



GENEROUS **LIVING**

All of Me in Response to All of Him

Offering Appeals 3rd Quarter 2022

Please store a copy in the pulpit.

July 2, 2022 - Hasten His Coming
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Matthew 24:14

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

We worship with our tithe and offerings because we wait eagerly to see our God face to face. The Scripture associates the Second Coming with the proclamation of the gospel to the whole world (Matt. 24:14). He desires all to come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). Our involvement in doing and supporting God’s mission makes it possible for others to hear and receive the good news. Peter describes the waiting experience as an active one: “as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.” Ellen G. White clarifies Peter’s words: “By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God” (*The Desire of Ages*, 633, 634). It appears that God has given us the possibility to hasten His coming.

The example of a sled helps us to understand the meaning of hastening His return. If you put a sled at the top of a hill and allow it to glide, it will reach the bottom after some time. This is the natural course due to gravity and normal force. However, kids who like playing in the snow know that you can speed up your sled as it goes downhill. Among other tricks, you can spray cooking oil at the bottom of the sled, pack down the snow on the track, stay low on the sled, or balance your weight on the sled. As a result, you go faster, and it is more fun. In the same way, the reality of His Second Coming is unalterable; it will take place, but it can happen earlier if we associate with Him to reach out to others.

Are we going to forsake this opportunity to speed up his coming? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we can reveal how hard we wish for Second Coming.

Prayer: Lord, as a friendly God, you don’t want to be separated from your children any longer. Please help us to demonstrate the same desire through our actions and giving.

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

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is known throughout the world for its mission outreach. Your regular and systematic mission offerings are like a life-giving river with tributaries flowing around the world, carrying refreshing water to mission fields. Every time we give our mission offerings, we're adding water to a life-giving river that flows through often parched lands bringing life and hope. We're helping the church grow, not only locally but also in areas that we may not have even heard of. We're assisting missionaries we may never meet and building schools and clinics that we probably will never visit. We are helping plant churches we may never worship in. And we're bringing life to the church's mission by introducing Jesus' love to the hearts and minds of people all around the world.

Did you know that even before COVID-19, the Adventist Church was experiencing a noticeable decline in mission offerings? Part of the reason is that we sometimes want to give to a specific project or put our offerings towards something special that stirs our hearts. We see the results, and we feel satisfied. Giving to the mission offering may not be as glamorous as giving to a specific, well-advertised project or program. But mission offerings help sustain all mission projects.

Just as we do not know where every drop of water in a river goes, we can see the results, and they are beautiful. Psalm 104 says, "He sends the springs into the valleys, they flow among the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field, the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them, the birds of the heavens have their home, they sing among the branches."

In Matthew 28, Jesus Himself said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Please prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to show you what more you can do to support and sustain our Lord's work until He comes.

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

July 16, 2022 - Live on What is Left
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: 2 Kings 4:7

She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left."

We worship the God who makes promises and provides instructions. Our Bible text describes the initiative of a widow after she has experienced a miracle, a room full of jars with oil. She returned to Elisha to express gratitude. Then, the prophet spoke these final words to her: "Live on what is Left!" These words stand as a promise about the sufficiency of God's provision. She does not have to fear for her future. They are also an instruction not to live on borrowed resources. Previously, her family contracted a huge debt which resulted in painful consequences. Elisha's departing advice was for her to manage wisely. The Lord does not only perform miracles, but He also teaches us how to use our blessings.

The instruction "live on what is left" is much relevant for us today. Across G20 countries, a quarter of people did not agree with the statement "before I buy something, I carefully consider whether I can afford it" (OECD, 2017). Personal financial management is a major deficiency for our generation, bringing disastrous consequences. Believers who have the best intentions to partner in God's mission often do not because their finances are in a mess. These words are unfortunately a common description of reality: "*Many do not remember the cause of God, and carelessly expend money in holiday amusements, in dress and folly, and when there is a call made for the advancement of the work in home and foreign missions, they have nothing to give, or even have OVERDRAWN their account.*" (Ellen G. White, R. & H., Dec. 19, 1893).

As we claim His promises daily, let us also be diligent in the management of our resources. Some may be struggling not because the Lord has not already blessed them but of their lack of self-discipline and good management. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular and offerings let us choose to be better managers of God's resources.

Prayer: Lord, your promises bring peace and comfort to us. We thank You also for Your instructions because they provide directions for our life.

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

July 23, 2022 - The Secret of Cheerful Giving
(Carolina Youth) 8001

Appeal: 1 Corinthians 13:3

“If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

We cheerfully worship with our resources because of the love that God has manifested to us. Our attitude while we serve, obey, and worship is important to the Lord. The book of Revelation gives an interesting example. In the letter to the church in Ephesus, the Lord did not reproach this church with any wrongdoing; He even mentioned their good actions, however one thing was missing: “You have forsaken the love you had at first.” Without love, obedience is of no value in the eyes of God. In contrast, when obedience flows out of love, Jesus has a wonderful promise for us: “that your joy may be complete” (Jn. 15:11).

The story is told of a man who was a great provider for his family. Every month, on pay day, he would purchase everything that his wife and sons needed. This family lacked nothing except of a happy father. Once, one of his sons questioned him: “Dad, why did you do all this for us?” His answer was: “I am legally married to your mother and you are my dependents, it is my responsibility to provide for you.” It wasn’t the answer the boy was expecting and later in life, he understood why the father was so sad when everyone was enjoying the goodies. Obligations and responsibilities had replaced love.

How do we give to the Lord? Many factors can lead us to participate in tithing and regular offerings, but apostle Paul speaks about the acceptable attitude: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). Our God is looking for cheerful givers, and we grow as cheerful givers when we are motivated by God’s love for us.

Let us meditate daily on his gift of love and may Christ’s love compel us to worship with our resources. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings may it be in response to God’s extravagant love.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for Your unfailing love for us. We pray that the assurance of Your love drives us in all our actions, and we claim the promise of complete joy.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

**July 30, 2022 - Support Comprehensive Mission
(Local Church Budget)**

Appeal: Mark 6:37

But he answered, "You give them something to eat."

We worship with our offerings and donations because He invites us to care for others as He does. One day, the crowd noticed the movement of Jesus and His disciples and came to meet them. Full of compassion, Jesus spent the entire day teaching, blessing, and healing. It was a spiritual feast. As the sun was lowering in the sky, the disciples asked Jesus to send the crowd away to seek food (Mk. 6:36). The crowd would soon get hungry, and there was no bakery in the desert. But instead of attending to their quite sensible request, He invited them to "give them something to eat" (Mk. 6:37). This unexpected answer reveals Jesus' concern for both the spiritual and the temporal needs of people. This is also our mission: "When we see human beings in distress, whether through affliction or through sin, we shall never say, this does not concern me."—E. G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 504.

The story of Emilienne from Madagascar reminds us that we can put back a smile on people's faces. Before 2015, Emilienne was always frowning. She was a single mother whose children were always hungry, and she could not afford to send them to school. Then, she joined the ADRA food security project in a town called Bikily. There she received training, access to farm tools, and drought-resistant seeds. As a result, she started her farm: planting sorghum, sweet potatoes, cassava, and pumpkin. Now, she has enough to feed and clothe her family, pay their school fees, and invest in the future. Above all, she now has a huge smile on her face.

Would you like to do mission work in the footsteps of Jesus and draw smiles on people's faces? Giving is one means established by God to alleviate sufferings, express His love, and bring back hope. This week, we can practice Christ's ministry method by worshipping with our tithe and regular and systematic offerings.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the love and compassion that You have for us. Please help us today to be channels of Your blessings to others.

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

August 6, 2022 - Who Can Out Give God?
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: 1 Chronicles 29:14

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

Our generosity is inspired by God’s generosity. In preparation for the construction of the temple, the Bible reports about the generosity of Israel. First, King David gave lavishly out of his personal treasures. Then the other leaders gave willingly, following his example. Inspired by their leaders, the rest of the people gave “freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord” (v.9). Seeing such an expression of generosity, David burst into praise and mentioned the factor driving such a profusion in giving: “Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” David considered giving as a response to what God has already provided: Election, forgiveness, presence, promises and abundance. No one can outgive God. Even if someone chooses to give everything, God has all the means to replenish that person’s resources. This was the mindset of David, a leader-giver in Israel.

Abraham, a Masai man, had a similar mindset. He was the owner of 1,000 head of cattle and large herds of sheep and goats. Acknowledging that God was the Source of his blessing, he decided to be faithful to God. He placed his cattle in large pens and counted them as they walked through a chute. Each 10th cow, Abraham dedicated as tithe for God. His friends and acquaintances were amazed. In their culture, people’s wealth is measured in cattle. One doesn’t just give away his cows! They began to mock him, and many people declared him to be crazy. But the laughter abruptly stopped nine months later when 40 of Abraham’s cows gave birth to twins! In addition, many of his goats and sheep birthed triplets!

“Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?” (Num. 23:19). This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us reflect on the truthfulness of these words in our own life.

Prayer: Lord, your generosity towards us has no limit and it embraces all aspects of our existence. Make us generous as You are.

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

August 13, 2022 - Christian Record Services
(World Budget)

Appeal: John 6 :12

“When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.”

Christian Record Services, Inc. is a ministry of compassion of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to children and adults who are blind, with nearly 18,000 members throughout the United States and in countries around the world.

Christian Record offers an array 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 have the opportunity to deepen social, educational, and spiritual connections through Phone Faith, 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 mission to empower people who are blind to engage their communities and embrace the Blessed Hope.

Prayer: Lord, you have designed us to enjoy an abundant life and to partner with You. Please give us the wisdom to manage our resources.

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

August 20, 2022 - Offerings Speak Loudly!
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Exodus 29: 1

“This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams without defect.”

We worship God with our offerings because they are sermons without words. After building the tabernacle from the freewill offerings of the people, it was now time to set apart Aaron and his sons for the holy ministry. Exodus 29 provides details about the ordination service of the first priests in Israel. Interestingly, Moses, the leader, did not deliver a special speech or preach a sermon for this occasion. But one thing was prominent, offerings of various kinds: Sin offering, burnt offering, and wave offering. What were the messages conveyed by these offerings?

The sin offering was for the atonement of sin. The priests were reminded that they needed God's grace and forgiveness to qualify for their duty. The burnt offering was burned completely on the altar. It pointed to the total commitment that was required from those called to service. Finally, wave offering was presented in a waving-type motion, elevated and swung to and fro toward heaven. It symbolizes the priest's dedication to God's service and about God's provision for those who sacrificed themselves in service to Him. Through these multiple offerings, they learned the true meaning of their ordination.

Do we have some doubts about the pertinence of worshipping God with our offerings? If a local church already has enough financial resources to support its ministries, should it maintain offerings as an element of the worship service? Offerings have a value far beyond monetary. Offerings are sermons without words. They represent acts of worship and convey essential spiritual lessons. Among other things, they remind us of God's gift of salvation, His daily blessings, and our adequate response of total commitment. It would be unwise to silence God's voice by renouncing from practicing offerings. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us be attentive to God's voice.

Prayer: Lord, we praise You for the multiple ways You talk to us, Your children. As we bring our offerings and tithe today, teach us the spiritual lessons we need.

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

**August 27, 2022 - A Time of Spiritual Revival
(Carolina Youth) 8001**

Appeal: 2 Chronicles 29:3

“In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the Lord and repaired them.”

We worship God with our resources because we are in a time of revival. Ellen G. White wrote: "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs."—*True Revival*, p. 9. Revival is an invitation to turn away from other gods and acknowledge Him as the sole Lord of our lives. The book of 2 Chronicles 29-31 tells us about the revival during the time of King Hezekiah: The temple was repaired. The worship services were restored. Passover was celebrated once again. Levites were reinstated to ministry. Restoration of true worship was at the heart of true revival.

The people’s response to the call to revival comprised of a concrete element: “Then Hezekiah said, “You have now dedicated yourselves to the Lord. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the Lord. So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings.” (2 Chr. 29:31). Spiritual revival acknowledges God as Lord, and one tangible means is to honor Him with our gifts.

The story of Zacchaeus in the New Testament presents giving as a result of true spiritual revival. Before welcoming Jesus as his guest of honor, Zacchaeus was the greediest man in Jericho. He was ready to betray his country, lose his friends, forsake his religion, and sacrifice his reputation for just a little more. However, when salvation entered his house, he was prompted to give more than what he owed: “*I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount*” (Lk. 19:8). That was his love response to the love he received from Jesus. We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

The call for a spiritual revival is resounding loud in our churches. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings would it show that the revival message has taken root in our hearts?

Prayer: Lord, help us to respond to Your call of revival through prayers, singing, giving, and dedicated life.

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

September 3, 2022 - A Matter of Trust
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Malachi 3:10

“Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

We worship with our resources because it is a means of trusting God. God’s instructions about soil management in Leviticus 25:3-4 is an example of God’s invitation for His children to trust Him: “For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of Sabbath rest, a Sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.” We now know some of the benefits of putting the land to rest through knowledge acquired in Agricultural science. In those days, after receiving such an unusual instruction, the Israelites would surely wonder what they would eat in the seventh year if they did not plant or harvest. It was an invitation to trust. Interestingly, there are no reported instances where someone died of starvation for keeping this strange command. God’s order was backed up by a promise, *“Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land.”*

On one occasion, a pastor accompanied by an elder visited a low-income family of the church. They were gladly welcomed and had a great time fellowshiping together. At some point, the pastor opened the Bible and read Malachi 3:9-10, encouraging the family about faithfulness in giving. Upon completing their visit, the elder shared with the pastor that he was much uncomfortable about the text he read because this family was struggling financially. Gently, but firmly the pastor responded: “I wanted to make sure that they are not missing God’s blessings.”

Have you ever gone through situations where His instructions do not make any sense to you? Remember the words of the hymnal: “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus.”

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the opportunity we have each new week to sharpen our confidence in You. Increase our faith and thank You for fulfilling Your promises.

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

September 10, 2022 - World Budget
(Radio Ministries) 500

Appeal: Genesis 2:16-17

“And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’”

We worship God with our best resources because He provides instructions for life. In the garden of Eden, God was the Master Instructor to our first parents. According to our Bible text, He instructed them about the available resources and the danger of substituting another source of knowledge for Himself. Humanity was created with a manual to journey through the maze of life. The Divine Provider occupies the best position to instruct us about managing our God-given resources. He provides us with insightful guidelines through His Word and Holy Spirit.

Once a pastor was visiting a foreign country and had to go to the airport before sunrise. So he hired a taxi. The driver was not using any GPS but seemed quite confident about the direction to the airport. Then, he started driving around in the city, looking for the right exit. The pastor, looking at his watch, realized that “check-in” was now opened. Finally, on the highway, the driver explained that he had never been to the airport, but a friend had once given him the direction. Regularly, he was craning his neck to look for road signs. The driving was hesitant, and this made the pastor nervous. After 30 minutes, the supposed duration of the trip, the car had stopped on a narrow stretch in the middle of nowhere. The confused driver made several phone calls. ... Time was running out Check-in was now closed, and the pastor was stuck with a driver who still did not know the direction to the airport.

It does not have to be so for our life’s journey. From the very beginning and until today, our God knows and gives the best directions. Those who follow His instructions are on track to reach their goals and the final destination. This week, as we worship with our tithe, and regular offerings let us remember the instructions of our heavenly teacher.

Prayer: Lord, indeed You are the Wisest Instructor. We invite You to lead us in our life decisions and the management of our resources.

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

September 17, 2022 - The Blind Giver Attitude
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

We worship with our resources because we follow the example of our God, who is a Blind Giver. When God gives, He rarely focuses on the nature of the recipients or even the outcome. He gives out of love. Faithful to this attribute, “He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matt. 5:45). In contrast, we are inclined to give exclusively to what we see and whose outcome we can control. As a result, some have withdrawn from participation in tithe and regular offering, not seeing the direct effect of their contributions. Others have resolved to support only local projects rather than a worldwide mission, far from their eyes. This is not the “blind giver” attitude.

We have a glimpse of what can happen when God’s people reproduce the “blind giver” attitude. Have you heard about “The Amazon of Hope,” a floating church? It is not known by most of us, and even fewer have visited this boat church. However, this project has materialized through the “blind giving” mindset. In 2016, God’s children from all over the world pulled funds together to support the 13th Sabbath projects, and one implemented project was the floating church, “The Amazon of Hope,” in Brazil. The result is inspiring. In the first 12 full months of operation of the boat church, two hundred and eighty-six people were baptized, and planted three churches in 2017. And this is the testimony of Pastor Reno, who served on the Amazon of Hope: “The boat church is God’s way of saving people who have been forgotten by political, economic, and health systems.”

God, our Example, is involved in a global mission towards those that we see and cannot see, towards those that we know and do not know. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we have another opportunity to demonstrate the same global mindset as our God.

Prayer: Lord, we are inspired by your universal and blindfolded generosity towards humanity. Please help us be givers in your likeness.

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

September 24, 2022 - Nurture Peace
(Carolina Youth) 8001

Appeal: John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

We worship God with our resources as a means of nurturing God’s peace in us. Jesus recognizes His disciples’ need for peace. Peace, Shalom in Hebrew, conveys the idea of completeness, wholeness, and fulfillment. We usually go to two common sources to quench our thirst for peace, Jesus or the world. They are not the same.

The world encourages us to achieve completeness and fulfillment by striving for more material things. This leads both rich and poor to engage in this frenzied race for just a little bit more. Unfortunately, it’s like chasing a mirage or drinking seawater when thirsty. Material possessions are not real solutions to our insecurity, sense of powerlessness, and fear of insignificance. Socrates, the philosopher, while walking through the groaning abundance of the market in Athens, exclaimed to himself, “Who would have thought that there could be so many things that I can do without?” Do we really need more?

In contrast to the race to acquire more, the Bible exhorts the believer to embrace contentment (Phil. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 6:6-12; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; Rom. 8:28) to grow in peace. As Christians, our contentment does not mean that we settle for what is mediocre. We become content when we acknowledge that an all-powerful and loving God is taking care of our needs, material and spiritual. Ellen G. White recommends how to acknowledge God as Provider: He asks us to ACKNOWLEDGE HIM as the GIVER of ALL THINGS; and for this reason, He says, of all your possessions I reserve a TENTH for Myself, besides GIFTS and OFFERINGS, which are to be brought into My storehouse.” (*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 80-81). Cultivating contentment through giving is a great gain!

This week through the practice of tithe and regular offerings God is giving us another opportunity to nurture our inner peace in a troubled world.

Prayer: Lord, we praise You for being a faithful provider. As we are inclined to forget and become stressed, help us remember Your goodness by giving back to You and others.

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

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!