



# GENEREROUS LIVING

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All of Me in Response to All of Him

## Offering Appeals

3rd Quarter 2024

Treasurer's Copy

Please store a copy in the pulpit.

July 6, 2024

### **Local Church Budget**

Fireworks brilliantly light up the darkest sky when they are set off. My family and I go to see firework displays in the summer time, and it is a truly exciting activity for my children. My favorite kind of fireworks are when we are able to see them over water by our local beach. That way, they are not only brilliant in the sky, but they are also brilliantly displayed in the reflection in the water.

The word of God tells us, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16, NIV). One bright light we have as Christians is our ability to pray for one another. When we pray for others and let them know they are being prayed for, it can be a bright light in someone’s day. I have seen prayer change the trajectory of someone’s life.

Would you partner with our church being a “town build on a hill” both in your prayers and your giving? Today’s offering goes to the local church budget. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give to help our church.

July 13, 2024

## **Carolina Evangelism**

When the Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized in 1863, it had only 3,500 members. Now there are over 21 million Adventist members worldwide. Thanks to your generous mission offerings, prayers, and personal involvement, the Seventh-day Adventist Church shares the love of Jesus in more than 200 countries around the world with 153,253 congregations meeting every Sabbath, 7,792 schools, and over 700 health care institutions.<sup>1</sup> All of this has been made possible due to the “Revolutionary Generosity” of our faithful members.

Revelation 18:1-2 says, “After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen’...” (NKJV).

The Adventist church has a special message to wake up the world and invite people to leave Babylon and join the “Remnant Church” who keep the commandments and have the testimony of Jesus.

Thank you for funding the mission to preach the three angels’ messages. Today’s offering is for the World Budget. As you give your offering today, remember to pray for God’s Spirit to touch lives so people can prepare for Jesus’ soon return.

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<sup>1</sup> [Who are Seventh-day Adventists? | North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists \(nadadventist.org\)](http://nadadventist.org)

July 20, 2024

## **Local Church Budget**

One day several years ago, while I was teaching one of my college communications courses, a student of mine entered the classroom after the lesson had already begun. She looked visibly tired and in bad shape, and I decided to not make a big deal about her coming in late. Later, after class, the student came to my office to explain their tardiness. “I got the news that my parent died this morning, and I just didn’t know where to go.” My heart sank, but I also felt a spark of hope at that moment. I grieved with my student for the great loss the family was experiencing. I also praised God that while this student was away from her home, she saw our classroom as a safe space for her to find refuge.

The church can be that place for many people as well. When we walk in each Sabbath we are not always aware of the burdens that those around us are carrying into church. A church is more than a building – a church is us, the people, who lean on one another to help create that safe space for others to share their burdens. The Bible instructs us to, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2, NIV). Today’s offering is for our local church budget.

*By Heather Thompson Day*

July 27, 2024

## **Carolina Youth**

There is a research-backed theory in communication called “Social Penetration” that states that the more we know about each other, the more we like one another and are able to develop deep bonds.<sup>2</sup> One way we get to know more about one another is through our stories. Have you ever had someone, perhaps a colleague or acquaintance, share a story from their own life with you? I know that when people around me share more about their background and faith it strengthens my own faith.

Did you know that many conferences publish a magazine or printed publication in which stories are shared from across the conference by different people? Today’s offering is for the local conference advance, which supports such publications. The more we are able to hear one another’s stories, the smaller the divide between us gets. When I’ve flipped through my local conference magazine, I discover that in the next state over, people are working together to organize events that are meant to spur on revival and reformation. When we listen and hear what is happening in other places, it can be just what we need to encourage our next step in ministry. Consider giving a generous offering to support our local conference advance today.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-realworldcomm/chapter/6-4-self-disclosure-and-interpersonal-communication/>

August 3, 2024

## **Local Church Budget**

Several of my friends are educators in our Adventist school system. Because I teach on the college level, I am often intrigued by the stories that my friends who teach elementary school share with me. Children can often say very silly though heartfelt comments. For example, one student, though they seemed to enjoy being at school, shared this thought one day, "I feel like I've been in school forever! When will it end?" Another child on another day asked, "Does God like to eat chocolate like I do?" Young children may often share their unfiltered thoughts with anyone willing to listen. If you spend any amount of time with children, you may realize that they tend to be curious about God and who He is.

God's word tells us, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6, NIV). Children's Sabbath School is a great place for children to come and learn and explore those emerging questions about God, what He is like, and His love for all of us. Today's offering is for our local church budget. Sabbath School is a wonderful time of the week that I'm sure many children look forward to. Prayerfully consider giving to our local church budget today, for in doing so you will be investing in our youngest members.

*By Heather Thompson Day*

August 10, 2024

### **Christian Record Services for the Blind**

Jeannie has attended National Camps for Blind Children for over 40 years. One of her favorite things is the music, especially when she gets to play her accordion and keyboard.

“Many people don’t know how great camps are,” says Jeannie. “I want them all to know what a great experience it is.” More important than the music, the games, and the new friends, is how her experience at camp draws her closer to Jesus. Jeannie recently rededicated her life to Jesus by being rebaptized.

I love that we can share the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ with people who are blind or experiencing vision loss, serving them together through Christian Record Services, a ministry of compassion of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since 1899, serving nearly 18,000 members throughout the United States and in countries around the world.

Christian Record Services offers an array of services and programs, including Bible study lessons, books, magazines, and Bibles in audio, braille, and large print from a library of more than 2,000 titles. Members also can deepen social, educational, and spiritual connections through PhoneFaith, scholarships for higher education, and National Camps for Blind Children.

These services and programs are free of charge to people who are legally blind. Your offerings will help further the ministry’s mission to *empower* people who are blind to *engage* their communities and *embrace* the Blessed Hope.

August 17, 2024

## **Local Church Budget**

I once met a student who entered college with such a low grade-point average from high school, that it's amazing he was even admitted to college. He went on to eventually graduate from college with high honors and a perfect grade point average. The only difference for this student between high school and college was that now, for the first time in years, he had a bed. The student had been unhoused in high school, and had bounced around from location to location. The instability had wrecked his ability to focus on his academics as his stomach grumbled in class and he was fighting to stay awake.

Within the last couple of years, I have been blown away by how much my local church has gone above and beyond to support people who have been impacted by the global pandemic. Our church's in-need fund has helped people with everything from buying groceries to paying their rent when they lost their job due to the pandemic. And what was amazing was that those who were able to gave even more, knowing that there were many in need. This sounds a lot like the church in the book of Acts. Today's offering is for our local church budget. Our church can have the ability to meet the needs of those in and outside of our church through outreach. Consider giving a generous offering today to meet the needs of our local church.

*By Heather Thompson Day*



August 24, 2024

## **Carolina Youth**

My husband loves to camp, and because I love my husband, we go camping together from time to time! Besides camping on our own, camp meeting has served as a great time to reunite with our friends who live a little further away. Camp meeting tends to feel like a great big family reunion when we get together and sing and praise together. One beautiful thing about our church is the diversity within our family of believers.

Today's offering is for the local conference advance. The past few years of camp meeting may have looked slightly different because of the global pandemic, but as we begin to gather again, camp meeting is once again serving as an opportunity to reengage with the greater church outside of our church building. Your local conference advance goes to support such gatherings and other conference-wide initiatives. The word of God says, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11, ESV). When we see what's happening across the conference, it can give us strength to keep working locally, knowing we are part of an even larger body of believers! Please consider giving generously to our local conference advance today.

*By Heather Thompson Day*

August 31, 2024

## **Local Church Budget**

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need” (Acts 2:42-45, ESV).

In one of my first years as a professor, I had a student who clearly did not like me. Every day she came to class with a negative attitude. One day, as I was leaving, I felt the Holy Spirit impress me to give her money. I thought it was an odd thought, so I brushed it away. Later that week, I felt God saying once again to give her money, but now He had doubled the amount.

As we left the classroom, I asked her to stay, and I mumbled through an explanation about why I was giving her money. I watched as she burst into tears and explained that she had had no idea how she was going to get diapers for her baby.

That story is a reminder of our call as Christians, to give. We never know the far-reaching impact of our financial gifts. Today's offering is for our local church budget. Let's partner with our church to expand our ability to help those around us in need.

*By Heather Thompson Day*

September 7, 2024

### **Local Church Budget**

Sometimes, when I am given a task to do, it can be hard for me to keep focused on it. When writing a book, sometimes I get what's called "writer's block," when the words just don't come as easily to me. When I'm writing an article or a message to share, it can be hard too. One thing that helps me immensely is leaning into my "team" of family and friends. My husband is an excellent encourager and he provides me with the support and space to complete the job. My friends hold me accountable by asking how different projects are going.

Similarly, our church functions only because of many people working together as a team to keep our ministries running. Several volunteers help with things such as Sabbath School, ministry meetings, and leading out prayer meetings, just to name a few things. The Bible tells us, "Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true" (John 4:37. NIV). Each person serves a different, yet important, role to help the church function.

Today's offering will go to support our local church budget. There are many ways to support what our church does, and giving financially is just one. Pray and consider how God can use you to continue to move forward in the mission of our church.

*By Heather Thompson Day*

September 14, 2024

## **Radio Ministries**

If you've been feeling like the radio is antiquated and you are the only one who still listens to it, think again! Radio is actually alive and doing well. It turns out, more than 3 billion people in this planet tune in every week to listen to the radio!<sup>3</sup> The Adventist Church supports radio ministries so that our Advent message will enter even the most remote areas of our world.

Revelation 14:15 says, "And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe'."

Through radio ministries the Adventist Church is reaching every country on this planet and making sure that the earth is ripe for the harvest. We invite you today to partner with God and be part of the final harvest.

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<sup>3</sup> [38 Staggering Radio Listening Statistics \(2023\) - Soocial](#)

September 21, 2024

## **Local Church Budget**

We live in an age where some people may desire to be an “influencer.” An “influencer” is defined as “one who exerts influence: a person who inspires or guides the actions of others.”<sup>4</sup> I can recognize that I have been influenced to buy or desire things. Years ago in high school, there was a certain brand of shoes that all of the best runners wore, so I bought that brand of shoes. We all have the capacity to be influenced.

A different way to look at the benefit of being an “influencer” is to ask, how can I influence the world around me for God? Jesus says in John 13:35, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (NIV). Our love can be shown in many different ways. It can be displayed in asking another church member how they are doing, and offering to help with anything they are struggling with if you are able to. Love can be shown in kind words and serving one another in ministry. Today’s offering is being collected for our local church budget. As you consider how you can love and influence the world around you, also consider your giving as an extension of that.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/influencer>

September 28, 2024

### **Carolina Youth**

It was cold and wet as we trudged back to our cabins, but there wasn't a complaint in our hearts. That is because our hearts had been filled this weekend from the wonderful messages and time spent together at this women's retreat. The testimony that the main speaker shared about how God had provided strength for her through a difficult health challenge really struck a chord with our group. There is something so powerful about a group of women coming together in prayer to encourage and uplift one another. This has been my experience for every women's retreat I've attended.

Today's offering is being collected for the local conference advance, which supports things such as our Women's Ministry. Women's Ministry is such a vital ministry to so many. Regardless of age or marital status, women can connect not just at retreats, but also throughout the year in other ways. Luke 1:45 tells us, "Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her." Sometimes it takes being around other believers to strengthen that faith. We appreciate those who facilitate this for both Women's Ministries as well as other conference-wide ministries.