



GENEROUS LIVING

All of Me in Response to All of Him

Offering Appeals 3rd Quarter 2021

Treasurer's Copy

Please store this booklet in the pulpit.

July 3, 2021- Local Church Budget

Oshkosh is the largest Pathfinder event in the North American Division. It meets once every five years. But a church in Texas had a problem. They had elected a new director and staff for their Pathfinder club just nine months before Oshkosh.

The new leader said, “We have little money in our Pathfinder fund in the church budget. Oshkosh is expensive. How can we raise enough money to attend?”

They consulted with the former Pathfinder director to get ideas. How could their small group find money to pay for transportation, food, the entrance fee, and all the incidentals that are part of Oshkosh?

The church board gave permission for placards, donation boxes, and other promotions. They had some response, but the club was always short of their goals each month.

On Pathfinder Day, they made a special appeal. “We have done all we know to do, but we’re running out of time. Can you please help us?”

People made more donations than usual. Everyone kept praying. The children watched the goals. Parents wondered if they could

somehow give a little more. Church members found extra funds to help meet the deadline.

When the time came, the Pathfinders went to Oshkosh. The entire church received a blessing! How did it happen? Leadership counseled together. The church worked together. When there were no funds for ministry, they brought the matter before the Lord. "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

Having the blessing and honor to attend the Chosen Pathfinder Camporee in August, 2019 I was overwhelmed by the wonderful ministry and results of the Pathfinder program!

I was able to witness over 50,000 youth engaged with the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Over 1,000 of these were representatives of the Carolina Conference. Youth that were there to participate, socialize, engage and grow in and with OUR church. What an amazing ministry is our Pathfinder and Adventurer programs. Those who were present were able to witness over a thousand of these youth give their hearts to Jesus and were baptized.

These young people from around the Carolinas and the world come from clubs staffed by individuals who truly see this as their ministry and are leading young people to love and serve our Creator.

How exciting it was for me to see so many former Pathfinders and students who were now directors of their own clubs. Edgar, Angelo, Kristen, Carlos and Smyrna are adults now who were once Pathfinders who fell in love with OUR church largely through the Pathfinder program. Today they are leading a new generation of Pathfinders to love the Lord in SDA

churches throughout and maybe, just maybe, one day the youth they are influencing today will be directors preparing others for service to our Lord.

Our voluntary offering today is, in part, to contribute to this amazing ministry and only the Lord knows the eternal results.

Written by Hector Gonzalez,
Youth and Young Adult Director

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

July 17, 2021-Local Church Budget

A church member enjoyed fishing from a bridge in a park. One day, he felt a tap on his boot. He ignored it at first, but then he felt many small taps. He looked down and saw a squirrel. The small animal looked up with longing eyes.

He realized he was eating from a small bag of mixed nuts he had in his pocket. Well, he pulled out some nuts and handed them to the squirrel.

The man named the squirrel Tapper. Each time the man would go to the bridge, Tapper would race down the tree and tap the man's feet. Each time, Tapper would get a feast of nuts and dried fruits. People who walked by smiled in surprise to see the relationship between the two.

Have you ever gotten a tap in church? Have you had a tap on your heart to respond to an offering appeal? Is God tapping on your heart right now to support the church budget ministries that touch the lives of the people in your community? If you feel that tap, take out your mix of bills and coins and hand them over with joy, because you are touching the lives of others. This morning, listen to the taps of the Holy Spirit. "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

On April 14, 1912, the Titanic scraped an iceberg on the starboard side, cutting into the ship.

That night, Pastor John Harper grabbed his six-year-old daughter Nana and placed her into a lifeboat. He looked her in the eyes and said, "One day we will see each other again." As the boat sank, Pastor John swam to various people to ask, "Are you saved?"

One young man replied, "No, I am not." Pastor John took off his life jacket, threw it to the man, and said, "You need this more than I do." Pastor John continued to swim and lead people to Jesus until he sank into the frigid waters.

Four years later in a church meeting in Hamilton, Canada, a young man by the name of Aquilla Webb told the story. He said, "I am here tonight because of Pastor John's sacrifice."

Today, we can also help others who are sinking in life's cold, dark waters. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1

God may never ask us to give up our lives. But we all have an opportunity to sacrifice as we share in God's work. When we give to Carolina Youth, we are

throwing life jackets to our youth by giving them the opportunity to accept Jesus into their lives. Give today so that our youth may be saved.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

July 31, 2021 – Local Church Budget

During the retreat by Japan from the Philippines during World War II, one Japanese soldier named Hiroo Onoda received an assignment. He was to stay behind at his post until his commanding officer, Major Yoshimi Taniguchi, relieved him of his duties.

On the day of the Major's departure, he made a promise. "Stay here until I come back to relieve you of your duties. Whatever happens, we will come back for you."

As an intelligence officer, Onoda had learned the art of blending into his environment and sustaining himself off the land. The war ended in 1945, but for 29 years, he stood by his post.

At last, the emperor learned that the lieutenant was still on the island. He sent Onoda's former commanding officer with a letter from the emperor telling him he was free to go. On March 9, 1974, the Major arrived and at last Onoda could leave for home.

To all Christians, our commanding officer, Jesus, gave orders before He left. He said, "But that which ye have already hold fast till I come." Revelation 2:25

Are you holding and maintaining your post until He comes? As Christians, we are to work for the Lord and help support Christ's ministry through our tithes and offering. We are to do all we can for our Master until He comes again and relieves us of our earthly post. As we give to the local budget, let us hold fast until He comes.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

August 7, 2021 – Local Church Budget

After the fall of Israel because of their apostasy, God gave the nation time to consider what they had done. Seventy years later, when their probation ended, the time arrived for Israel to return to rebuild the walls and the temple at Jerusalem.

However, they didn't have the resources to go back and rebuild.

Yet, God had ways of opening the treasures of heaven to bless His church. Never underestimate our God!

The Bible says, "In the first year of Cyrus the king, the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem: Let the house be built, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid." Ezra 6:3

God touched the heart of the pagan king to allow Israel to return to Jerusalem. Not only that, but the king offered to finance the entire project for the restoring of the temple.

Years later, God touched the heart of Darius, the king who followed Cyrus. He provided the lambs, bullocks, and rams needed for the sacrifices. He also provided wheat, salt, wine, and oil for the ceremonies connected to the worship services.

Some might argue, how could the nation of Israel accept such a gift from a pagan king? Let us remember it was God Himself who touched the heart of the king to support the cause of spreading the Gospel. Today, may our hearts also be open to support the gospel ministry that each church has for its community.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

August 14, 2021- Christian Record Serv. 500

The number of people with visual impairment or blindness is expected to double by 2050. This could include you or someone you love or someone in your community. Who cares?

Since 1899, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has cared for people who are blind. With support from members like you, you show you care by providing funds for Bibles, camps for the blind, college scholarships, accessible reading resources, a Bible school with Braille and large-print lessons through Christian Record Services for the Blind. Christian Record Services empowers people who are blind to engage their communities and embrace the Blessed Hope.

There is more we could do. If every church member gave generously and faithfully to support ministry for people who are blind, together we could also decrease loneliness and despair in the blind community. Also, we could reduce the accompanying health-related complications such as a weakened immune system, anxiety, depression, and cognitive decline.

Revelation 1:7 offers a future with eyesight for people who are blind: “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him.” Until that wonderful day,

your gift will provide hope, love and help nurture someone's spiritual journey with Jesus.

Consider how much you value your eyesight and prayerfully donate today for someone who cannot see, so they can receive the caring love of Jesus through Christian Record Services. Give liberally so people who are blind can understand how much you care.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

August 21, 2021 – Local Church Budget

The church roof had a problem. It leaked! One time, the pastor counted six buckets in place to catch the drips. Raindrops fell on the rugs, pews and tile floors. It seemed like they discovered a new leak every time it rained.

The church board discussed the problem. “We don’t have enough money,” they agreed. “But let’s at least get a few estimates so we know how much we will need.”

After getting several estimates to repair the roof, the board saw that the church didn’t have enough resources to cover the entire expense. They had to make a choice.

“Could we cover the roof with a tarp while we wait for funds?” they wondered. “Or should we take out a loan?”

The pastor suggested a third option. “Let’s take this matter to the congregation. Perhaps, when they understand the need, they will give extra offerings to the church budget to repair the roof.”

Within weeks, the church had raised over 90 percent of the funds. The pastor and head elder agreed to move by faith and scheduled the repairs. As the work

went forward, the extra funds kept coming into the local church budget.

The construction work progressed. Upon completion, the church had enough funds to pay the final installment of the bill. Where the body of Christ works in unison, great things can happen. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

August 28, 2021 – Carolina Youth 8001

A member moved into his new home. The house had wall-to-wall carpet. He never thought of what might be underneath the carpet.

Then one day, as he looked into one of his children's rooms, he noticed a partial lift in the carpet. He looked closer and found rich oak wood flooring underneath. He could not believe his eyes.

When he removed the carpet from the room, he discovered that all the wood floor needed was some sanding and a fresh coat of poly. The ordinary room was transformed into a majestic room. Room by room, he removed the carpet to reveal the hidden beauty. Within weeks, the entire home changed into a mansion.

Today, you and I are born in sin. The world tries to cover us in an attempt to make us feel beautiful while ignoring the fact that underneath is God's creation.

Our Lord sees us as His workmanship. His goal is to restore us to our original luster. He wants us to become elegant, rich in tone, and unique in design. When we place our lives into His hands, He removes the layers of sin and pain and recreates us into His image.

The Bible says, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”
Ephesians 2:10

By your gift today, the gospel message can open new doors to let hope and transformation touch the lives of our youth.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

September 4, 2021 - Local Church Budget

Jesus told two of His disciples to go to the village next door. He said, "Ye shall find a donkey tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them." Matthew 21:2, 3

This is one of the perplexing stories in the Bible. A modern equivalent might be if you were told to find two limousines with the keys left in them. You find them. As you start the engine, there is a knock at the window. The owner asks, "What are you doing?"

You reply, "The Lord has need of these."

The disciples followed the instructions of Jesus. The owner of the two animals accepted their answer. They brought the animals to their Master.

God had already touched the heart of the owner. The Bible never explains how this happened, but the owner had everything ready for Jesus.

There are times in our lives when God sends a messenger to notify us that God needs us for some special purpose. We don't always understand, but we can know the Lord is calling.

What do you do? Do you listen to the voice of God and walk into the unknown? Or do you ignore His

voice? God wants to use you to meet the needs of the various ministries of His church. You will often hear the voice of God and sense the Lord speaking to you to bring your gifts to Him.

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September 11, 2021 – World Budget (GC) 500

Everyone old enough to have experienced September 11, 2001, will remember that day. One of the most tragic events in the history of the United States happened when two planes flew into the Twin Towers in New York City. Our world has not been the same since.

As the news spread, the Greater New York Conference and the North Eastern Conference joined forces to provide immediate help.

A Manhattan church opened its doors for the Fire and Police Departments. Rapid response task force meetings met in the church's boardroom.

Various Sabbath School classrooms gave police officers and fire department personnel a safe place to sleep between shifts.

The church location provided quick access to ground zero. Church cooks worked in the fellowship hall to prepare food for the emergency workers. On the Hudson River Park Pier, Community Services departments worked to help unload essential supplies needed at the site of the tragedy.

To this day, those efforts have impacted the reputation of our church in a positive way.

In our uncertain world, we never know when our gifts to World Budget, along with gifts of time and effort, will be needed. God can accomplish great things for His glory when His people commit their lives and resources to Him.

The Bible says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20 Let us work together to impact the world for Christ.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

September 18, 2021 - Local Church Budget

One day a fisherman was fishing on the edge of a lake when a grey herring landed next to him. The bird looked into his bucket and saw a feast. When the bird tried to take the fish from the bucket, the fisherman tapped him with the end of his rod and made a deal with him.

“Every other fish I will give to you on the condition that you don’t steal.” The fisherman named the bird Henry. So the fisherman caught a fish and tossed it to Henry. The next catch went into the bucket. Henry waited for his turn. In an hour, he must have eaten at least 10 to 12 fish. Then he flew away. Each time the fisherman returned to that lake, Henry would fly and land next to him.

The fisherman didn’t have financial resources to give to the local church budget. But he wanted to contribute to the ministries of the church. He donated the fish in the bucket to the new immigrant people who were attending his church. The fisherman questioned if this ministry was a way of working for God since he had limited resources. Henry was God’s answer to him.

In the Bible, God uses animals to touch our lives.
“And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and
I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.” 1
Kings 17:4 Giving can also come in many forms: time,
talent, or tender.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

September 25, 2021 - Carolina Youth 8001

In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey left thousands of people homeless. Many were without food. Others could not return to their homes because of mold and mildew.

Across the United States, something special happened. Many of our colleges and high school academies organized mission trips for volunteers to go to Houston and help with the reconstruction phase. The Houston area churches collected addresses from their local communities of those who needed help. They assigned the volunteers to work in teams.

One entire school of volunteers took responsibility for a single home. They removed all the sheetrock, rugs, and other items saturated with moisture. In a single day, they gutted the entire home. They placed all damaged items curbside for FEMA to collect. The house was ready for the contractors to come in and restore the home.

They sent other crews to homes that needed yard cleaning, painting, and other cosmetic repairs. Still other teams visited homes with food baskets to give to those who needed food.

Most of those who received help were not part of the church. But they were part of the community where the churches ministered. Through the help of the

volunteers, Houston churches met the needs of their neighbors.

Let us not forget our youth and the impact they can make when guided in the right way. “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

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Tips for a Successful Offering Appeal

1. Pray

Your attitude is of utmost importance. An offering appeal presented with a pre-season of prayer is always more effective. People in the pews will know the difference and respond accordingly. With an attitude of gratitude, calling for the offering is always a privilege for which to be thankful.

2. Practice

Read the script out loud several times and stay with the script until the reading comes naturally. If possible, stand in the church location and read the script with the microphone on. Take courage, you will gain experience over time and eventually come to wonder why it seemed so hard at first.

3. Appreciate your audience

Realize that they want you to succeed. Relax as best you can! We are all in this together.

4. Visualize yourself giving the offering appeal

Smile! Imagine yourself speaking, your voice loud, clear and confident. Visualize the congregation smiling and pleased with your presentation. This will boost your confidence as they approvingly smile.

5. Know and share your material

Make sure you fully understand and share how the designated offering will be used. Give everyone a reason to help support the designated offering.

6. Do not apologize for any nervousness or problem.

Being nervous is natural. No one but you have to know. Do not allow yourself to focus on your anxiety, but rather focus on your message and audience. They will never suspect you are not a public-speaking pro!