



GENEREROUS LIVING

All of Me in Response to All of Him

Offering Appeals

1st Quarter 2022

Treasurer's Copy

Please store a copy in the pulpit.

January 1, 2022 - First is Where He Belongs
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

We worship God because first is where He belongs. The opening words of the Holy Scripture, “In the beginning God,” positions God as “The First” without other details about His origin and prior existence. His position as “The First” is more than an honorific or a static title; it declares the Divine Being as the rightful Starter of everything. In Paul’s words, He is the Chief Cornerstone, and for John the Revelator, He is the Alpha. As the appeal “Put God First” resounds in our ears, it would be presumptuous to think that we can decide whether God is first. Putting God First is simply an acknowledgment of who God is: The First, The Starter. When we put God first, we are aligning our existence with the order of the universe.

The story is told of two brothers who were busy assembling the pieces of a puzzle game. After some time, the father could hear conflict between the brothers. As he stepped into the room, he could see both holding and pulling the same piece of the puzzle while screaming at each other. One wanted to place the piece at the bottom left and the other at the top right. ...He could not refrain from smiling and finally gave these words of advice: “Unless the piece is placed where it should be, you will never complete the puzzle.”

Unless “The First,” “The Starter,” is placed where He is supposed to be, our existence will never be complete. We are doomed to be non-starters. In managing our resources, small and great, who and what is competing for the first place? If you aspire to make this year a masterpiece of your life, choose to acknowledge God as the First in everything.

Prayer: Lord, we praise You for being the great Starter of the universe. We invite You to be First in our life and First in the management of our resources. In You, we want a great start and to finish strong.

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

January 8, 2022 - Religious Liberty

Appeal: Matthew 5:9-13

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

The mission of the Adventist Church’s Religious Liberty Ministry is to preserve the ability of its members to practice and share their faith as their conscience dictates, and to administer the Church’s institutions in a manner consistent with our biblical beliefs.

The Public Affairs and Religious ministry protects and defends these sacred freedoms through the distribution of Liberty Magazine, legislative advocacy, public awareness initiatives, coalition building, education of our members and pastors, and the legal system.

The funds given today will go to sponsor Liberty Magazine subscriptions to individuals who make decisions that impact our ability to live out our religious convictions, to share God’s love with others, and to maintain churches and schools that reflect our Christian values and teachings.

It will also support the legal defense of members who experience religious discrimination in the workplace.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church additionally advocates on behalf of the religious freedoms of individuals who believe differently than we do. In doing so we honor God’s gracious gift of individual choice and the power of the Holy Spirit to motivate sincere change.

Please prayerfully consider giving generously to this offering. The amount of money contributed directly impacts the number of Liberty subscriptions that are distributed and the number of members the church is able to assist.

Join me in making the religious freedom of our church and its members a priority.

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!

January 15, 2022 - Supernatural Protection
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: 2 Timothy 4:18

“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

We worship God with our resources because of His multiple saving acts against supernatural powers. Apostle Paul speaks about his assurance concerning God's protection and deliverance from every evil attack. God's rescue from such supernatural powers was one motive leading Paul to constantly give Him glory.

As a young boy, Eric struggled with frequent nightmares, dreaming of attacks by strange animals that looked like some of the divinities worshipped in his culture. Frequently, he would wake up sweating and crying. As soon as he went back to sleep, the nightmares would return. To make things worse, Eric's family would often hear strange noises on the steel roof of their house, like someone running or a stone rolling. The parents were convinced that their home was haunted and that the evil spirit wanted to kill their son. They tried every possible means to ensure protection from these supernatural attacks. Among many things, the parents would bring the boy to a Hindu priest for regular rituals, and once a year, they would do a pilgrimage to the grave of a priest. They vowed not to cut Eric's hair until he turned 7. Apparently, these strategies did not bring the little boy peace. Finally, they resolved to seek help from the God of the Bible. At bedtime, the mother would read Psalm 91 while laying hands on the boy's head. Gradually, Eric began making the connection between a night without nightmares and prayers before sleeping. He became convinced of the existence of a God who is more powerful than the evil forces which were harassing him. For complete security, he dedicated his life to the powerful God.

Evil attacks may be visible or invisible, known or unknown, but they are a reality that many experience. However, everyone and everything dedicated to God can be securely preserved. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us express thankfulness for the divine protection.

Prayer: Almighty, powerful God, we are thankful for Your divine protection against the evil one who seeks to destroy and steal what You have provided. Today, we place ourselves and our resources under Your trust and care.

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

January 22, 2022 - Full Restoration
(Carolina Youth)

Appeal: Isaiah 43:11

“I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior.”

We worship God with our best resources because God has provided what we need the most, salvation: “apart from me there is no savior.” And His salvation embraces all aspects of life; in Him, there is full redemption.

This was the experience of a man named Roger. His dad was a fisherman, and his mother died during his early childhood. Roger coped well because of the love and support of his dad until something terrible happened. While at sea, his dad had to climb to the top of the mast. He fell into the water and was nowhere to be found. At the age of 14, Roger was an orphan with no one to pay for his school fees. He became partially homeless, spending some nights at some relatives' homes, some nights sleeping in fishing boats by the sea, and other nights sleeping in trees! He would steal raw vegetables from people's gardens to fill his empty stomach. He was so poor that he had to wear all three pairs of his pants, one on top of the other, to cover himself. To escape this harsh reality, he started drinking alcohol, and rapidly, he became a heavy drinker. But one day, Roger heard about the Gospel and accepted Jesus as Savior. His life was transformed. He was healed of his painful emotions, quit alcohol, settled in a job, ran his own business, grew a happy family, owned a house, sent his kids to school, and lived with a life's purpose of introducing others to His savior.

In response to the exceptional redemption he experienced, among other things, Roger decided to worship God by faithfully returning his tithe and offerings until he died. What has the Savior accomplished in your existence? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, let us show an appropriate response to His salvation.

Prayer: Lord, we are thankful for the complete salvation provided to us and to Roger. Help us to worship you with our transformed life and generosity with our resources.

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

January 29, 2022 - The Price of Life
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Numbers 8:17

“Every firstborn male in Israel, whether human or animal, is mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set them apart for myself.”

We worship God with our resources because He has preserved our lives. We all remember Joseph and Mary bringing baby Jesus to the temple 33 days after his birth. This event is known as the dedication of Jesus and has inspired many Christians. The origin of this practice goes back to the time that the Israelites left Egypt. During the 10th plague, the firstborn of the Egyptian was killed whereas God protected the Israelite firstborn. As a sign of remembrance, every parent in Israel would consecrate their firstborn son to the Lord and make the corresponding offerings. Depending on the family's wealth it was either a one-year-old lamb or two turtledoves, offered in appreciation and for the consecration of a spared life.

God is still sparing lives today. Eric was a young man when he realized how God spared his life. His summer job was to clean some large windowpanes of a three-story building. He had to step out of each room and stood on a 12-centimeter edge to clean the outside surface of the fixed middle panel of each window. There was no security gear, only holding tight the frame with one hand while working with the other. One day, while he was working outside of a room on the third floor, a violent wind closed the window on his hand that was holding the frame. As a reflex reaction, he opened his grip. For some few seconds, he was standing still, hands free, 20 meters above the ground with no security. Miraculously, Eric came back to himself and managed to take hold of the frame with his injured hand. God had preserved his life and he chose to fully consecrate himself serving His Protector.

After going through a pandemic that has already killed millions of people, we as the survivors have many reasons to be thankful. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us show appreciation to our Protector.

Prayer: Lord we worship you because your love and care have preserved our lives. Receive our offerings of thanks and consecration to you.

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

February 5, 2022 - Thanks to the Master-Consultant
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Luke 14:28

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

We worship God with our resources because He is the Master-Consultant. Jesus taught that everything comes with a cost and it is wiser to know the cost and plan. This life management principle applies to all aspects of our existence. Ignoring or neglecting this brings embarrassment, trouble, and pain.

A young man was anxious about his upcoming wedding. He knew that the bride was the one he had dreamed of, but he had some real concerns for their finances as a new couple. He would be the only one earning a salary, and previously as a bachelor, he could hardly reach the next payday without borrowing some money. Surprisingly, after the first month, the first quarter, and first year of marriage, the one income was sufficient for the couple’s expenses. They could even reach the next payday with some bit of savings. The result was great peace of mind. How was that made possible? During their wedding preparation, the pastor counseling them reminded them about the instruction of Jesus “sit down and estimate the cost.” They learned about the importance of a family budget. Neither of the spouses was an accountant, but with practice, discipline, and God’s help, they established a budget, a roadmap for their expense.

Today, we live in a generation that is constantly urging us to use our resources without thinking and planning. Commercials and viral advertising appeal to our senses. Many base spending on what they see, hear, touch, smell, and taste. The result is an unhealthy spending pattern leading to some dire consequences. The Master-Consultant, Owner, and Provider of all resources provides valuable insights to avoid the pitfalls of unwise spending. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings let us place God and His instructions on the forefront of our lives.

Prayer: Lord, we praise you for the multiple resources You have provided us and we thank You for Your valuable instructions.

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

February 12, 2022 - Agents of Love and Compassion
(Adventist Television Ministries)

Appeal: Matthew 25:40

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

We worship with our resources because He invites us to engage in acts of love and compassion. Matthew 25 reports about how those who believe in the imminence of the Second Coming of Jesus should act while waiting. The parable of the ten virgins teaches about the importance of nurturing one’s spirituality. The parable of the bags of gold talks about using God’s given talents and gifts to accomplish His mission. Finally, the parable of the sheep and goats emphasizes the importance of acts of love and compassion as service to God. Our task, while waiting, is incomplete if we do not serve those in need. At the time of judgment, God will hold us accountable for how we treated the least of these.

The Beau-Bassin church in Mauritius has chosen to be an agent of love and compassion in their community. Years ago, the pastoral intern of that church met with two homeless people. Being touched by their conditions, he asked them how the church could help them. “We would like to have a regular meal once a week,” was their answer. One more night with full stomachs meant a lot to them. In response to this call, the Beau-Bassin church began serving “a meal once a week” for the homeless and needy of their locality, feeding 25 to 40 people. The pastor left after some time, but the church members remained committed to the project; through special donations or by bringing already cooked meals, they have supported this ongoing ministry. Many volunteers of all ages have given of their time, often stepping out of their comfort zone. This year they are celebrating 25 years of generosity and service to the homeless.

As Jesus’ disciples, would you choose to be a channel of blessings, drawing a smile on the face of the least of these and on the face of God? This week, we have another opportunity to be a blessing by worshipping with our tithe and regular offerings.

Prayer: Lord, we want to partner with You with our resources to alleviate sufferings and bring relief around us. Make us agents of Your love and compassions.

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

February 19, 2022
Whatever He Receives, He Multiplies
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: John 6: 9

“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?”

We worship God with our tithe, regular offerings and donations because whatever He receives, He multiplies. The miracle of the multiplication of bread teaches that a desert can become a restaurant when Jesus is around; nothing is too small for Him to make into a sumptuous feast. Jesus can only multiply what is given to Him. The food that had remained home, He did not multiply; the food that was eaten before the disciples came, could not be multiplied; the food that was hidden away was not be multiplied. Only the food freely offered by the little lad did He multiply. As the disciples went through the crowd to look for bread, the little boy gave his bread and fish. Jesus multiplied both. He multiplies whatever is given to Him.

A young man wanted to become a pastor. As there was no theological school in his home country, he applied to two affordable schools abroad. Unfortunately, one of the schools had to close because of a civil war. For the other, he was not granted a student visa. He was disappointed. Then, unexpectedly, he was invited to the local conference office. There, he was introduced to a man who asked him: “Do you really want to study theology to become a pastor?” He answered affirmatively. Without any further discussions, the stranger informed him of his intention to pay for his studies at any theological school he chose. He could hardly believe what was happening, but on that day, he understood the meaning of whatever God receives, He multiplies. With their limited resources, if his parents had kept their tithe and offerings for several years, it wouldn't have been enough to pay his tuition at the school which he finally attended.

For all these untold miracles of God multiplying our resources, should we not persevere worshipping Him with our tithe and regular offerings?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, please help us to realize that in the time of scarcity, our wisest move is to return to You what is Yours and what You have asked of us. Renew our faith in You, the God who multiplies what He receives.

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

**February 26, 2022 - A Regular and Dependable God
(Carolina Youth)**

Appeal: 1 Kings 17:14

“For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’”

We choose to give regularly and systematically because of the regularity of God’s care for us. The story of the Shunamite widow’s oil and flour testifies loudly about the God whose compassions never fail and are new every morning. Every single day during these three and half years of famine, there was food on her table. She never missed a single meal. God faithfully realized His promise in response to the widow’s action to provide first for Elijah, the man of God. During these days of scarcity, God’s miracle was as consistent as dawn.

God remains consistent even today. A family had recently settled in a new country and encountered some financial challenges. Their family budget was not balancing. They decided to skim out all superfluous expenses, but that was not enough. It was now time for some drastic decisions; to either cut their giving to the church or not enroll their son in his piano classes. Both decisions would be temporary until their financial condition improved. Prayerfully but painfully, they chose the second option, no piano lessons. A few days later, early in the morning, the wife picked an envelope from their living room floor. The envelope was sealed and had no name written on it. When they opened the envelope, great was their surprise to find money inside! The amount was more than enough for the fee for at least three months of piano lessons. They experienced the consistency of God’s care.

Some life circumstances may tempt us to interrupt our regularity in worshipping God with our resources. If this is our struggle, let us allow God’s faithfulness and regularity to inspire us. This week, in response to God’s consistency, we worship Him with our tithe and regular offerings.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for being the unchanging, eternal God on whom we can depend for our daily sustenance. Help us to reflect Your image of regularity in faithfulness.

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

March 5, 2022 - The Modern-Day Waldensians
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Luke 8:3

“Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.”

We bring our tithe, offerings, and donations because the Master calls us to partner in His final mission. During Jesus’ earthly ministry, a group of women provided the resources for His last trip around Galilee. As a result, this phase of His ministry was particularly rich in teaching, demonstrating power and expansion in mission. During this missionary tour, they visited the Gentile regions outside the borders of Israel: Tyre, Sidon, Bethsaida, and Decapolis. They went north as far as Caesarea Phillipi. Outside Tyre, Jesus repeated the miracle of the multiplication of bread by feeding 4,000 men, non-Jews, presenting Himself as the Bread of Life for all nations.

Today some young people are dedicating their lives to bring the Gospel to some hard-to-reach peoples and groups in the Middle East. In the tradition of the Waldensians of the Middle Ages, they pursue secular activities as a vehicle for preaching the gospel. Some are enrolled in Universities. Though they are students, their first aim and focus is to find opportunities to bring the love and message of Jesus to their peers. One modern-day Waldensian wrote these words: “Being in a foreign land is challenging. You miss your family, your home country, and your friends. You also have to adapt to a new culture, the people, the climate, and so forth.” But her commitment remains unshakable because “Universities are amazing mission fields. You meet people your age, you easily make friends, and you have many opportunities to share about God with open-minded, inquisitive people.”

A part of the tithe and offerings is used to supports the work of these young people. Would you like this ministry and other ministries to move forward and expand? Participate this week and onward in returning your tithe and regular offerings.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the work of these frontline missionaries. Protect them and bless their service. Help us not to miss any opportunity to support Your final mission.

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

March 12, 2022 - Adventist World Radio
(Adventist World Radio)

Adventist World Radio is a media ministry of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. With more than 1,000 worldwide radio stations and local studios, cell phone evangelism, apps, podcasts, health messages, and internet-based outreach, AWR is reaching nearly all the world with the Gospel.

Radio is still the primary source of communication for most of the world. It knows no borders, no walls, and no limits. It can penetrate homes and hearts and go where missionaries cannot enter.

One major target of Adventist World Radio's broadcasts is the 10/40 window, comprised of parts of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia—areas currently closed to the Gospel message, but easily reached by radio.

Last year, AWR's *Unlocking Bible Prophecies* and *Earth's Final Countdown* series received millions of views in dozens of languages. Many of these videos are still the top results when people search for Bible prophecy topics on YouTube and Google.

Every day, AWR receives emails, letters, and messages from around the world. One recent letter said: "The *Unlocking Bible Prophecies* series is transforming my family. I was raised Baptist and attended church on Sunday, so I've been so blessed to learn of the Sabbath and will be attending my first in-person Adventist church service this weekend."

APPEAL: Today's offering is for Adventist World Radio, which has been broadcasting the Good News to the world for more than 50 years. Currently, AWR broadcasts in more than 100 different languages, but plans are underway to prepare evangelistic sermons and health presentations in more than 500 languages and dialects so that every person on the planet can listen to Bible-based messages in their own language. Thank you for your prayers and for partnering with Adventist World Radio is the greatest calling ever.

PRAYER: Father, thank you for the opportunity to work with you in the saving of souls. Please bless the ministry of Adventist World Radio. We know it is only through your Spirit that this work can go, and lives can be changed for the kingdom of heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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

March 19, 2022 - The Invisible Driver
(Local Church Budget)

Appeal: Psalms 18:2

“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

We worship God with our resources because He is our sure Deliverer. From his anointing when he was around 15 until his old age, King David had a long and perilous journey through many dangers. To name a few: there were the lions and the bears, Goliath—the giant, Saul—the envious king, and Absalom—the overly ambitious son. For keeping him safe, David burst into praises, worshiping God as the Rock, the Fortress, and Deliverer.

A missionary family in Madagascar has also experienced God’s miraculous protection. One early morning, the family of three, with a nine-month baby, together with some friends, started a 12-hour road trip. By midday, after a good lunch, they proceeded immediately for them not to miss their meeting. Heading West, the sun began to set in front of them. Conversations became sparse, and finally, the only noise was the snoring from the front passenger seat. The driver started feeling sleepy. He slept off several times, but he was determined to reach the destination on time. He sped up. Then, for some few seconds, he blacked out. A branch violently hit the front windscreen. The car was seriously damaged, but miraculously the occupants had only some minor bruises. The baby fell on the small foam mattress that the parents bought the day before. Some few meters where the car stopped, children were playing soccer. They were shocked but not harmed. Later, everyone realized that the vehicle had passed perfectly between two trees. There were ditches on both sides of this road, except where the car left the tarmac. The outcome could have been different without the intervention of the Invisible Driver.

The God of David and of the missionary family is not less active today. Do you think that “The Deliverer” deserves our full worship? This week, through our tithe and regular offerings we can worship the Great Deliverer.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for being our Rock, Fortress, and Deliverer. Help us rest before travel and be alert on the roads. Accept our praises as we honor You with our resources.

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

March 26, 2022 - The Unlimited Provider
(Carolina Youth)

Appeal: Philippians 4:19

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

We worship God because He is the limitless Provider. One day Abraham had a conversation with God during which God informed him about the son that he would soon have through Sarah and the blessing that would rest upon this second son. Perplexed, Abraham pleaded with God, Genesis 17:18, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!” This conversation between God and Abraham teaches the important truth about divine abundance. Abraham was troubled that if the blessing would go to his second son, Isaac, there won't be any blessings left for Ishmael. God reassured Abraham that He has enough blessings for both and everyone. He is the unlimited Provider.

The belief in the scarcity of God's blessings has led some to function in strange ways. Here are some common scenarios of this mindset: “If someone else receives, I cannot receive, or I may receive less.” This conviction creates a spirit of jealousy, brutal competition, and animosity. Another scenario: “If I give or share, less will be left or available for me. I'm losing what I have.” This curtails generosity and fosters selfishness. However, these are false assumptions that ignore the reality of divine abundance. It is unhealthy to reason from the perspective of finite human beings and forget the Provider who is an infinite God. In Him we are not empty, even if we happen to give away everything.

Do you know that God has a full reserve of untapped blessings for each of us? This week, let us show through our tithe and regular offerings that we believe in divine abundance!

Prayer: Lord, we praise You for being an unlimited God who provides for us according to Your great riches. Increase our faith and help us to have a clearer picture of who You are.

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!