to see his plan frustrated, but when faced with the teachings of Psalm 50, he finally understood that his plan to include God as a partner in his firm was totally out of sync with reality. He realised that he wanted to give God the right to be his partner in the company, but the truth was that God was giving him the right to have his name on the documents of a company that already belonged to God. We may not recognise that God is the owner, but that doesn't change the truth that He owns everything.

When we understand that principle, our relationship with faithfulness changes completely. We often hear the following appeal in church: “Dedicate your time, your talent, and your resources to meet the needs of God's church.” We need to let go of the idea that we own something and that we need to help the cause of God with our possessions. We urgently need to understand that everything that is in our hands belongs to God by creation and by redemption. That's why we use the expression “return tithes and offerings” since we are only giving back to the cause of the One who owns it.

**Appeal:** As you return tithes and offerings, reaffirm your conviction that God is the owner and thank Him for allowing us to participate in His cause with the gifts He places in our hands.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you that we have the opportunity to partner with you in mission through the return of tithe and giving offerings. Amen.



# ADRA: Disaster and Famine Relief

(Unions with ADRA AU/NZ)

1 John 3:17 – “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

In an average year more than 300 disasters affect more than 200 million people – most of whom are already living in poverty and disadvantage. Disasters like bushfires, flooding, cyclones and wars destroy homes and livelihoods, leaving millions of children, women and men without their most basic needs. They often need shelter, food, clean water, clothing, transport and the ability to rebuild their lives. And they can’t do this without our help.

By supporting the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering today, you will help ADRA be ready to respond immediately to disasters both here at home and overseas. Your offering will help deliver emergency shelter, food, water, medical supplies and psychosocial support to those affected. Thank you for your care and kindness.

Appeal: Here is an opportunity to partner with God in the work of ADRA to bring tangible and physical relief to those in need. As you give generously this morning know that many people will experience the love of Jesus through the work that is supported with this offering.

Appeal: As you return your tithes and offerings, ask God to help you kill the false gods that are controlling the various aspects of your life. Decide to put self last and God first.

## Local

# A Sacrificial Offering

John 3:16—“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”

In 1857, David Livingstone was invited to receive a tribute and speak to students at Cambridge University, in England. He had left behind a prosperous life in Europe to devote himself to preaching the gospel on the African continent. As he stood in front of the students, he was just a thin, slender man who had been stricken thirty-one times by deadly African fevers and had one of his arms resting in a sling after an encounter with a lion. Throughout England, that humble servant was welcomed as a hero. But now, in front of those attentive students, he uttered the following words:

People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay?— Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter?— Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought! . . . I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk, when we remember the great sacrifice which HE made who left His Father’s throne on high to give Himself for us.

Words like these remind us that the true sacrificial offering came from Calvary. Everything we give to the cause of God is infinitely less than what we receive from the gift of the cross.

**Appeal:** As we give this morning it is not out of obligation or to fill a need but a response to the truth that God gave first, he gave fully and sacrificially so that we might have life. Our faithfulness today is a response to the sacrifice made for each one of us on the cross.

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we faithfully return our tithes and give offerings may this act of worship turn our eyes toward the cross and your ultimate sacrifice. Amen.



## Local

# Go Into All the World

John 3:16—“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

God’s grace is neither exclusive nor selective. God loves all mankind unconditionally. When He looks at planet Earth, all its inhabitants are objects of His mercy and forgiveness. The redemptive vision is given to all, and His grace is extended to each human being on the face of the planet. No one, however sinful he or she may be, is unreachable by the love of God.

When Christ was nailed to the cross, He was thinking about the salvation of all mankind. He gave himself as an offering of salvation (Ephesians 5:2), and His sacrifice had worldwide effects.

God has a worldwide people, a worldwide message, and a worldwide ministry. He offered His Son as a sacrifice of salvation with worldwide reach. In like manner, tithes and offerings are presented to the Lord for worldwide purposes. For tithes and offerings to fulfil the mission of preaching the gospel all around the world, they must not be used only in the local church, but rather circulate the world. Ellen G. White says: “God’s money is to be used not only in your immediate vicinity, but in distant countries, in the islands of the sea. If His people do not engage in this work, God will surely remove the power that is not rightly appropriated” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 215).

Tithes and offerings are part of the divine plan to carry forward the worldwide work of salvation. They must circle the earth so that the church can reach the goals defined by the Lord.

**Appeal:** Let’s give faithfully so God’s work can be expanded not only locally and within our community but throughout Australia and around the world. When we give we become active participants in mission and we unleash more resources for kingdom purposes.

**Prayer:** Dear God, multiply our tithes and offering today so that more may hear and know the Good news of salvation in Jesus. Amen.

FOR GOD SO  
*loved*  
THE WORLD  
THAT HE  
*gave*

THE MESSAGE IS SIMPLE: **LOVE GIVES**

We can give without loving, but  
we can't love without giving.

When we love God we love His people,  
His mission and His church, so we give.

**THAT'S WHAT LOVE DOES.**

We don't give to be blessed, we give because we are  
blessed. Because we are loved we love. God is love and  
we're created in His image, in the image of perfect love.

**Thank you for your faithfulness in times of crisis. God's vital  
work for this time is moving ahead mightily because you love.**



**GOD FIRST**  
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



Australia: [www.egiving.org.au](http://www.egiving.org.au)  
New Zealand: [www.egiving.org.nz](http://www.egiving.org.nz)





# March

## Local

# The Greatest Purpose of Faithfulness

Proverbs 23:26—“My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.”

Today’s passage describes God’s greatest interest. He wants our hearts, which have turned away from Him because of sin, to return to Him.

Read carefully the following quote from Ellen G. White: “This tithing system, I saw, would develop character, and manifest the true state of the heart” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, p. 237).

This is the true purpose of faithfulness: to develop character and manifest what truly rules our hearts. We need to understand that the “use” of tithes and offerings is one thing, and the “purpose” of tithes and offerings is something completely different. Tithes and offerings are used to advance the cause of God, but the purpose of returning tithes and offerings is the development of our character as we grow in dependence on God.

So when we talk about faithfulness in church or to our children, we shouldn’t just argue that God’s cause needs resources and that the mission needs to advance and, therefore, we need to be faithful. What we really should emphasise is how the human tendency for selfishness takes over our hearts and how our faithful stewardship can counteract that.

What is most important to God is not the monetary difference our offering will make, but the difference it will make in revealing where our treasure truly is. Therefore, I am faithful not because I will get something back, not because God’s cause depends on me, but because I understand the role of faithfulness in transforming my character.

**Appeal:** Faithfulness in stewardship turns our hearts away from self and to God. As we participate in giving today reflect on all that God has done for you and ask Him to continue the work of transforming your heart.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for being an example to us of generosity, help us to turn our hearts away from self and toward you. Amen.

# Adventist World Radio (GC)

## A Reason to Live

1 Corinthians 15:58 — “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Aung Ko may seem an unlikely church leader. He has been blind since childhood. He admits that he has attempted suicide several times. But he is also a living witness to the power of Jesus that finds people in their weakest hour and lifts them out of despair.

Aung Ko was born into a very devout Buddhist family. At the age of seven, he began to suffer from a disease in one of his eyes. Despite his anguish, his parents couldn't afford to take him to a clinic, and the other eye was also infected. Aung Ko's condition worsened until, as a teenager, he became completely blind. After seventh grade, he was unable to continue his studies.

One day, when Aung Ko was almost 30 years old, a Christian evangelist came to his village and started talking to people about Jesus. As a result of the preacher's messages, Aung Ko and his family were baptised into a Christian church. Since Aung Ko couldn't read books to learn more about Jesus, he turned to audio sources for information. That search led him to Adventist World Radio (AWR).

“It didn't take long for me to start loving the radio programs,” said Aung Ko. “Only the radio could bring me solace. I took notes of the broadcast schedule and listened to the radio every day, which I continue to do even today. Before, I didn't know who God was, but now I know Him, thanks to the radio.”

As his knowledge about God grew, Aung Ko decided he should share what he was listening to, so he called his neighbours and formed a small group, which soon began to meet regularly. He began to focus even more on the radio programs, doing his best to capture every detail.

With his easy-going ways, Aung Ko has become a popular speaker and respected leader. He founded a community service group, the Golden Eagle Handicap Foundation, which helps people in need in and around the community.

“I am very happy that I have come to know God and the truth of the Sabbath,” said Aung Ko. “Without the message that the radio taught me, my life would make no sense.”

**Appeal:** Today's offering is for Adventist World Radio. AWR currently broadcasts in over a hundred languages. Your offerings will help support and expand this evangelistic work. Pray for this ministry and contribute with your regular offerings.



## Local

# How Much Should My Offering Be?

Mark 12:43, 44—“Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”

When the widow took the offering to the temple, she made two decisions: First, her offering would involve a great sacrifice, and second, she chose what percentage she would give as an offering. How do we know? Jesus said that the widow gave more than the others. If the criterion was quantity, she could not have given more than the other givers, for the Bible says that they gave large sums of money. On the other hand, if the criterion of her offering is a percentage, then the statement is true. She was giving away 100% of what she owned, and this was much higher than all the other percentages returned that day.

Commenting on this story Ellen G. White states: “Thus He taught that the value of the gift is estimated not by the amount, but by the proportion that is given and the motive that actuates the giver” (Acts of the Apostles, p. 342).

For tithing, God chose a percentage. The word *tithe* means ten percent of one’s income. Regarding the offerings, God gave the freedom to the worshipper to choose the percentage to be returned. In Deuteronomy 16:17 we read, “Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you” (NIV, italics added).

Did you notice the word “proportion”? The percentage of the offerings can be periodically reassessed according to God’s blessings over our financial life.

**Appeal:** Today I want to invite you to pray and choose what the percentage of your income your offerings will be. If you already return offerings based on a percentage, you can pray at this time and choose either to keep the chosen percentage or to update it. Our offerings are a gift given to God in proportion to the way he has blessed us, we give because God gave first.

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we come to you today and participate in giving our offering as a part of our worship, may your Holy Spirit reveal to our hearts that percentage that you would have each of us give. Amen.

## Local

# Taking Care of Finances

Proverbs 22:26—“Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, one of those who is surety for debts.”

Contentment is not necessarily getting stuff we want, but the realisation of how blessed we are for what we have. In other words, we feel content not because we have everything we'd like, but because we are grateful for God's blessings.

Some might think, I was happy with my car until I saw that brand-new model at the dealership. Or, I was satisfied with my clothes and shoes until I went window-shopping in the mall. This shows that there are people who are never satisfied, no matter how much they have.

Sometimes we think that if we had “just a little more”, everything would be much better. However, our happiness cannot be tied to material possessions. This is not to say that you need to let go of your dreams and goals, but that you must be content with your standard of living in order not to incur debt.

When we participate in worship through giving God is turning our hearts away from self and to him, it combats consumerism and reminds of that our treasure is not on earth but in heaven. The challenges of modern life draw us back into consumeristic patterns as we are tempted to compare what we have with others. Our faithfulness in giving is a reminder that all we have comes from God and he is able to and willing to supply all our needs according to his riches. This promise is not of physical prosperity because of our faithfulness but of spiritual blessing as we participate in Gods mission through our giving and service.

**Appeal:** Now is our opportunity to worship God through giving, to decide each of us within our own hearts how much we will contribute to combat selfishness and respond to Gods generosity to us.

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we give this morning may our hearts be turned toward you and away from ourselves. Amen.



## Local

# The God of Small Beginnings

1 Samuel 14:6—“For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few.”

We are pilgrims in a land of pain and suffering, but trusting God and the decision to put God first in every aspect of life make all the difference when we face difficult times. This could be the summary of Edinilson and Rose, a couple from Manaus, in northern Brazil.

The couple delivered frozen goods to supermarkets in the area where they lived with a small refrigerated truck, but they were robbed three times and lost nearly everything they owned. As a result, they accumulated a significant amount of debt and didn't know what to do thereafter.

At that crucial moment, they got down on their knees and decided to put the whole situation in God's hands. After praying, they felt they should start a new business with the money they still had on hand. The problem was that all they had was five dollars. What can you do with this kind of money?

Their faith in God made them trust that if God was first in their lives, He would be able to turn that small value into something great. The couple was impressed with the idea of going to a supermarket and buying ingredients to bake sixteen loaves of whole-grain bread. After doing it, they went out to sell the bread to some friends and neighbours.

They quickly sold all the loaves and were moved as they recognised the mighty hand of God in this new business. After returning the tithe and offerings, they invested the net profit of the sale to buy more ingredients and make more bread. And so, in such a simple way, they started what today has become a company with fifteen employees which produces 45,000 loaves of bread a month.

**Appeal:** God first— this is the essence of this blessed couple's life. Today, they can claim that all the things they need are being added each day by the mighty hand of God. As we participate in giving today we are acknowledging that God is first in our lives also.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to always place you first, through our faithfulness, through our service and in mission may we always priorities you. Amen.



# April



## Hope Channel (GC)

# “Hooked” By the Gospel

Jeremiah 17:14 — “Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise.”

In 2016, a portion of mission offerings from all Adventist churches in the world was sent to New Zealand. The church in that region had the audacious dream of broadcasting the Adventist channel Hope Channel for free throughout the country. Thanks to the offerings, this dream has come true. Today, about 170,000 people are watching the channel monthly, and hundreds are attending Seventh-day Adventist churches. One woman whose life was changed by an encounter with Hope Channel was Adelaide.

Adelaide’s world was turned upside down when her husband died in 2011. Three years later, she suffered another blow when she lost her father. Then, she began to wonder where God was in her life. She had doubts about what had happened to her husband and father after their death. One day, while she was flipping channels on the TV, Adelaide came across the Seventh-day Adventist channel. She had never heard of Hope Channel and decided to watch the program for just a few minutes. Adelaide was instantly “hooked.” She was amazed to realise that the questions she had were being answered. The truths she found brought her peace as to the state of the dead, and she and her entire family went to church and are prepared for Christ’s return. The message of salvation reached Adelaide and her family thanks to the power of God and the thousands of sons and daughters of God who have regularly sent their offerings through the church.

Part of our Promise offerings will help Hope Channel bring the gospel to thousands of people around the world. Many of these people would never have the opportunity to know the truth otherwise.

Every time our Promise offering is distributed as suggested by the Combined Offering Plan, we partner with Jesus in reaching people for Him locally, regionally, and around the world.

**Appeal:** Your offerings will bring Hope Channel much-needed resources for this important global evangelistic media ministry. The General Conference receives regularly a portion of the Divisions offerings and reallocates these funds to mission projects and institutions. The Hope Channel is included in that list. Thank you so much!

# Local All Over the World

Daniel 8:14—“For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed.”

Daniel 8 presents an awesome prophecy. We know it as the 2,300 evenings and mornings prophecy. The biblical text reveals that at the end of this prophetic period, two things would happen: In heaven, the sanctuary would be cleansed, and on earth, the truths that had been “trampled underfoot” (verse 13) for 2,300 years would be restored. Today, we will turn our attention to the second point. Exactly at the end of the prophecy, in 1844, a group of people from different churches began to study the Bible thoroughly and realised that there were biblical truths that were rejected or forgotten.

At first, they had no intention of starting a religious movement. Their only desire was to take those biblical truths to their churches. However, faced with the rejection of these truths, they decided, between May 20 and 24, 1863, to organise the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

All that prophecy is repeated in the book of Revelation, where the faithful remnant is commissioned to proclaim the truth throughout the earth, “to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6).

Because of the understanding of this worldwide mission call, the Seventh-day Adventist Church decided not to follow the system of government adopted by most Christian churches, namely “congregationalism.” This system of government places its emphasis on the local church, which guides most of the church’s plans and actions. This kind of approach limits the global vision and prevents all congregations from uniting to take the gospel to every part of the world.

Since our prophetic calling is worldwide, we must be guided by a system that is capable of sending the gospel and resources to every tribe, language, and nation quickly and effectively. That is why the Seventh-day Adventist Church decided to adopt the representative system, in which all churches are united in doctrine, mission, and resources so that the messages that were restored since 1844 reach the entire planet quickly.

**Appeal:** Each time we give we have the opportunity to participate in that mission, whether it’s to our local budget or to projects within our state, country or the world, we are partners with God in mission. As we worship through giving today let’s reflect on the far reaching nature of our Adventist message as we continue to faithfully serve Him.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you giving us your word that reveals your character. We pray for our offerings this morning that you might use them to further your mission on this earth. Amen.



## Local

# Biblical Principles On Offerings

1 John 4:19— “We love Him because He first loved us.”

The Bible presents several principles when it comes to offerings. One of the most important of them is that the value of the offering must be based on a percentage chosen by the worshipper and that this percentage must be challenging to us so that we can understand what sacrifice means.

It is not about the value of the offering, but its sacrificial value. Faced with this, we have to stop and think: “Would I be willing to make a sacrifice for the cause of God at some point in my life?”

Addressing this theme, Ellen White wrote, “How great was the gift of God to man, and how like our God to make it! With a liberality that can never be exceeded he gave, that he might save the rebellious sons of men and bring them to see his purpose and discern his love. Will you, by your gifts and offerings, show that you think nothing too good for Him who “gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life”? The man who truly loves God will not offer to him lip service merely. He will bring to the treasury his gifts and offerings, that laborers may be sent forth to sow the precious seed.”—*Review and Herald*, May 15, 1900.

After many years of hard work and struggles in India, Scottish missionary Alexander Duff returned to his homeland to die there. During a meeting in his church, he preached and appealed to his countrymen to step forward for the continuation of the work. No one responded to his call though. He insisted with such passion that he passed out behind the pulpit. As a doctor checked his vital signs, Alexander Duff suddenly opened his eyes and said, “I must get back to the pulpit. I need to continue that call.”

“Calm down,” said the doctor, “your heart is very weak.”

But the old missionary refused to listen. He returned to the pulpit and continued the call: “When Queen Victoria called for volunteers, hundreds of young people stepped forward. But when King Jesus calls, no one wants to respond. Does Scotland no longer have children to respond to India’s call?” he asked. The missionary waited a while in silence, but still, there was no answer.

Finally, he said: “Very well. If Scotland has no young men to send to India, I will go again myself, so that the people there will know that at least one Scotsman still cares about them.” When the veteran warrior of Christ left the pulpit, the silence was broken by a crowd of young people who volunteered: “I’m going!

Me too! Me too!”

**Appeal:** God First— this is the essence of stewardship. Will you also declare ‘me too’ when God calls us to mission?

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we return our tithes and give our offerings in worship today may we be reminded of your great sacrifice in sending your son Jesus so that we might have eternal life. Amen.

## Local

# I Have Learned to Be Content

Philippians 4:11–13, NIV—“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

This is one of the best-known and most beloved texts in the New Testament. It teaches us profound lessons on how to conduct our financial lives according to the divine pattern. Note that Paul, the author of the text, does not say: “I like to live in scarcity.” What he does say is, “I have learned to live even in scarcity.”

Paul is not advising us to enjoy hardship and hunger. What he is telling us is that, throughout life, we may encounter difficult situations, and we will need to adapt to them without despairing. Adversity hits everyone's life, and learning what Paul learned will make the difference between peace and despair.

The question is though: How do I learn what Paul learned? The key to understanding a life like Paul's is in verses 11 and 13. In verse 11 he says, “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.” First, we will never learn how to face times of adversity if we don't learn to be content with what we have. Second, being faithful in tithes and offerings is a statement that not everything belongs to me and that I can be content with only what is left in my hands.

And in verse 13 Paul says, “I can do all [things] through [Christ].” I'm sure you know people who can say, “With the money I have I can buy anything and I can do whatever I want.” But the biblical invitation is for us to say: Because I am in Christ “I can do all things.” The only way to learn contentment is to know that, in Christ, I already have everything that is really valuable and that, amidst difficulty, the Divine Presence is my support.

**Appeal:** Let God lead you down the path of contentment by putting God first and being faithful to Him.

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we give today remind us of how much we fully rely on your for all that we need. May our giving today teach us greater dependence on you. Amen.



“Test me in this”  
says the Lord Almighty.



E-Book Out Now!  
Download your **FREE COPY**  
at [tinyurl.com/jw4cccj6](http://tinyurl.com/jw4cccj6)



“A Biblical, easy-to-read overview of God’s will for His tithe.”

Reid’s new e-book covers the tithe basics—percentage, place and purpose—and also looks at touchier issues such as: Tithe & Other Ministries, Problems in the Ministry or Conference, and Ellen White’s Use of the Storehouse. At just over 50 pages, Reid has really packed a lot into this excellent resource. It’s a great read for anyone who is genuinely seeking to follow God’s will in the calculating, returning and use of tithe.

~Julian Archer, Stewardship Director, South Pacific Division

f/GCSTEWARDSHIPMINISTRIES



**GOD FIRST**  
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



**Australia:** [www.egiving.org.au](http://www.egiving.org.au)  
**New Zealand:** [www.egiving.org.nz](http://www.egiving.org.nz)





# May



Sabbath 18 · May 4, 2024

# South Pacific Record [eGiving: Record, SPD]

“And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”  
Mark 16:15

Adventist Record is celebrating its 126th year in print? Throughout its long history, Record has been committed to keeping the Adventist community in the South Pacific Division informed, nurtured, educated and inspired by sharing news, theological and devotional content.

But Adventist Record is no longer just a magazine! It’s also a website, that is updated daily, a social media presence across various platforms, it has released books and is continuing to find new ways to keep our diverse community connected. Record also provides training and support for writers and communicators across the Division. And all of this is only possible because of the church’s generous support.

Appeal: By giving to the Adventist Record offering, you ensure that we can continue to tell our stories, connect our family and share our hope. Thank you for your support today.

Prayer: Dear Lord, may the offering given today help to support Adventist Record and their work in inspiring church members to an active faith. May the team at Adventist Record continue to follow your will and create content for your glory. And may those who read, listen, watch and engage be inspired, uplifted and challenged to live out their faith with conviction and become more like Jesus every day. Amen

## Local

# A Channel That's Always Flowing

Matthew 25:29—“For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.”

On March 23, 2021, the 400-meter freighter Ever Given got stuck in the banks of the Suez Canal, blocking the passage of all ships trying to cross the canal. The Suez Canal was conceived by Ferdinand de Lesseps, a French businessman and diplomat, and took ten years of work (between 1859 and 1869) to be completed. More than one million Egyptians worked on its construction.

The Ever Given incident had major consequences, as ten percent of international maritime trade passes through this route. Just about 420 ships, loaded with 26 million tons of goods, remained blocked during the days the vessel was grounded. Losses exceeded \$38.4 billion, approximately \$400 million an hour.

Suez is the fastest shipping route to the Middle East and Asia from Europe. An alternative route would add up to 15 days of sailing and increase the cost of transport between fifteen and twenty percent.

Sometimes a similar problem can happen with our faithfulness. Ellen White writes,

“The Lord does not propose to come to this world, and lay down gold and silver for the advancement of His work. He supplies men with resources, that by their gifts and offerings they may keep His work advancing. The one purpose above all others for which God’s gifts should be used is the sustaining of workers in the harvest field. And if men will become channels through which heaven’s blessing can flow to others, the Lord will keep the channel supplied (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 36).”

**Appeal:** God wants to partner with us in advancing His mission across the world. When we faithfully give we are taking part in the larger gospel story and bringing light, hope and peace to our troubled world.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to turn our hearts towards you as we worship through giving. Thank you for the blessing of partnering with you in mission. Amen.



# SPD Strategy: Comprehensive Health Ministry

[eGiving: Health, SPD]

## Championing Christ's Ministry

Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.’”

This passage shows that God loves us and desires what’s best for us. God want us to live our best life, so we can serve Him and help bring health, healing and hope to the community. The Adventist Health Department’s focus is three-fold.

1. Improving health outcomes by equipping all members with evidence-based resources to champion Christ’s ministry of whole-person health.
2. To be a leader in Lifestyle Medicine through developing whole-person health resources, conducting research through our Lifestyle Medicine Centres that can be a blueprint to roll out to other locations.
3. By 2025, the Seventh-day Adventist Church will be known in the community for whole-person health through our 400 local Wellness Hubs and wellness clinics across the South Pacific.

Thank you for partnering with us today so that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus.

**Appeal:** Today’s Health offering will be used 50% for supporting the health initiatives of our local Conference’s health department, and the other 50% for Adventist Health initiatives like ELIA Wellness in Australia and New Zealand, and the 10,000 Toes campaign in the Pacific.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly father, we pray that we can live out your plans in our life and bring health, healing and hope to the community, so we can all live our best life for now and for eternity. In Jesus name, Amen.

## Local

# My Best For God's Service

Philippians 2:16—“Holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or laboured in vain.”

On a Sabbath in May 1863, in Battle Creek, Michigan, USA, as Ellen G. White was in a tent where meetings were being held, a family shyly entered the place. A few weeks earlier, she had a vision about that particular family. In the vision, she saw their intense search for the truth.

She also saw that some of them would be brave servants in the cause of God. Maud Sisley Boyd was one of the siblings of that family. By age 16, she was already working in the Composition Department at the church publishing house. After getting acquainted with other pioneers, she felt a strong desire to fully serve the cause of God. Then, one afternoon, as she was praying, she distinctly heard a voice asking, “Are you willing to do anything the Lord desires?”

That thought came along with the deep impression that God was going to ask her to do something she didn't want to do. As she knelt, she immediately felt that she hadn't made a complete surrender as she first supposed. It seemed to her that she just could not utter the words: “Yes, Lord, I will do whatever You ask of me.”

Maude prayed and wept, but she found no relief from the certainty of doom. Finally, around midnight, she confessed, “Oh, Lord Jesus, I love You, yes I do. But I cannot make a complete surrender by myself. Dear Jesus, I want You to do that for me.”

Immediately, she was in peace. That morning she got a letter from the General Conference inviting her to travel to Switzerland to assist Elder J. N. Andrews in his publishing work in Basel. She was certain that she would not have accepted that invitation if the angel of the Lord had not visited her the night before. In 1887, she was part of the first group of missionaries sent by the church to Africa and then to several other places, such as England and Australia.

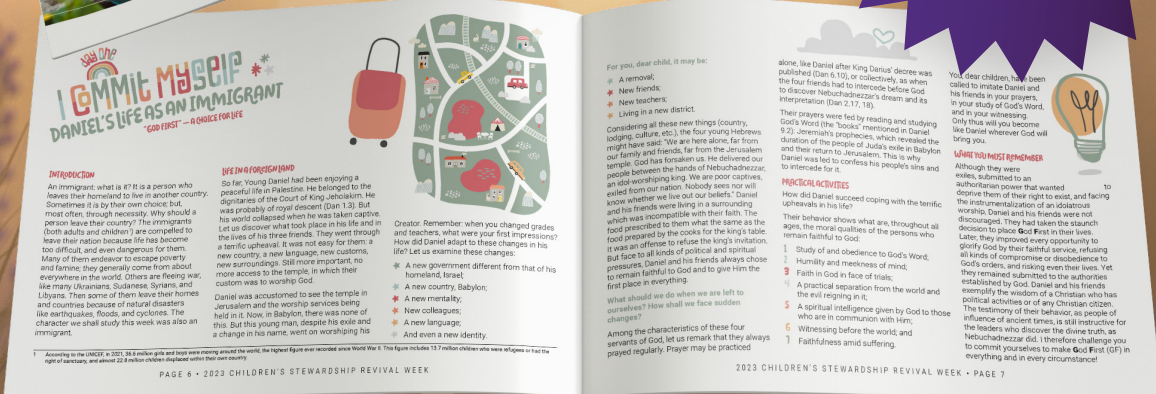
**Appeal:** Perhaps God is trying to call you right now to a full surrender. How about responding like Maud? Remember: “There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God” (Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 159). As we present our tithes and offerings to God today it is an act of surrender and worship to Him.

**Prayer:** Dear God, we know that true surrender happens only when you help us do that, help us this morning as we offer not only our material blessings but ourselves to you today. Amen.





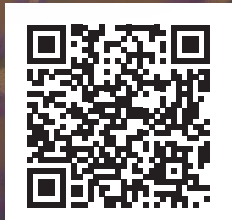
Also available in French and a special version just for kids!



# SEVEN DAYS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF REVIVAL 2024

We encourage each local church to dedicate one week in 2024 to be a week of prayer to nurture God's stewards for their journey to eternity.

Visit <https://stewardship.adventistchurch.com/sword/> (or scan the QR code) to download your free PDF booklets.







# June



## Local

# A Life Spent For the Cause of God

2 Corinthians 8:5—“And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul presents the example of the Macedonian church to teach the principles of true faithfulness. Macedonian Christians lived in extreme poverty and faced persecution for believing in the Lord Jesus. Many under similar conditions would operate in a self-preservation mode, but not the Macedonians.

In fact, in this passage Paul goes on to say how the Macedonian Church even begged, “again and again” to be able to have the privilege of giving more for the believers in Jerusalem. Even within their own lack hardship they viewed generosity and giving as a privilege. Later in the passage giving is described as a ministry, it’s not just an action or a command but it’s a form of mission within our local context and beyond.

Do you deem giving to be an honour? To participate in the work and ministry of God as something to be sought after and desired? The Macedonians didn’t have much but what they did have they were willing to put towards the mission of the Church.

The Macedonians’ faithfulness teaches us the following principles:

1. Temporal limitations do not mean spiritual limitations. God is able to use our generosity to be a spiritual blessing; he is not limited by our means.
2. They understood the great gift of God’s grace. By nature, we are self-centred and not capable of giving generously. To give freely to God’s cause, we must find God’s grace in Jesus Christ. The understanding of His sacrifice on the cross for us will touch the invisible heartstrings and melt the selfishness that resides in us.

**Appeal:** The secret of true giving is found in giving ourselves to God. When Christ owns our hearts, He also owns our wallets and purses. We have good examples to follow, so what we need to do is to go to God’s presence, and He will give us the strength and ability to do what must be done.

Sabbath 23 · June 8, 2024

# Avondale University (SPD Institution)

John 10:10 - The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Your gift to the Avondale University will help enhance the Avondale experience of today, protect its heritage for the future and support new discoveries. The Avondale experience is about people and supports scholarships that bring students to Avondale or projects that bring life to the campus. Heritage is about place—these are projects that invest in capital works. And discovery is about purpose—the research that gives us a better understanding of ourselves and our world.

Through your generous gift, you're transforming lives through Christ-centred higher education. The impact of this transformation: graduates who go on to serve their world for good.

Appeal: You can make your gift in two ways. If in church, place your gift in the offering or use eGiving. If online, visit [www.avondale.edu.au](http://www.avondale.edu.au) where gifts above \$2 are tax-deductible in Australia. Thank you for your support.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the ministry of Avondale University and the faithful service of the staff and faculty. As we give generously today may our gift be a seed into the life and ministry of students that come through to doors of Avondale and go onto to serve their church, community and the world. Amen.



## Local

# The Voice of Prophecy

Revelation 14:6—“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.”

H. M. S. Richards was born in the state of Iowa on August 28, 1894. At age 17, Richards decided to follow in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather, becoming a preacher. One day, his brother, a driver for a US senator, invited him to a demonstration party for something new in the area: a radio station. Young Richards didn't miss a word of what was explained and started dreaming of using that technology for the preaching of the gospel.

Upon graduating in 1919, he started a career as an evangelist and went on to preach in tents. To grant larger audiences, Richards chose cities with radio stations and paid for short commercials inviting the listeners to the meetings.

On October 19, 1929, he gave a 15-minute sermon at Los Angeles KNX, with some prophetic reflections. In 1937, Don Lee, owner of a broadcasting net, agreed to broadcast the new evangelistic program on his radio stations. Thus, the program The Voice of Prophecy was born.

As the broadcasts reached more and more homes, a parallel system of Bible studies was developed for listeners. As letters arrived, Richards needed space to organise all the mail. Not having much choice, he renovated a chicken coop and used it as the first The Voice of Prophecy office.

Richards' initiative has spread around the globe. Today, the church has more than 160 media centres and an immense legacy of converted people. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, this work has grown, making it possible for the gospel to be carried to all the world.

All it takes is passion and a Holy Spirit spark to start a powerful ministry. Through our tithes and offerings, we take part in all sorts of ministry and mission opportunities in our local context and around the world.

**Appeal:** Make a covenant with God to regularly give a specific proportion or percentage of your earnings so that you can have a part in God's work here and around the world.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you that you invite us to participate in your work and ministry both within our local Church and around the world. Help us to be thoughtful and intentional in the way that we give, use what we offer and bless it to your work. Amen.

## Local

# At Home, and Yet Away From His Homeland

Hebrews 11:13— “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

Elwin Winthrop Snyder was born on February 26, 1865, in the United States. At the age of eighteen, he was called to work as a colporteur, achieving much success, which led him to the position of director of Literature Ministries at the Pennsylvania Conference. His leadership skills caught the attention of the Foreign Missions Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. So, in June 1891, he was invited to gather a team of three colporteurs to officially begin a literature ministry in South America. Snyder, then 26, chose two others — A. B. Stauffer, 32, and Clair Nowlen, 26— to help him in the endeavour.

Snyder and his associates went to South America and became a turning point for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in several South American countries. Snyder also took over as mission field secretary and travelled throughout South America. In 1901, Snyder focused on the preaching of the message in Paraguay, as he learned that there were four Sabbath keepers there. On his trip to Paraguay, he spent about six months trying to encourage the few Sabbath keepers in that country and seeking new converts through evangelistic campaigns. In one of his accounts, he talks about the joy of baptising five new members. For about fourteen years, Snyder worked in South America until his health failed. Snyder never regained his strength and died at age 54, leaving a legacy of courage and pioneering spirit.

**Appeal:** Much of the world’s early missionary efforts were carried out by foreigners who left their homeland to dedicate their lives to preaching the gospel. While missionary work looks quite different now, resources for local mission are still vitally important to the sharing of the Gospel. Unlike the early missionaries, we have a mission field right here in our own backyard that this local Church can partner with God to impact.

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we return our tithes and give our offerings this morning may it broaden and extend the impact of local mission within our Church. Amen.



## Local

# Not Afraid to Sail Uncharted Waters

Revelation 14:6—“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth— to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people.”

Can you imagine traveling the oceans, and living a new adventure every single day? This was the dream of Joseph Bates, who grew up watching whaling ships leaving and returning to the harbour from his bedroom window. The boy’s mind sailed with those boats as he grew up in New Bedford, Massachusetts. In an attempt to dissuade Joseph from his dream, his parents sent him at a young age on a short trip on a boat. Instead of getting disheartened, the young man was more inflamed than ever. During the next twenty-one years, Bates devoted himself to life at sea.

After some time living his dream, he set the goal of saving 10,000 dollars— which was a fortune at the time— with the purpose to buy a boat of his own.

He was successful and bought a vessel. However, Bates’ ship was different. There were no alcoholic beverages or tobacco allowed on it. Moreover, the crew wasn’t allowed to use profanity. It was during one of his trips that he found a Bible that his wife had packed in her luggage. As he read it, he felt touched by the love of Jesus.

It didn’t take long for him to discover the Sabbath. Then, he looked for Seventh-day Adventists who kept the Sabbath to study this new truth. Later, Bates decided to publish a booklet where he presented the claims of the fourth commandment. His forty-eight-page volume was published in August 1846. After retiring from the sea, Bates invested his energy and money in preaching about the soon coming of Jesus and the biblical Sabbath. Bates became a mainstay of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and left a legacy that went beyond his fortune. He dedicated the remainder of his life to the cause of God.

**Appeal:** God calls each of us to stretch our faith, whether it’s to go where He calls us, serving in local Church or to give regularly and systematically as He directs. Giving includes faithfully returning God’s tithe and listening to His voice as He calls us to covenant with Him. He asks us to give. I challenge you to ask God, “What percentage of my income do You want me to regularly give as my offering?” Then listen for His answer. Saying “yes” to God is the only way to stretch your faith.

**Prayer:** Dear God, you continually call each and every one of us and invite us to participate in mission through service, worship and giving. As we worship you this morning through our generosity, stretch our faith and faithfulness to you. Amen.





# July



Sabbath 27 · July 6, 2024

# World Mission Budget (GC Worldwide Offering)

Acts 13:47 – “For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

The international mission work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church occurs in more than 210 countries. While our tithes help pay the salaries of more than 400 missionary families around the world, our mission offerings and Sabbath School offerings help provide the buildings and equipment that missionaries need to carry on their work.

Mission offerings also help various institutions and agencies that serve the world church. For example, they help the compassionate medical mission work of Loma Linda University, the outreach of Adventist World Radio, and the humanitarian ministry of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

In recent years, millions of people from challenging areas of the world have found salvation in Jesus. Thanks to your offerings, thousands of new Adventist congregations have been established in under-reached areas and among new people groups.

**Appeal:** Two-thirds of the world’s population is still waiting to experience the refreshing news about Jesus. Your ongoing support of the mission of the church through your regular and systematic offerings helps to grow and sustain new work throughout the world. Please keep this life-giving river flowing. Thank you for giving to world mission again today.

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we give this morning may our offerings be a life-giving river to areas of missional importance. Amen



## Local

# Starting Over

Isaiah 6:8—“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me!’”

Wilhelm Stein Jr. was a son of German immigrants. He was born in Campinas, Brazil, on November 13, 1871. At the age of 17, he proved to be a worthy young man, dedicated to his studies and with a promising career at the Krahenbuhl metallurgical workshop, in Piracicaba, Brazil. He married Maria Krahenbuhl, the daughter of one of the founders of the Krahenbuhl metallurgical plant. The new couple decided to stay in that area, which promised much prosperity. That prosperity attracted Adventist colporteurs A. B. Stauffer and Albert Bachmeyer to sell books in German. One of these books, *The Great Controversy*, reached Stein’s hands, and he read it with great interest.

Wilhelm Stein Jr. accepted the truths presented in that book. His personal life now followed a new rhythm that included a weekly break. In 1895, Pastor Frank Westphal, newly arrived from the United States, was on a trip as the leader of the Seventh-day Adventist work in South America. He heard about Stein and decided to visit him. During the visit, Westphal saw that Stein already had the necessary foundations of the Adventist faith and baptised him in March 1895, which makes Stein the first Adventist baptised on Brazilian soil. His wife, who was still taking Bible studies, was baptised the following year. Stein did not refuse to commit fully to the new faith. When invited to help with the church’s work, he sold everything he had and left with his wife to serve the church wherever he was needed. Initially, the Stein couple settled in the city of Curitiba to serve as teachers at the first Adventist school in town, then they moved to Santa Catarina to open another school. Stein was also the editor of the first Adventist magazine in Portuguese, *O Arauto da Verdade* (The Truth Herald).

**Appeal:** The Steins left behind a thriving business to advance the cause of God. Thanks to his willingness to start over, many people were able to start a new life with God. It’s our faithfulness that can have an impact on mission. God invites us to participate in His work through returning our tithes and giving generously.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for inviting us into your work and mission and the blessing of giving that impacts so many lives. Amen.

Sabbath 29 · July 20, 2024

# Union Global Partnership Project

(eGiving: Union Partnership)

Galatians 6:9 – “ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

The Union Partnership Offering will be used to strengthen the mission work of the Southeastern Asia Union Mission (SEUM), which includes the 190 million people living in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam as well as Timor Leste Mission.

The offering collected in Australia will go towards supporting our three AVS Volunteers in Laos & Thailand as well as supporting Storm Co visits and fly and builds. The Union is currently sponsoring 8 students to train as Pastors, Teachers and Accountants in the SEUM to assist with the development of future local leadership.

Appeal: Your support will help to empower and resource these areas as they continue to grow. Please give generously so that the good news of Jesus’ soon return can be shared across this vast region.

Prayer: Dear God, please bless the work of the SEUM and the AUC as we come together to support and grow mission and ministry in our respective territories. Amen.



## Local

# Fully Restored

Romans 8:29—“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

The human being was formed in the likeness of God, so his nature was in harmony with the will of God. His mind was capable of understanding divine things. The affections were pure, and the appetites and passions were under the control of reason. With sin, the divine likeness was tarnished and nearly erased.

Some time ago, the janitor of an art museum found an old painting in a waste room. Because the painting was decayed, dirty, and unrecognisable, the janitor was just about to take it to the trash. But then the museum director decided to take one last look at it. Indeed, the painting looked useless, he thought. Nevertheless, he decided to give it a chance and took it to a restorer who specialised in old paintings to have it renovated. The restorer worked with perseverance and devotion until the work was completed. His work was so perfect that many who had previously seen the painting wondered if it was indeed the same. The secret of such perfection was uncovered: the signature indicated that the restorer was the artist's son.

Sin marred the character of the human beings, the masterpiece of divine creation. But Jesus, the Son of the Supreme Artist, came to restore the image of the Creator in us. Our faithfulness to God in all areas of our lives is part of that restoration process.

Faithfulness helps us grow spiritually and is a blessing in the life of the believer. It's the antidote to selfishness and focuses our eyes on Jesus and His mission.

**Appeal:** The process of divine restoration lasts a lifetime, but you must allow it to begin. Ask the Lord today to guide your decisions and actions so that you may realise that you are being transformed into the image of His Son. As we worship through giving today we invite Jesus to be the Lord of our lives and do a work within us.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you that you restore the divine image in our lives. As we give generously this morning help us to not only give as a part of worship but trust you in every area of our lives. Amen.



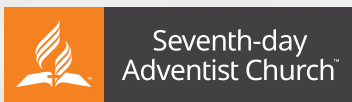
# FIJI MISSION M-PAiSA APP

**Members and Church Treasurers can return tithe AND offerings on Vodafone**

All Vodafone customers can return tithe and offerings through their local church through the M-PAiSA App.

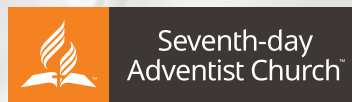
**Contact your local church treasurer or the Mission Office for more details.**

**FIJI MISSION OFFICE** +679 332 1711



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

*Fiji Mission*



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

*South Pacific*





GO

# August



## Local

# I'm Wholly Thine, Lord

1 Chronicles 29:14— “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.”

“Is this the language of your heart? ‘I am wholly Thine, my Saviour; Thou hast paid the ransom for my soul, and all that I am or ever hope to be is Thine. Help me to acquire means, not to expend foolishly, not to indulge pride, but to use to Thine own name’s glory’” (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 46).

This prayer helps us understand three important points regarding our relationship with God:

1. I am Yours, not mine. I belong to You, not to me. What I have and will have is Yours and not mine. What I am and what I will be is Yours. This must be the keynote of our lives. It is the understanding that everything we have belongs to God that leads us to complete surrender.
2. You are my Saviour and You paid the ransom for my life. This is my main motivation for serving. I do not serve because of the applause or the support received but as a response to the salvation that God has given me.
3. Help me to acquire resources that can be used for the glory of Your name.

Here’s the practical aspect of it. We can spend a lifetime theorising on points 1 and 2, but the third aspect is about action and it’s a result of the true understanding that everything belongs to God and that we have been bought at a high price. When we use what God puts into our hands recklessly or just to satisfy ourselves, we are actually acting as owners, even though we are only stewards. Stewards recognise that all we have comes from God, that because of His great generosity to us we have the blessing of being generous and faithful in return.

**Appeal:** It is liberating and challenging to realise that everything belongs to God and that I must turn everything over to His care. Since everything is His, I must trust Him to guide every aspect of my life. Today is the day to reaffirm: “Lord, I want everything I have and am to be used for the glory of Your name.”

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to remember that everything is yours. Amen.

Sabbath 32 · August 10, 2024

## SPD Media Evangelism (SPD - eGiving: Media Evangelism)

1 Corinthians 4:2 – “Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

Media presents the church with significant opportunities to connect with our communities. Whether it be through broadcast media, social media, radio or print, these are all avenues by which we can share the good news of Jesus Christ with a large and unknown viewership as well as our neighbours and friends.

This year’s offering will support the growing media network in the Trans Pacific Union Mission. While we already have a strong media work in Fiji and Samoa the church still needs to develop a media presence in Nuie and Tokelau and to expand its ministries in Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga, America Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

Appeal: Media is a vital partner in the work of evangelism across the Pacific and your generous support will help spread the gospel across the countries of the Trans Pacific Union. Thank you.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the mission and ministry in other parts of the South Pacific. As we give generously today may your work expand and grow in this region. Amen.



# AUC Mamarapha College (Union)

1 Timothy 6:18-19 - "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." (NIV)

Mamarapha College is a tertiary education institution owned and operated by the Australian Seventh-day Adventist Church and is recognised by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as an accredited mid-level institution with AA accreditation. Mamarapha is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) that offers nationally accredited qualifications ranging from Certificate II's to Advanced Diploma courses in Indigenous Studies, Indigenous Pastoral Ministry and Lifestyle Health Promotion.

Mamarapha's students are all inspired and encouraged to live as members of God's kingdom on earth, by:

- being disciples of Christ
- reflecting Jesus
- serving with Christ
- going beyond with Jesus.

Our goal is to continue adding to the good work of training our First Nations people in reaching their own people. We acknowledge this is done only by God's enabling, for it is He who grows us into unity with Him, so that united with Him, we may work well to bring God's light to the communities we are a part of.

Appeal: Your generous giving today will support the work of Mamarapha in intentionally growing and spreading God's kingdom in First Nations communities throughout Australia, even ones that most Australians do not know exist.

Prayer: Dear Father, we say "thank you" for Your good and perfect work to bring all people into a saving relationship with You, because You love us. Today we focus on what You are doing through Mamarapha College, and we have opportunity to support Your work in the lives of Your First Nations people. We ask that You greatly bless what is given through the generosity of Your people in Australia, that it will help fulfil Your purpose for Mamarapha now and in the future. We trust and pray for this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Mamarapha website: <https://mamarapha.adventist.edu.au>

## Local

# Ushering in Generosity

Acts 2:44—“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common.”

The generosity of first-century Christians was one of their hallmarks. They did not possess great wealth, buildings, or public recognition. On the contrary, they were considered a sect (Acts 24:14). Nevertheless, they grew in number and illuminated the world with the truth of the risen Christ.

One of the most impressive accounts of the early Christians' generosity is the story of Pachomius. He was born in 292 A.D. in Thebes, Egypt, to a pagan family. Against his wishes, he was enlisted in the Roman army. It was the custom of the Romans to invade communities and force all men to serve in the Roman army. The generals knew that these soldiers had no attachment or commitment whatsoever to the empire; therefore, they lived in prison all the time they were not in combat.

During the period of Pachomius's imprisonment, famine ravaged the region where he was. Many prisoners died of hunger. But he and other prisoners began to receive food that was stealthily introduced through prison bars. Each night, mysterious folks returned with food and freed the prisoners from starvation. Pachomius learned that his benefactors were followers of a Galilean named Jesus Christ. Upon being freed, he sought out Christians who taught him about Jesus and His love. He then became a Christian and was baptised in 314 A.D., becoming an influential leader of Christendom. It was generosity that rescued and saved him.

We can choose to live a life for God that will guarantee risk or a life of comfort. An all in attitude gives room for developing genuine faith, perceiving God's action, and experiencing miracles. It is to this kind of life that God calls us to today.

**Appeal:** Shall you make a difference? Are you going to get fully involved? You will never look back and regret if you are deeply involved in the cause of salvation. Today, as we worship through giving we can show the world that generosity and altruism are still hallmarks of true Christianity.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to give generously as we put tangible action to the faith that resides in our hearts. Amen.

## Local

# Principles of Faithfulness

1 Timothy 5:18— “The labourer is worthy of his wages.”

The Word of God not only teaches why we give but how to do it!

The principles of tithe allocation were revealed to Moses, and they are displayed throughout the Pentateuch. In the book of Numbers we read: “Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting” (Numbers 18:21). The Levites were paid with the resources provided by tithes. The purpose of the Levites’ wages was to allow them to fully devote their time to religious work.

Paul reaffirms this principle: “Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:13, 14).

Ellen G. White corroborates the same principle with the following statement:

A very plain, definite message has been given to me for our people. I am bidden to tell them that they are making a mistake in applying the tithe to various objects which, though good in themselves, are not the object to which the Lord has said that the tithe should be applied. Those who make this use of the tithe are departing from the Lord’s arrangement. God will judge for these things” (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p, 248).

This is not to say that we should not help those in need or invest in building new temples or renovating old ones. This is why we have various other offerings and giving opportunities. As shown throughout scripture to give offering and return tithe is a blessing and supports not only local work but the work of ministry.

**Appeal:** Are you willing to live by the principles presented in God’s Word regarding the use of tithes and offerings? May the Lord bless you as you commit to being a faithful giver.

**Prayer:** Dear God, take our giving this morning, both tithe and offering, and bless it to the work of local ministry and the advance of your mission in Australia. Amen.





# September



# Annual Sacrifice (GC Global Mission Offering)

Galatians 6:9— “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

If you could save someone’s life by risking yours, would you do it? If this person were a stranger, would you risk your life to save them? If you could make a difference in someone’s life by giving up something you enjoy for one day or one week, would you do it? What would you give up? A favourite meal? A new pair of shoes? A day’s income? Think about what you can give up this week so that someone you don’t know can be introduced to Jesus.

Today is a special or ‘sacrificial’ offering day. It’s for a mission offering that is given at the prompting by the Holy Spirit. It is in addition to, or beyond, our regular and systematic offerings.

Whatever you give today, your sacrificial offering will be used to tell others about Jesus. And just think: Your sacrificial offering could make it possible to meet the person you sacrificed for in heaven! You can determine what you will sacrifice. Or ask God what He wants you to sacrifice for Him this week beyond your regular tithe and offerings.

Appeal: In Hebrews 13:16 Paul says that our sacrifices are pleasing to God. So let us ask the Lord to bless our offerings of sacrifice today so that they multiply and help Global Mission pioneers to reach the unreached.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to give sacrificially to this important work today. Amen.

## Local

# Transformation of Character

Galatians 2:20—“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.”

The greatest benefit of being faithful is the transformation of our character. When we surrender to God the things He tells us to surrender— resources, time, body, or gifts— we are allowing selfishness to be removed from our hearts, giving room to love and kindness. When that happens, we become more and more like Jesus.

When we choose to give, we choose to follow God. God Himself designed the faithfulness system so that our hearts could move away from selfishness and toward altruism.

In practice, it works like this: You are sitting at a table full of food, and you realise that there is more people who need to eat than there is food available. If you decide to load your plate high and take as much as you can for yourself, selfishness will be strengthened because you decided to do only what you wanted rather than considering others. On the other hand, if you choose to give up your desire for more than you need and allow enough for others, selfishness loses the battle and its strength is lessened in your heart.

Every time we choose to be faithful in returning tithe and giving offerings we are acknowledging that God is the owner of our heart and that all things come from Him. A choice to give is a choice to acknowledge God and not self.

**Appeal:** As we give today, not only do we take part in worship and contribute to ministry and mission but we are saying God and not self rules our hearts.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us by the power of your Holy Spirit to put away self and focus on God. Amen.



## Local

# In God's Hands, Everything is Valuable

Matthew 6:33—“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Robert LeTourneau was born in 1888 in Richford, Vermont. The son of godly parents, he heard about the gospel since his childhood. For a time, he rejected the truth, but thanks to the prayers of his parents, he accepted Christ as his saviour when he was sixteen.

As an adult, he was a prolific inventor of earthmoving machinery and became a millionaire because of the equipment he designed and built. Throughout his life, he secured nearly 300 patents relating to earthmoving equipment, manufacturing processes, and machine tools. When he was thirty, he suffered a devastating loss with the death of his eldest son. It made him rethink his life's goals and purpose. He began to worry that his love for machines could replace his love and commitment to the cause of God. So, together with his wife, Evelyn, he decided to dedicate himself to God's cause and use the resources he had for the preaching of the gospel.

His story became well-known because he decided to give ninety percent of what he had to God and live with the remaining ten percent. From then on, he was known as “God's businessman.” One day someone asked him, “Mr. LeTourneau, is it true that you give ninety percent of your income to the Lord?”

He replied, “No, I don't give anything to God. Everything belongs to Him. I am the one who retains ten percent of what is His!”

This story shows a great example of generosity. However, some may think, I too could live on ten percent of a billionaire's income. God truly expects us to use whatever is available to us for His sake. You might not be able to put an end to the famine on a continent, but you can help to eliminate the famine of a family in your hometown. You can't take the gospel to an entire country, but you can study the Bible with your neighbour. It is not our lack of ability that worries God, but our lack of availability.

**Appeal:** Make sure you look at the Bible and see what God was able to do with apparently insignificant things such as David's sling, a few loaves and fishes, or a widow's little flour and oil.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to cultivate generous hearts. Amen.

## Local

# Worship is Doing God's Will

Ephesians 5:7— “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

One of the most important principles of true worship could be expressed in these words: “Worship is doing God’s will, not mine.” When Jesus lived on earth as a man, He said, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:38).

There is a story in the book of Exodus that helps us understand the depth of this principle. The biblical text tells us: “Three times in the year all your men shall appear before the Lord, the Lord God of Israel. For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the Lord your God three times in the year” (Exodus 34:23, 24).

Through Moses, God instructed the Israelites that three times a year, on the same date each year, all the men and those who were able to travel should leave their homes and go to Jerusalem to celebrate a feast dedicated to the Lord.

The Israelites were surrounded by fiery tribes, eager to take their land. What would prevent their enemies from rushing upon these unprotected houses and ravaging them with fire and sword? What would prevent the country to be invaded? God had promised to protect His people. Apparently, it would be safer to stay in the city to protect it, but only obedience to God’s express will could make their cities safe.

Imagine thousands of Israelites heading to the holy convocation in Jerusalem, singing the psalm of pilgrimage that said, “Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

**Appeal:** This story teaches us that huge part of worship is doing God’s will and honouring God with obedience.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to seek your will in all that we do. Amen.

# DYNAMIC STEWARD

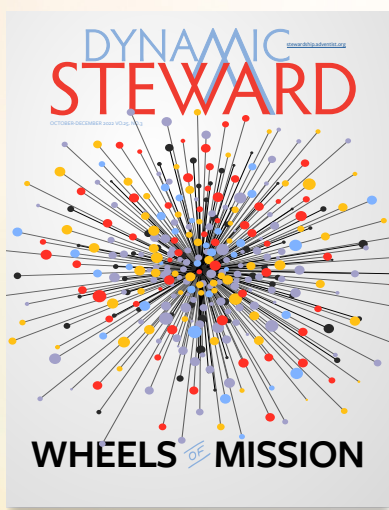
stewardship.adventist.org

DOWNLOAD THE DYNAMIC STEWARD:

## FREE ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION!

English, French + Other Languages

The Dynamic Steward is the quarterly magazine published by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Stewardship Ministries. It provides resources for stewardship educators and leaders as well as members, to encourage all who are on the path to becoming better stewards of God's gracious gifts.



[www.stewardship.adventist.org/issue-archive](http://www.stewardship.adventist.org/issue-archive)

f/GCSTEWARDSHIPMINISTRIES

**GOD FIRST**  
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES





Offering

# October

# ADRA Community Projects (Union)

Matthew 6:21 — “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

In every community, there are people struggling to get by and falling through the cracks. ADRA, in connection with Adventist Churches, has more than 100 volunteer-run projects in Australia that feed, clothe, house, connect and empower people to overcome hardship and crisis and get back on their feet.

Today's offering will support ADRA Community Projects in Australia to provide community meals, free counselling services, crisis support, and disaster response. Each project is run in partnership with a local Adventist Church and is a tangible way for us to connect with our local communities and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

**Appeal:** Please give generously today to help others to live as God intended.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for the opportunity to be your hands and feet in our local context. We pray for the ministry of ADRA in Australia and New Zealand. Please lead and guide the leadership, staff and volunteers who encounter the support that ADRA provides. Bless our giving this morning and multiply it for your glory we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.



## Local

# He's The Owner of The Heavens and The Earth

Proverbs 10:22— “The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.”

We find the first mention of tithing in the book of Genesis, in the Old Testament. . At the very beginning of chapter 14, there is a description of a fascinating meeting between Abram, the father of the Hebrew people, and a king named Melchizedek, who was the “priest of God Most High.” Abram had just recovered his goods from his enemies. This priest gave him a special blessing and, as recorded in Genesis 14:20, “[Abram] gave him a tenth of all.” Here we see a grateful patriarch consecrating to God, through Melchizedek, a tenth of what he had gained.

But before tithing, Abram received three valuable instructions from Melchizedek.

1. Blessing comes before faithfulness. The biblical text says that Melchizedek said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High” (Genesis 14:19). Adventist theology believes that first God blesses, then, in response to God’s blessings, we are faithful. Not the opposite, as those who advocate the theory of prosperity want to teach, with the pretence of determining the blessing through “positive thinking” as a way of bargaining with God.
2. God owns everything. He is the “Possessor of heaven and earth” (Genesis 14:20). Melchizedek was claiming that Abram would bring the tithes to the One who already owned everything that was in Abraham’s hands. No person can think that he owns something, even if he has built it, for we are creatures that were born and exist on this earth thanks to God’s creative power.
3. God has delivered us from the hands of our enemies (Genesis 14:20). Melchizedek reminded Abram that he was not a warrior neither did he lead an army. The victory over the four kingdoms was only possible because God was involved in the battle. As we worship God on the Sabbath and as we return our tithes and offerings, we are affirming that God has given us victory throughout the week and the month.

**Appeal:** Throughout the ages, the keeping of the Sabbath and the return of tithes and offerings became a sign of commitment to all who called upon the heavenly God. We are all called to share in God’s bounty. He who is abundantly gracious wants for us to be gracious. He who pours out His blessings on us wants us to pour out our blessings on others as well.

**Prayer:** Dear God, we recognise that all we have comes from you and that you are faithful to deliver us. Bless this offering as we worship you through giving today. Amen.



## Local

# Multiplication Math

1 Kings 17:13-14—*“Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’”*

In vain, the widow from Zarephath looked to the sky for any sign of rain. Her heart was saddened to see the first shreds of evidence of starvation in her son. One morning, her fears began to come true. There was flour and oil just for one more meal. So, with a heavy heart, she went out to gather some sticks to prepare what should be their last meal.

As she was lost in her thoughts, a stranger wearing travel-tattered clothes stopped in front of her shack and asked her for water to drink. Giving water to a stranger was fine. After all, a glass of water would not threaten her livelihood. However, as she went in to fetch water for the prophet Elijah, he stopped her unexpectedly and asked her to bring him bread too!

And she responded, *“As the LORD your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die”* (1 Kings 17:12). When the widow expressed the crude reality of her situation, she was still limited by her subtraction math.

As she heard Elijah’s words (see today’s scripture), she realised the limitation of her subtraction math, decided to abide by God’s multiplication math, and see God’s proposal as the answer to her desperate situation.

The same perspective of Elijah regarding the widow applies to us today. One of the many reasons we fail to return our tithes and offerings is that we are paralysed with fear. We still accept and follow subtraction math and become convinced that fidelity will bring us financial difficulties. When we are challenged to put God first, we wonder how we are going to survive!

**Appeal:** Today, cast away your fear and, by faith, ask God to kindly help you to turn away from the mathematics of worldly and temporal subtraction and accept the one of heavenly and eternal multiplication.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to recognise your Lordship and by faith give generously. Amen.

## Local

# Working for the Glory of God

Ephesians 9:10— “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”

During a fifty-year career, the average person spends 100,000 hours working. Unfortunately, many people just put up with their work. However, work was instituted by God for mankind even before sin entered the world. Genesis 2:15 says, “Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” The first thing God did to Adam was to assign him a job. Despite what many people think, the work was implemented for our benefit in the sinless environment of the Garden of Eden.

Hence, you must glorify God with your work through attitudes such as honesty, faithfulness, positive witness, and always doing your best. This was the standard of some biblical characters in their daily work. Daniel was known as a blameless public servant (Daniel 6:5), Joseph for his honesty and faithfulness (Genesis 39:21–23), and Jacob for doing twenty years of work for his father-in-law Laban, more than what was expected of him (Genesis 31:38–40). These are excellent biblical examples to follow.

However, the most expected attitude of a Christian in his work is to do everything for the glory of God. German composer Johann Sebastian Bach wrote most of his music for church services. On top of each of his musical scores, he used to write the initials JJ—Jesu, juva (“Jesus, help me,” in Latin), and at the bottom, the initials SDG, which stood for, Soli Deo gloria Deo (“For the glory of God alone”). These initials, at the beginning and end of each piece, indicated Bach’s dependence on God during the creative process that resulted in some of the most significant and inspiring music in the history of civilization.

**Appeal:** What would happen if at the beginning of each day we made a covenant with Christ, asking Him to accompany us in our daily work, trusting His direction to solve problems and overcome challenges related to the work environment? And what if, at the end of each day, we could say, “All the good I did today, I hope it’s for the glory of God”? May God bless you to glorify God through your work.

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we faithful return our tithe and give offerings today may we glorify you in all that we do. Amen.

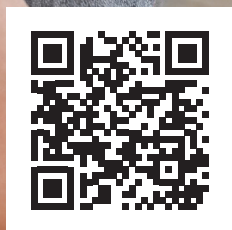




Check out the South Pacific Division's

# ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY RESOURCES

Head over to our page with loads of  
stewardship ministry resources.



[STEWARDSHIP.ADVENTISTCHURCH.COM](https://stewardship.adventistchurch.com)



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

*South Pacific*

**STEWARDSHIP**





# November

## Local

# When Is Faithfulness Born?

Genesis 28:21, 22— “The Lord shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

High unemployment rates are one of the problems that humanity is facing today. Even in developed countries, the number of people who are not included in the labour market has grown significantly. We need to take a closer look at some aspects of the day-to-day lives of families that do not have a regular income in our church. The main concern is to help them with basic needs such as food and housing. We can also help with the kind of training that helps men and women find a space in the job market. And all the help offered must consider the following advice: “He who shows mercy, [do it] with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:8).

Another guideline for someone who doesn’t have a regular income is to exert faithfulness through tithes and offerings. You may wonder, “But how can I teach faithfulness in tithes and offerings to someone who has no income?” We often think that we can only be faithful in our tithes and offerings if we have some value to bring to the church. However, the book of Genesis reveals that Jacob, the second tither mentioned in the Bible, became a tither when he had no job, was on the run, and his pillow was a stone (Genesis 28:10–22).

This teaches us that faithfulness springs up in the believer’s mind and heart, even before any value is brought to the storehouse. A person without income who chooses to be faithful in tithes and offerings should not think that he is unfaithful. This person must reaffirm their commitment to faithfulness in tithes and even choose a percentage for the return of regular offerings. Then, present to God the desire that his commitment to be faithful in tithes and offerings ceases to be just a decision and becomes action, from the moment he starts to have a regular income. No one with the firm purpose of being faithful to God should feel unfaithful just because he doesn’t have an income.

**Appeal:** If you have a regular income, reaffirm your commitment to faithfulness and help someone unemployed with food, prayers, and guidance. If you are unemployed, reaffirm your commitment to be faithful to God and keep asking for strength and wisdom until you find a job.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for your faithfulness, for those who are seeking employment we pray for your leading and guiding. Amen.

# World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities, GC)

Ephesians 5:1—“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

God works in wonderful ways to open doors to spread His message of love and faith around the world. Have you ever wondered what happens when outreach programs are successful way beyond expectations? Suddenly existing churches overflow and new churches must be built, rented, or purchased quickly. But that costs money.

In 2018, Jannie Bekker, a South African Adventist, was sent to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, with two million dollars and the challenging task of establishing the Adventist Church’s first Urban Centre of Influence in that country. The sale price of land in Hanoi normally exceeded 3.4 million dollars. However, to Jannie’s surprise, someone offered an excellent plot of land with a new seven-story building for only 1.8 million. The rest is history. On May 22, 2018, the community centre opened to the public. “God made Himself present in the most miraculous way I have ever witnessed,” Jannie said. “He gave us much more than we asked for.”

When an unexpected opportunity opens, allowing the Church to reach out to an otherwise unreachable region of the world, how does the Church provide the funds to make such a giant step for God?

Years ago, God impressed Church leaders to collect an Unusual Opportunities Offering. This special offering is collected just once a year. Today is a new opportunity to build up that fund so that the church is ready when God says “yes” to our prayers.

Perhaps you remember when the Soviet Union broke into numerous countries in the early 1990s and hundreds of ministers were able to enter this vast region to share God’s love with millions. The cost of the outreach and follow up was high, but funds from the Unusual Opportunities fund helped make it all possible. This unexpected evangelistic success has been repeated many times in places like Rwanda, Brazil and Papua New Guinea.

**Appeal:** God has mighty plans to reach others for His kingdom. Thank you for generously doing your part today to ensure that the church is ready when the opportunity comes to care for the next unexpectedly-abundant harvest.

**Prayer:** Dear God, bless the work of mission and ministry across our world. Amen.



## Local

# For Him, Through Him, And to Him!

Romans 11:36—“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”

This is one of the most important points in Paul’s letter to the Romans. The apostle is about to make a transition in the emphasis presented in the letter. From chapter 1 to chapter 11, Paul demonstrates, step-by-step, how man is justified before God. However, beginning in chapter 12, he goes on to describe the practical implications of the gospel for the lives of Christians.

In this verse, Paul presents the three steps to true worship. To begin with, Paul says that “all is His.” We will only come to true worship with this understanding. This truth is presented in the very first verse of the Bible. As we read, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1), we usually think that the first information we have about God in this verse is that He is the Creator. However, the very first information is “in the beginning.” This means that, although God was present at that moment of Creation, He already existed before that beginning. He is behind this principle; He existed before this principle. He doesn’t need anything from you, for He already existed without the existence of the human being.

Paul then presents the second point of true worship, which is, “everything is through Him.” In other words, what comes into your hands is not because of your strength, wisdom, and ability, but rather the providence of God, who works in you and gives you strength, wisdom, and ability.

For you to understand this second point, you need to answer the following questions: Did you get to this point on your own? Are you what you are on your own? Do you have what you have by your ability alone? All the good that we have and are came from the loving hand of God.

The last lesson is: “To Him are all things.” Our greatest difficulty is taking the third step and recognising that everything we have and are must be at God’s disposal and His cause. We can even mentally admit that all things are His and for Him, but we have to act faithfully to demonstrate that everything is to Him.

Appeal: Like Paul, today we must express a hymn of praise to God and say with our words and actions: “For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things!”

Prayer: Dear God, we praise you for all that you have done for us. Amen.

# Local

## False Gods

Romans 1:25— “[They] exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

Anything that relates to our life and is not completely in God’s hands can become a false god. The Greeks, Romans, and other ancient peoples were aware of this because, for them, everything could become a god. Hence, they created Hephaestus, the god of workers; and Mammon, the god of money etc.

We must admit that, as human beings, it is easy to become enticed by false gods. For example, work is a blessing, but when it becomes the single, top priority, it becomes like the god Hephaestus in our lives. Falling into the trap of a false god can destroy our spiritual life.

In Romans 1:25 Paul speaks of the human attempt to replace the worship of the one true God with the worship of creations and creatures. Paul claims that this kind of worship is based on a lie that will never make a human being truly happy. He calls this kind of attitude foolishness (see Romans 1:22). Our experience as Christians tells us that to look for true happiness in things and people will never work. Only in God alone, are we fully happy.

One of the most destructive false gods is the god of greed and the unbridled pursuit of money. That’s why Jesus said: “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Luke 16:13).

Faithfulness and generosity are the best way to combat greed. When we decide to faithfully return ten percent of our income as a tithe and choose a percentage for the regular giving of offerings, we are allowing the true God and not a false god to be lord of our lives.

**Appeal:** As you return your tithes and offerings, ask God to help you kill the false gods that are controlling the various aspects of your life. Decide today to put God first.

**Prayer:** Dear God, we genuinely want you to be Lord of our lives, help us to put your first in all things. Amen.

## Local

# Towards Heaven

1 Timothy 6:17, 18—“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.”

Renowned preacher George W. Truett was invited to dine at the home of a very wealthy man. After the meal, the host took him to a place where they could get a good view of the area surrounding his mansion. Pointing to the oil wells dotting the landscape, he boasted, “As far as your eyes can see, it’s all mine.” Looking in the opposite direction, where his grain fields were blooming, he said, “All that is mine.” Turning east toward huge herds of cattle, he boasted, “They’re all mine.” Then, pointing to the west and a beautiful forest, he exclaimed, “This is all mine too.” He paused, expecting the pastor to praise him for his great success.

Placing one hand on the man’s shoulder and pointing to the sky with the other, Pastor Truett simply said, “How much do you have in that direction?”

The man lowered his head and confessed, “I never thought of that.”

The biblical text we read is Paul’s exhortation to each of us. It helps us to understand that the cure for the harm that resources can cause us lies in being faithful to God and generous to others. When we are faithful in our tithes and offerings and generous to those in need, we are making it clear to ourselves that our possessions do not own us. We also understand that the resources we have in our hands are evidence of God at work in our lives, rather than our ability to acquire or accumulate resources.

Ellen G. White sums up this concept very well:

Satan uses worldly treasure to ensnare, deceive, and delude souls, to accomplish their ruin. God has given directions as to how they are to appropriate His goods in relieving the wants of suffering humanity, in advancing His cause, in building up His kingdom in the world, in sending missionaries into regions beyond, in disseminating the knowledge of Christ in all parts of the world (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 133).

**Appeal:** Never forget that our true riches are in heaven!

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to not lose sight of where our true wealth lies. Amen.





# December

# SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities

(eGiving: Mission to Cities, SPD)

Matthew 6:21—“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Today’s offering is for our Mission to the Cities. God said to Jonah, about a great city in Jonah’s day, “Should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left?”

Our cities today are our largest mission field. For one example, more people are moving into Melbourne and Sydney each year than the total Adventist membership in Australia and New Zealand combined!

Appeal: Today’s offering will go towards specific disciple making initiatives within the six cities in our Division that have a population of one million or more. Please pray for our cities, and for more workers to enter our cities for God. Thank you for your giving today.

Prayer: Dear God, we pray for mission to our cities, may we be faithful in providing your resources for the growth of your kingdom. Amen.

# Local

## Teaching Wisely

Proverbs 22:6—“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

One of the basic principles of Christian stewardship is that God is the owner of everything and as we manage and stewards His resources that natural inclination towards selfishness can diminish.

Both the teaching and the practice of stewardship are part of an educational process that extends throughout life and encompasses all aspects of it.

But when and how does the process of teaching Christian stewardship begin? Our homes should be the main centre of action for teaching children the principles of God's Word.

Ellen G. White says: “The Lord has decreed that the family shall be the greatest of all educational agencies. It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin. Here is his first school. Here, with his parents as instructors, he is to learn the lessons that are to guide him throughout life” (The Adventist Home, p. 182).

However, each age has its demands, so we must teach the principles of fidelity according to each age group:

- Between 3 and 5 years old, children can only grasp simple concepts. Teach them to identify each coin, each bill, and how much they are worth. With simple words, explain what it means to save.
- Between ages 6 and 11, a monthly allowance helps a child develop a simple budget for managing resources. It's time for them to learn to separate the tithes and decide the percentage of offerings as well as other percentages.
- Between ages 12 and 15, increase your child's allowance. Give her responsibilities to prepare them for independence. Help her create a more detailed budget. Allow the use of freedom in purchasing decisions.
- From the age of 16, children are ready for full financial training. Open your budget to show how you plan and manage your systematic faithfulness, savings, spending, and giving.

**Appeal:** The best way to teach your children how to handle money is by example. What you live in practice will be emulated in your children. May God help you to teach wisely and truthfully.

**Prayer:** Dear God, as we lead our homes and families may the principles of faithfulness be impressed on the hearts and minds of those around us. Amen.



## Local

# Two Brothers, Two Offerings

Genesis 4:4—“Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering.”

Cain and Abel— two brothers who were tested similarly to their parents, Adam and Eve. These siblings were very different from each other, both in character and in conduct. With their deeds, they divided humanity.

The difference between the two was most clearly expressed by how they brought their offering to the Lord. Cain relinquished God’s rights over him. His rebellion led him to respond to God’s commands according to his own choice, instead of embracing God’s plan. He proposed to justify himself with his deeds and earn salvation on his merits, refusing to recognise himself as a sinner in need of a Saviour.

Abel’s sacrifice was consumed by divine fire. It was God’s way to say, “Yes, I accept you. You are forgiven.” Abel’s surrender to Christ was accepted. His sins were forgiven. God is primarily interested in the cleansing of the offeror, thus enabling him to be a channel of blessing. The offering comes as a worship response, spontaneously, voluntarily, and out of love. That’s why the Bible says, “The LORD respected Abel and his offering.” First, God is pleased to see that the worshipper’s heart is turned towards God, and only then is He pleased with the offering that this worshipper gives.

**Appeal:** Can you fully surrender to Christ today? Let Christ take possession of your whole life. And once He’s within you, may He give you the love, the will, and the willingness to give your offerings. You will need no one to pressure you to give because you will spontaneously and joyfully surrender everything you have to the Lord.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to fully surrender to you today. Amen.

## Local

# Financial Freedom

Proverbs 22:7— “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.”

As harsh as it may seem, this text from Proverbs contains an indisputable truth. However, God presents in His Word several guidelines for you to have complete freedom, including in the financial aspect of your life.

One day a church member went to the treasurer and told him, “I need financial advice. For years, I have struggled with financial problems, but so far, I haven’t found the courage to ask for help. You are a treasurer. Please help me!”

The treasurer asked him, “After returning your tithes and offerings, how do you spend your money each month? Do you have any control over your monthly expenses?”

“Oh, I have no idea how my money is spent,” he replied.

Perhaps this is your situation today. Those who do not know where they spend their money usually find it difficult to live within the available financial resources. As we head into a new year we have the opportunity to turn over a new page when it comes to not only our finances but our giving as well.

God invites all of us to be stewards of how he has blessed us, part of this means being responsible in the way we manage our finances. When we accept God as the Lord of our life we recognise that all we have belongs to Him, we are no longer owners, free to do with our resources as we choose, but stewards, guided by the principles of God’s Word in how we manage what God has entrusted us with.

**Appeal:** Ask God for wisdom to guide all the aspects of your financial life. This is one of the ways that will make you put your desires last and God first.

**Prayer:** Dear God, give us wisdom as we seek to honour you in every part of our lives.  
Amen.



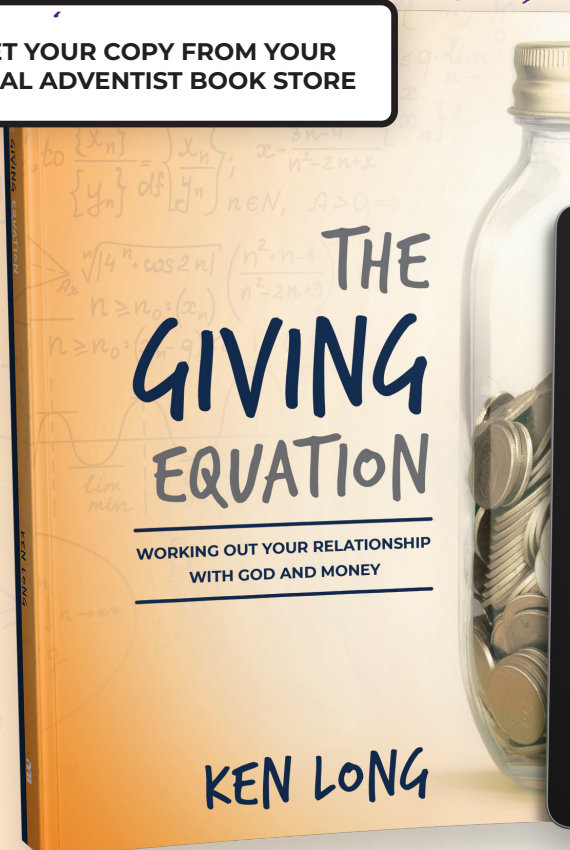
## About the Author

JOSANAN ALVES, JR.

Born in Brazil, Pastor Josanan Alves graduated in theology in 2002 from the Adventist Latin American Seminary of Theology in Bahia, Brazil, has a post-graduate degree in missiology and a master's degree in Bible reading and interpretation. He is married to Gleice Maria da Silva Xavier with whom he has two children, Glenda Xavier da Silva Barros and Samuel Xavier da Silva Barros. He was a district pastor for seven years and stewardship ministry leader for the last 14 years in several conferences and unions in Brazil. For the last five years he has led the Stewardship ministry in the South American Division with headquarters in Brasilia, Brazil.



GET YOUR COPY FROM YOUR LOCAL ADVENTIST BOOK STORE



EBOOK AVAILABLE FROM  
**amazonkindle**

# THE GIVING EQUATION

WORKING OUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP  
WITH GOD AND MONEY

**Ken Long is a highly experienced business consultant, based in Sydney, Australia. He holds a Doctorate of Business Administration, along with qualifications in Law and Commerce. Ken is a stewardship champion and is passionate about helping people understand how generous giving benefits them.**

"Ken Long's insights into biblical stewardship are exciting, fresh, transformative and hope filled. The Giving Equation shows that we don't need to clutch our wallets, afraid of what we might lose, because giving has a lot to offer us. Filled with practical examples and illustrations from the Bible, this book will inspire individuals and families to better understand the heart of the Giver—and to give joyfully themselves! The more households there are living out this transformed mindset, the more powerful the impact of the church will be."

**Christina Hawkins, Discipleship Ministries—Stewardship, South Pacific Division**



Adventist  
Book Centre

Australia: [adventistbookcentre.com.au](http://adventistbookcentre.com.au)  
New Zealand: [adventistbookcentre.co.nz](http://adventistbookcentre.co.nz)





Those who in  
**EVERYTHING** make  
**GOD FIRST**  
and last and best,  
are the **HAPPIEST**  
people in the world."

ELLEN G. WHITE, MESSAGES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, P. 38

**GOD FIRST**

ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



**GOD FIRST**  
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



Seventh-day  
Adventist Church

South Pacific

# Readings Index

01	Sabbath 1 · January 6, 2024	Local	Attention or Just Intention?	11
	Sabbath 2 · January 13, 2024	Local	The One-Person Church	12
	Sabbath 3 · January 20, 2024	Christian Services	The Blind and Hearing Impaired	13
	Sabbath 4 · January 27, 2024	Local	True Surrender	14
02	Sabbath 5 · February 3, 2024	Local	Who's the Owner?	17
	Sabbath 6 · February 10, 2024	ADRA	Disaster and Famine Relief	18
	Sabbath 7 · February 17, 2024	Local	A Sacrificial Offering	19
	Sabbath 8 · February 24, 2024	Local	Go Into All the World	20
03	Sabbath 9 · March 2, 2024	Local	The Greatest Purpose of Faithfulness	23
	Sabbath 10 · March 9, 2024	Advenist World Radio	A Reason to Live	24
	Sabbath 11 · March 16, 2024	Local	How Much Should My Offering Be?	25
	Sabbath 12 · March 23, 2024	Local	Taking Care of Finances	26
	Sabbath 13 · March 30, 2024	Local	The God of Small Beginnings	27
04	Sabbath 14 · April 6, 2024	Hope Channel	"Hooked" By the Gospel	29
	Sabbath 15 · April 13, 2024	Local	All Over the World	30
	Sabbath 16 · April 20, 2024	Local	Biblical Principles On Offerings	31
	Sabbath 17 · April 27, 2024	Local	I Have Learned to Be Content	32
05	Sabbath 18 · May 4, 2024	South Pacific Record	South Pacific Record	35
	Sabbath 19 · May 11, 2024	Local	A Channel That's Always Flowing	36
	Sabbath 20 · May 18, 2024	Health Ministry	Championing Christ's Ministry	37
	Sabbath 21 · May 25, 2024	Local	My Best For God's Service	38
06	Sabbath 22 · June 1, 2024	Local	A Life Spent For the Cause of God	41
	Sabbath 23 · June 8, 2024	Avondale University	Avondale University	42
	Sabbath 24 · June 15, 2024	Local	The Voice of Prophecy	43
	Sabbath 25 · June 22, 2024	Local	At Home, and Yet Away From His Homeland	44
	Sabbath 26 · June 29, 2024	Local	Not Afraid to Sail Uncharted Waters	45

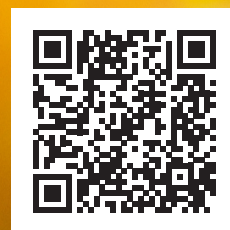


	Sabbath 27 · July 6, 2024	World Mission	World Mission Budget	47
07	Sabbath 28 · July 13, 2024	Local	Starting Over	48
	Sabbath 29 · July 20, 2024	Union	Union Global Partnership Project	49
	Sabbath 30 · July 27, 2024	Local	Fully Restored	50
	Sabbath 31 · August 3, 2024	Local	I'm Wholly Thine, Lord	53
	Sabbath 32 · August 10, 2024	Media Evangelism	SPD Media Evangelism	54
08	Sabbath 33 · August 17, 2024	Union	AUC Mamarapha College	55
	Sabbath 34 · August 24, 2024	Local	Ushering in Generosity	56
	Sabbath 35 · August 31, 2024	Local	Principles of Faithfulness	57
	Sabbath 36 · September 7, 2024	Annual Sacrifice	Annual Sacrifice	59
09	Sabbath 37 · September 14, 2024	Local	Transformation of Character	60
	Sabbath 38 · September 21, 2024	Local	In God's Hands, Everything is Valuable	61
	Sabbath 39 · September 28, 2024	Local	Worship is Doing God's Will	62
	Sabbath 40 · October 5, 2024	ADRA	ADRA Community Projects	65
10	Sabbath 41 · October 12, 2024	Local	He's The Owner of The Heavens and The Earth	66
	Sabbath 42 · October 19, 2024	Local	Multiplication Math	67
	Sabbath 43 · October 26, 2024	Local	Working for the Glory of God	68
	Sabbath 44 · November 2, 2024	Local	When Is Faithfulness Born?	71
	Sabbath 45 · November 9, 2024	World Mission Budget	Unusual Opportunities	72
11	Sabbath 46 · November 16, 2024	Local	For Him, Through Him, And to Him!	73
	Sabbath 47 · November 23, 2024	Local	False Gods	74
	Sabbath 48 · November 30, 2024	Local	Towards Heaven	75
	Sabbath 49 · December 7, 2024	SPD Strategy	Mission to the Cities	77
12	Sabbath 50 · December 14, 2024	Local	Teaching Wisely	78
	Sabbath 51 · December 21, 2024	Local	Two Brothers, Two Offerings	79
	Sabbath 52 · December 28, 2024	Local	Financial Freedom	80

Stay up to date with the

# GOD FIRST MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to the monthly email newsletter to receive the latest Stewardship news from around the world. To subscribe, send a blank email with the subject "SUBSCRIBE" to [gcstewardship@gc.adventist.org](mailto:gcstewardship@gc.adventist.org)



RESOURCES



TESTIMONIES



OFFERING VIDEOS

[STEWARDSHIP.ADVENTIST.ORG/NEWSLETTER](http://STEWARDSHIP.ADVENTIST.ORG/NEWSLETTER)

f/GCSTEWARDSHIPMINISTRIES