



GENEREROUS LIVING

All of Me in Response to All of Him

Offering Appeals
2nd Quarter 2022

Please store a copy in the pulpit.

April 2, 2022 - Holy to the Lord!
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Proverbs 3:9-10

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops;
then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

We worship God with our offerings because offerings are holy to the Lord. The adjective holy is often associated with the Sabbath and the tithe, but rarely with offerings. However, the Scripture is full of references regarding the holiness of offerings. Among other passages, the Bible declares that two expiatory offerings, the sin and guilt offerings, as “most holy” (Lev. 6:25; 7:1), and the grain and food offerings are described as “most holy part” and “too sacred” (Lev. 2:3; 22:10). The offering is a mean, a very special mean set aside and established by God for His children to worship and enjoy a unique encounter with Him. It was an indispensable component of the life of the children of Israel; neglecting the practice of offering was equivalent to robbing God of the honor due to Him (Mal. 3: 8).

In ancient Israel, through the giving of offerings, God’s children were worshiping and praising Him, celebrating Him as the Giver of the Holy One, affirming Him as Lord, acknowledging Him as Owner, Provider, and Sustainer, showing a willingness to obey, supporting the holy ministry, and being a blessing for many. God set the amount or value of some offerings, and for other offerings, he left it to the personal choice of the worshipper. Nonetheless, according to what one has received, the general principle was always to give in proportion (Deut. 16: 17) and give the very best to God as offerings (Lev. 22:20).

Today, it is common knowledge that the ratio of tithe to offerings is often in favor of tithe. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we observed a clear trend: there was a significantly higher reduction in offerings than in tithe, although in the world field (2020), both declined; however, by the grace of God and the faithfulness of His people, over all, tithe increased (2020). This week, as we worship with our regular offerings let us acknowledge the holy functions of offerings.

Prayer: Lord, we praise You for the privilege to worship. Please help us to value the holy practice of offerings.

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

April 9, 2022 - Sharing God's Good News
(Hope Channel International)

Appeal

Your support for Hope Channel provides much-needed resources for this global evangelistic media ministry. The General Conference regularly receives a portion of offerings received from the divisions, and it redistributes the funds to mission projects and institutions. Hope Channel is included in that list. Additional offerings for Hope Channel may be given at any time in a marked envelope.

Every day, God uses the global evangelistic media ministry of Hope Channel to reach thousands of viewers with the message of hope and love that comes from Him! With 68+ Hope Channels around the world broadcasting in more than 80 languages, the mission of Jesus is being fulfilled by the power of the Holy Spirit, "The harvest truly is great!" (Luke 10:2).

Through turbulent and unprecedented world events, God used Hope Channel to share uplifting messages and opportunities for connection with viewers around the world. *Hope at Home*, a new Hope Channel program, has become the local online church service for thousands around the world each weekend by providing inspiring messages, music, and wellness tips from professionals. You can tune in on [HopeTV.org/AtHome](https://www.HopeTV.org/AtHome). The Bible study platform, [Hope.Study](https://www.HopeTV.org/Study), has grown to provide free and easy-to-use bible study courses on topics such as igniting your prayer life, navigating stressful situations, and learning to understand the Bible better. We are also seeing more and more inspiring testimonies of viewers whose lives have changed; you can watch these testimonies at [HopeTV.org/Transformed](https://www.HopeTV.org/Transformed). We encourage you to invite your family and friends to watch Hope Channel too!

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for the invitation to join You in Your harvest work! Please bless these gifts and all Your harvest workers, in the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

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

April 16, 2022 - Love Without Boundaries
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: John 3:17

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but to save the world through him.”

We worship through regular and systematic giving because God gave us an example of love without boundaries. John 3:17 declares the nature and the scope of the mission of the Son: Jesus came to bring salvation, and He brought it to the whole world. Doing mission in the footsteps of Jesus means embracing a universal mission. Among other things, the tithe and offerings plan provides us with an opportunity to participate in a global mission.

The story is told of a pastor who was ministering at a city church. This large and well-off congregation was known for its generosity. They were keen to invest in the regular upgrading of their church facilities, unfortunately sometimes at the expense of returning a faithful tithe and participating in regular offerings. Interestingly, the pastor refrained from educating his members about the danger of self-serving generosity and the importance of supporting the global church family. Pastoring a church with the best facilities was even his source of pride and satisfaction. After some years, the conference transferred him to a different and less affluent locality; he quickly understood the consequences of the narrow vision of mission.

How large is our vision of God’s mission? We are saved because God emptied heaven and sent Jesus to our world. And at some point, the church mobilized resources to send a missionary to our home country or region. With Jesus as our model, would you like to be an instrument of love to every nation, tribe, language, and people? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we have another opportunity to give globally.

Prayer: Lord, your love has no boundaries; that’s why we are saved. We praise Your name. Through our giving, help us to express the same kind of love for all humanity.

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

April 23, 2022 - The Master's Appeal
(Carolina Youth) 8001

Appeal: Malachi 1:6

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is my honor due me? If I am a **master**, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty.

We worship God with our tithe and offerings in response to the call we acknowledge God as Master. Acknowledging the real Master can sometimes be a struggle.

The captain of the ship looked into the night and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message, "Alter your course 10 degrees south."

Promptly a return message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north." The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So, he sent a second message: "Alter your course 10 degrees south—I am the captain!"

Soon another message was received: "Alter your course 10 degrees north—I am seaman third class Jones." Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: "Alter your course 10 degrees south--I am a battleship."

Then the reply came, "Alter your course 10 degrees north—I am a lighthouse."

Not acknowledging the One in charge, the Lord, is always risky. For this reason, Malachi appealed to God's people to return and acknowledge Him as Master. Hearing the call, the people responded in Malachi 3:7, "*How are we to return?*" In response, the Lord reminded His people that they had departed from Him by robbing Him in tithes and offerings.

Each time we consider money as our source of status, protection, security, and even love, we elevate it to the rank of lord in the place of the real Lord. We allow money to compete with God for the position of Lord. The system of tithing was established to acknowledge God as Lord and Master. This week, let us not miss the opportunity of reiterating our confession of God's Lordship by worshipping Him with our tithe and regular offerings.

Prayer: We are blessed to have you as Father and Lord. May our actions and giving reveal that we honor you as Lord and Father.

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

April 30, 2022 - Emulate an Orderly God
(Touch - A - Life at MPA) 8202

Appeal: Jeremiah 31:35

“This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and star to shine by night...the Lord Almighty is his name.”

We worship with our resources in a disciplined way because we emulate an orderly God. One striking feature of God’s creation is its well-ordered design. The daily, weekly, and monthly patterns speak loud about the Designer, Creator, and Sustainer of the universe. As believers, we define ourselves as being His image and God being our model. Therefore, those who aspire to be His clear and sharp image are indeed paying attention to these words: “But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Cor. 14:40). Spontaneity should not be an excuse for an absence of order in worship and giving.

A man was always complaining of people stealing his money; he even suspected his wife and children. One day, his good friend gave him some advice: “If you vow to make a special gift to God, no one will touch your money.” He agreed to make this vow. On payday, he cashed his check and hid his money. After some few days, he remembered his vow but there was only one small bill left to his great disbelief. He burst in a rage, shouting, and cursing his wife and children: “This time, you have stolen God’s money, and He will deal with you.” His wife remained silent, wrote on a sheet of paper from top to bottom, and added some numbers on the right. Then, she gently pushed the paper toward her furious husband. His eyes moved up and down through the list of items and numbers. He dared not add one single word. No one had stolen his money; he was spending carelessly without any plan.

When our finances are in a mess, we can hardly enjoy a happy life, and it is difficult to honor God with a faithful tithe and adequate offerings. Would you like to enjoy the quality of life that your Divine Father has meticulously purposed for you? Exercise more discipline and order in the management of our God-given resources. This week, may we reflect the image of the orderly God that we serve through our tithe and regular offerings.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the example of the order that You have set. Please give us the wisdom and discipline to reflect this attribute in the management of our personal affairs.

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

May 7, 2022 - He Empowers!
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Deuteronomy 8:18

“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

We worship God with our resources because He has placed something valuable in each of our pockets. Some of you are not convinced by these words because you are thinking of how thin your purse is or about the bank account that you don't have. Sometimes, we search thoroughly and still fail to see the value in things that we have received. Hence, we are tempted even to doubt these words or take comfort by spiritualizing the meaning of the word “wealth.” Is it possible that we focus too much on the end product while not appreciating the “ability to produce wealth” that God has given us?

One day a man was asked about the difference between himself and his wife. Listen to his answer: “When I am hungry, I behave differently from my wife.” “After my day of work at the office, I will drop my bag, rush to the kitchen, remove the lid from over the pot and look for my favorite dish.” “In contrast, my wife, when she is hungry, will open the cupboard and the fridge, get the raw materials and prepare a delicious meal.” Two different strategies to address the same need: one is seeking desperately for the end product and the other using the available raw materials.

Instead of being frustrated and discouraged about the absence or limitation of the end product, it is more efficient to acknowledge and use God's raw materials. They comprise, among other things of the health, energy, talents, and gifts that He has provided. And God promises to empower us as we diligently use these raw materials. Do you know that one of the most thrilling experiences is to partner with God to produce resources for our subsistence? This week, through our participation in tithe and regular offerings we can praise God for assisting us in transforming the raw materials He provides.

Prayer: Lord, we are thankful for both the raw materials and the ability to produce wealth. You are indeed the Provider of everything.

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

May 14, 2022. Disaster & Famine Relief
(Disaster & Famine Relief) 500

Appeal: Galatians 6:2

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Adventist Community Services (ACS) works with the local conferences and disaster response agencies to equip volunteers to serve and assist the community, providing disaster assessments, sheltering services, donation management, home reconstruction, and emotional and spiritual care.

In 2020 – 2021, COVID-19 caused a heavy toll on ACS Food Pantries/Centers, yet our volunteers continued to serve families and individuals who were facing challenges due to this crisis. NAD ACS invested 2 million dollars to assist in providing food to our neighbors who struggled during this difficult time.

When you give to ACS and ADRA, YOU make it possible for the Adventist Church to respond immediately both nationally and internationally to help survivors of hurricanes, fires, floods, earthquakes, famine, and other crisis.

Sabbath, May 14, 2022 is the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering. If you wish to support the Offering, please donate at your local church or online here.

We want to thank everyone for your dedicated ongoing support to Adventist Community Services, whether it is through sacrificial giving, volunteering, or prayers.

Prayer: Lord, we are thankful for both the raw materials and the ability to produce wealth. You are indeed the Provider of everything.

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

May 21, 2022 - Demonstrate Self Denial
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: 1 John 3:16

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

We worship God with our resources because of His sacrificial love. Jesus left heaven, and He embraced the plight of fallen humanity. He accomplished his mission against fearful odds and dire resistance. Finally, He offered it all, His own life. This is how He demonstrated love. As God’s representatives, a sacrificial spirit is part of our true identity. That was the spirit demonstrated by our church’s pioneers, and J.N. Andrews was a leading figure among them.

John Andrews was a widow with two children when he accepted a call to go to Europe as the first official Seventh-day Adventist missionary. He accepted the call without knowing what his specific salary would be. They agreed to send him money from time to time, but this was not done as regularly as needed. For him to publish tracts, pamphlets, and the French periodical “Les Signes des Temps” he often had to use his own funds, sometimes going without food and other necessities. He contracted pneumonia in 1877, and after the examination, the physician commented: “This man is almost starved to death!” One year later, his daughter contracted tuberculosis. Andrews brought his daughter home to Battle Creek and she was treated by Dr. J. H. Kellogg, but she sadly passed away. The committed missionary nevertheless returned to Europe to continue his groundbreaking work until he died of tuberculosis at the age of 54.

We are living in a time where money and other resources are hard to find. Waiting for surplus or leftover resources to support the mission could be a pious wish. In this context, these words of Ellen White are most relevant: “Those who profess to be one with Christ and indulge their selfish desires for rich and expensive clothing, furniture, and food, are Christians only in name. To be a Christian is to be Christlike.” (Review & Herald, Oct. 13, 1896). This week, may our tithe and regular offerings reflect a spirit of self-denial, the Spirit of Christ.

Prayer: Lord, we praise You for consenting to the greatest of all sacrifices to save us. Help us demonstrate the same sacrificial spirit in our daily lives, including how we use our resources.

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

May 28, 2022 - Provider of All
(Carolina Youth) 8001

Appeal: Philippians 4: 19

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

We give a tithe of all because our Lord is the Provider of all. After His victory against a powerful coalition, Abram gave a tithe of everything, *food, goods, and possessions* to Melchizedek the priest (Gen. 14) Jacob, his grandson, promised to return a tithe of everything (Gen. 28). The book of Leviticus 27:30 does not speak about a good and acceptable for tithe: "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord." Jesus himself acknowledged that tithing was from "all I get" (Lk. 18:12) and from the minutest gain (Matt. 23:23a). What could be the reason for this emphasis on tithing everything?

This real value of tithe is not monetary but symbolic. It reminds us to acknowledge and remember God as the Giver of all: "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." (*Counsel to Stewardship*, pp. 80-81). A partial tithe would mean that God is the Giver of only part of what we need.

A well-known trust game, the blind swing, helps us to understand the value of depending on God as the Giver of all. In this game, you close your eyes and allow two individuals to swing you to and fro. After some time, you experience the peaceful sensation that results from complete trust. This is only possible when you keep your eyes completely closed and you choose not to peek from time to time. Perfect peace is the outcome of perfect trust. In a world of uncertainties and confusion, the exercise of *tithing from everything*, an apex of total dependence, will contribute to our inner peace. Which message is your tithing practice sending to your brain and heart? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we can grow in heavenly peace.

Prayer: Lord, we praise You because in You there is perfect peace. Help us to regularly acknowledge You as the Giver of all through our tithe, gifts, and offerings.

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

June 4, 2022 - Protection Against Babylon's Manipulation!
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Revelations 18:3

“For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

We worship God with our resources because it is one of God's protective walls against the Deceitful One. The Bible portrays Babylon as a major threat to God's people. Prophetic Babylon serving intoxicated wine conveys the idea of deception (Prov. 20:1). One of Babylon's final deceptions is to present itself as the source of economic prosperity. This manipulation works well because it appeals to our natural attraction for material gain. Are we not the generation known as “lovers of money”? (2 Tim. 3:2). How do we stand in resistance to the deception of Babylon?

Observing squirrels can teach us a lesson. These cute and furry creatures often roam in your backyard, but they are always cautious not to come too close and are furtive when you approach them. However, when their reserve of acorn is almost depleted, this is the time to attract them to you by offering them some nuts. Their need for food leads them to lower their defense mechanism. Effective manipulations function in the same way: they appeal to a perceived need. When one experiences a financial crisis, the means to acquire some income become particularly attractive!

The practice of tithe, systematic offerings, and donations helps us constantly remember that God is the source of true riches (Deut. 8:18). Hence, we don't have to yield to the Babylonians' manipulative schemes to obtain what we need. Furthermore, the craving for material possession loses its grip over us when we are already appreciative through giving of what we have received. Ellen G. White wrote: “Constant, self-denying benevolence is God's remedy for the cankering sins of selfishness and covetousness” (*Testimonies to the Churches*, vol. 3, p. 548).

We are called to get out of Babylon. This includes resisting the manipulation of Babylon in issues of finances. Is it safe to neglect to give up this protective gear that Our God has given us? This week, through our tithe and regular offerings we can stand in resistance to Babylon.

Prayer: Lord, we face all sorts of temptations to compromise in matters of faith. We thank You for Your instructions given for our safeguard.

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

June 11, 2022 - Women's Ministries
(Women's Ministries) 1782

Appeal: Proverbs 31:8

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.”

Women are specifically designed by God to meet the needs of other women. Women's Ministries is the best way to connect both the church and unchurched women in your community to each other and to introduce them to Jesus Christ.

Across the North American Division, from the United States to Canada and from Bermuda to Guam-Micronesia, the women of the church are engaged in serving others. They give Bible studies, hold evangelistic series, and minister to those in shelters for battered and homeless women. They provide for the needs of families seeking refuge on our shores from oppressive regimes, teach English as a second language classes, tutor school children, and make bags of love for children who are displaced from their homes or their parents. The women of the church are making a significant difference in their communities and their congregations. COVID didn't slow down ministry, it just moved it online. Local, conference, union and division women's ministries offered online and live webinars, retreats, seminars, and get together. Zoom became a place where members and community gathered to talk, encourage, study, discuss books, and pray together.

Established in 1898 at the urging of Ellen White, the Women's Ministries Offering funds evangelistic outreach events and leadership training for women across the North American Division who partner with God in service through ministries that impact girls, teens, young adults, and women.

Learn more about women's ministries and how you can impact your church and community at nadwm.org. Thank you for supporting women's ministries as we seek to encourage, equip and challenge girls, teens, and women to grow deeply in God and serve Him uniquely with their gifts and talents.

Prayer: Lord, we give you our hearts, we give you ourselves, and we give you these gifts. Thank you for this privilege, we love You and serve You. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

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

June 18, 2022 - Salvation is Not an Afterthought
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: 1 Peter 1:20

“He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”

We give systematically and regularly because the divine Model has demonstrated that His giving to humanity was not an afterthought. The plan to offer His Son and rescue humanity from sin was elaborated before the creation of the universe, and at the set time, Jesus came to planet earth. This clearly illustrates the consideration of a loving God for fallen humanity. In response to the example set by the greatest Giver, Apostle Paul gave the following admonition to the believers in Corinth, “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up...” (1 Cor. 16:2). Giving that is planned honors the receiver.

Think about your feelings when you receive a belated birthday note from someone whom you consider close and important to you. Sometimes the message comes when they see your social media post thanking others for their well-wishes. These belated notes are rarely the most valued. When we want to show someone that he or she counts and is special, we usually mark our calendar and even add a reminder for us not to miss the important event. The best expression of love is both spontaneous and planned.

Which type of giver are we when we have to express love and thanks to God? Do we depend solely on the prompting of our impulses and feelings? Are we those who asked the deacon to wait while we dig deep into our purse or pocket? Or do we remember about returning tithe and giving offerings when we see an expectedly higher balance on our bank statement at the end of the month? How do we honor the Savior who does not treat us as an afterthought? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular and systematic offerings let us show that our God is first and foremost.

Prayer: Lord, the plan of salvation tells us how much You love us and are important in Your sights. In response, please help us to emulate the same consideration for You and others.

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

June 25, 2022 - The Most Secure Placement
(Carolina Youth) 8001

Appeal: Matthew 6:20-21

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We worship God using our resources because it is the most secure placement. The Bible reveals that in the end, "the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare" (2 Pet. 3:10). Possession will be of no value. These events will represent the most severe Recession-Hyperinflation-Depression ever experienced by humanity. Peter invites his readers not to take these things lightly but to undergo some fundamental changes: "What kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives." (2 Pet. 3:11). We can learn something from those who had to cope with hyperinflation.

In the time of inflation, prices could double in less than 24 hours. In some places, individuals would go to the grocery store carrying cash in a basket over their heads. Worried and angry people would line up for hours in front of banks to withdraw their savings only to hear "request denied." As a result, the population and investors would lose faith in the local currency. Many would try to exchange their money into stronger currencies as a survival strategy. Some countries would exchange their devalued currency for new currency or start using foreign currencies locally. Exchange is the key strategy. This corresponds with the admonition of Jesus: "store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:21).

How can one do this exchange effectively? No need to go through the black market: "To do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share," this is the path revealed by the Apostle Paul (1 Tim. 6:18). This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings we have another opportunity to exchange our perishable resources by being a blessing to others.

Prayer: Lord, you are so thoughtful that You care for both our present and future life. We thank You for Your advice. Please help us to be doers of your instructions.

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!