



GENEROUS LIVING

All of Me in Response to All of Him

Offering Appeals 4th Quarter 2021

Treasurer's Copy

We recommend that this booklet be stored in the
pulpit.

October 2, 2021 - Local Church Budget

The family was car-pooling on their way to their son's graduation in Tennessee when someone asked, "What is ministry?"

Someone else asked, "What ministry is most impactful to the community?"

The lively discussion paused when the GPS directed them off the highway for no apparent reason. At the stoplight was a man who had a sign asking for food. The temperature that day was close to 100-degrees Fahrenheit. The man was turning red and was covered with sweat. He looked as if he was moments from fainting.

The driver pulled a sandwich, a dessert cup, and a bottle of water from the cooler. The man shouted that this was an answer to prayer. He had prayed that the Lord would send food and water so he could survive in the intense heat.

That's when the GPS redirected to the exit.

As the family resumed their trip, the driver joined the discussion and stated, "This is ministry. When you touch the lives of the people, not only to convert them, but to minister to their needs, that is ministry."

Each church understands the needs of their community. When you give to the local budget, you are being part of the ministry of the church to reach the community for Christ. What is ministry? Here are the words from Jesus. "Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me." Matthew 25:45

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

October 09,2021 - Carolina Evangelism 8002

The young lad told his mother the news. Jesus, the Miracle Worker, would preach by the Sea of Galilee that day. He wanted to see Jesus. His mother packed him a lunch. The boy didn't realize that what he had in his hand would touch the lives of thousands that day and for centuries to come.

He arrived early and found a front-row seat. He never remembered his lunch until near evening. Then he heard the Master speaking to the disciples about a need for food. The young lad offered Jesus all the food he had.

Jesus thanked him and asked the multitude to sit down. He "took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude." Matthew 14:19

That day, 5,000 men, plus women and children, ate their fill of warm bread and salted fish. Jesus told them to gather up the leftovers. Can't you see the boy filling his bag with the miracle food and rushing home to share with his mother?

Not one of the four gospel writers tells us his name. But his actions are recorded for all eternity.

As we give to our local field I ask you, what do you have in your hand? God can take the offering you have in your hand and by His touch multiply your offering to bless the lives of thousands.

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

October 16, 2021 - Local Church Budget

Jesus was en route to Jerusalem when He heard ten lepers shouting “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”

Luke 17:13

Christ acknowledged their request and told them to show themselves to the priest. As they were walking away, they noticed Jesus had already healed their leprosy. Their skin was soft and silky. No trace of disease remained.

One of the former lepers turned around and returned to honor Jesus for the miracle. Only one. Often, we are the recipients of God’s grace. We pray, we plead; we come before the Lord with our petitions. When God grants us His grace, there are many who forget to thank the Lord for His mercies.

There are many ways of thanking the Lord. One way is by offering Him a thank offering. When a child is born in good health, some give a thank offering to express gratitude to the Lord. A successful surgery can be an opportunity to give a thank offering to Jesus, the Great Physician. When a child returns home after having wandered away, we rejoice. In the story of the prodigal son, the father held a feast thanking the Lord for the return of his son. Today, we can honor our Lord for His many gifts.

We can thank Him for His grace, for His protection, and for His love toward us. “And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the LORD, offer it at your own will.”

Leviticus 22:29

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

October 23, 2021 – Carolina Youth 8001

The New York Conference has a church school near the office location. A conference officer who visited saw that many students were wearing only one glove.

“Why are so many of you wearing only one glove?” he inquired.

“We share our gloves with the immigrant students. They don’t have gloves of their own. When we share, we can all go outside to play in the snow!” Each student had one hand in a pocket and one hand in a glove.

The conference leader could scarcely believe the unselfish actions of the students. He investigated further and found that some students had no socks or proper shoes for the winter.

He hurried to send this information about the immigrant students and their needs throughout the conference. Donations rolled in for socks, shoes, gloves, coats, and sweaters. By the end of the week, these precious children of God received the warm clothing that they needed.

Christ is clear. “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”
Matthew 25:40

When we as a conference come together for the Lord, great things will happen. Many needs are too great for one person to meet. But working as a team, we accomplish great things. Today, as we give to Carolina Youth, let us remember how we can touch the lives of others for Christ.

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

October 30, 2021 Local Church Budget

John and Nellie had lost their jobs because of downsizing. They were living on unemployment. However, as they were applying for new jobs, they had an idea.

“Let’s volunteer for the church community service program,” John suggested.

Nellie agreed. “We can use this gift of spare time while we’re job hunting to serve others.”

Their own difficulties seemed few when they opened their eyes to the needs of the community. They saw parents struggling to feed their children, to pay for their rent, and to get proper clothing for their kids. They understood, because they too were in a similar situation. They learned compassion.

As the days turned into weeks, their hearts changed. When the Lord opened doors of opportunities and both went back to work, they saw with different eyes. When the time came for offerings, they gave to their community service program. Not only that, but when there were holidays, rather than taking all the time off for themselves, they continued to volunteer to serve others.

We might not always have monetary resources to give to a ministry, but we can give our time, hands, and feet. We can touch the lives of others for God’s glory. This places these scripture verses in a new light. “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:20, 21

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

November 6, 2021 - Local Church Budget

A church told their pastor they wanted a direct mission project, from one church to another. As they tried to decide what mission project to sponsor, the board prayed together.

An elder grabbed the globe in the office and took it for a spin. He asked another member to place a finger on the globe. It landed near Lake Victoria in the nation of Kenya.

They investigated and discovered there was a church in that place that met under the trees because it had no church structure. After working out the logistics between the two conferences, the church raised funds for the project. Within six months, the church had raised enough to build a church for this sister congregation. Representatives from the church visited Africa when the church there was completed to be part of the dedication service.

At the dedication service, the conference officer asked the pastor, "Why did the church in America choose this church?"

The pastor replied, "We prayed, we asked for direction, and God pointed the way."

"Did you know this church prayed that God would send a miracle?"

"No, but God knew!" the pastor said.

Let us remember that the church belongs to God. When we give to the local budget, we can watch for God to open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing. "Prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing."

Malachi 3:10

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

November 13, 2021 – World Budget 500 (Emphasis: Radio Ministries)

Over ninety years ago, an Adventist preacher started a radio ministry called The Voice of Prophecy. The year was 1929. His name was H. M. S. Richards. Back then radio was “live” rather than recorded. This meant Pastor Richards would sit in front of a microphone at a designated broadcast time each week.

During World War II, the Voice of Prophecy became the first religious coast-to-coast broadcast across North America on the Mutual Broadcasting Network. That same year, 1942, it launched the first Adventist Bible correspondence school. Also that year, a Spanish-language version branched off called La Voz de la Esperanza.

Both of these Adventist radio ministries continue broadcasting around the world. They form part of the Adventist Media Ministries owned and operated by our North American Division. Today the Voice of Prophecy can be heard in nearly three dozen languages. This media ministry operates the Discover Bible School with Bible lessons available in more than 70 languages. It also operates Bibleinfo.com, a Bible question-and-answer website that receives more than 1.2 million visitors monthly. That’s nearly 15 million contacts every year!

Ninety-three percent of Americans listen to radio every week while 88% watch television. This makes radio the leading media, even more than television. The Voice of Prophecy and La Voz de la Esperanza use radio to proclaim the everlasting gospel of Christ. They are leading people to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. Please give liberally to reach people through radio.

—Fred Knopper is Marketing Director at the Adventist Media Ministries Support Services.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

November 20, 2021 – Local Church Budget

The pastor received a phone call. “Is your church looking for a Christmas project?”

“What do you have in mind?” he asked.

“Many children in our community will not receive any Christmas gifts this year. Their families are struggling. Can the church do anything to help?”

The pastor and his team brought this need before the Lord. God led them to begin a ministry called “The Christmas Project.”

They asked the church members, “Can you bring a list of names of anyone from our community who might appreciate a Christmas gift?” The deacons passed out forms with blank spaces to list the age of the child and gift suggestions.

For four weeks, the members brought gifts to the church. A corner of the platform filled with wrapped presents in bright colors. Each gift had an address attached to it.

After the last service before Christmas, members took various gifts and gave them to the parents. All they said was this: “We are your friends from the Adventist church around the block. We want to let you know we are here for you. God’s blessings on you and your family.” Because of this outreach, many parents and children attended the church.

Give to your church local budget today and support the ministries that bless your community. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17

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

November 27, 2020 – Carolina Youth 8001

“Pastor,” a young man said, “I feel God is calling me to enter the ministry. What should I do?”

The pastor replied, “You need to go to college.”

The young man drove to the college with only enough funds to make the trip to the school.

Upon arrival, he went to the admissions office and asked to enroll. The clerk at the window gave him a slip to take to the financial office to gain admission.

The financial officer asked him, “How much money do you have for your tuition?”

He emptied his pockets of the few coins he had left.

“Why are you here?”

He replied, “I believe God is calling me to become a pastor.”

The financial officer asked the young man to wait. She excused herself and made a few phone calls. Then she returned to explain. “Just a few days ago, a donor came to the school and handed me a card. He said, ‘If a student arrives at the school with no money, but has a call from the Lord, contact me.’”

The young man entered college in 1982 and became a minister of the gospel.

God takes care of His people. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11

Today, we can be like that private donor. We can give and help others to become what God wants them to be.

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

December 4, 2021 – Local Church Budget

The Lord asked Noah to build an ark. Not by the riverfront, not by the ocean side, but on dry land. Each plank, each nail, and each cut was a testimony that he trusted in God. The finances for such an undertaking were enormous, but the command of God was clear. “Make thee an ark of gopher wood.” **Genesis 6:14**

If God asks you and me to do something, it's because He has already provided a way for it to be accomplished. God provided the wood, the manpower, and the finances to accomplish Noah's great task. He provided some in advance and others as they walked by faith.

Today, God may ask us to take a leap of faith. To start a new ministry that will impact the community. To start a new Pathfinder club or Vacation Bible School for the children of the church and the community. Often, you may sense God calling you to step forward. I want you to understand that in every venture in the Bible, God provided the resources as His people moved forward by faith. Remember Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Esther, Deborah, and Daniel, to name a few.

The church budget includes many ministries that will enhance the church and the local community. Today as you give, you can become a Noah, an Esther, a Daniel, or a Joseph for the Lord. When God touches your heart, give so you and others can take that leap of faith and fulfill His will through your life.

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

December 11, 2021 – World Budget 500
(Emphasis: NAD Adventist Community Services)

If your church disappeared today, would anyone other than the members even notice?

“Our neighbors are not merely our associates and special friends; they are not simply those who belong to our church, or who think as we do. Our neighbors are the whole human family” (Ellen G. White, “The Role of the Church in the Community,” Ellen White Notes, 3Q 2016).

Community Services is God’s invitation to do amazing things with Him. Hard times come in all shapes, sizes, and colors, and Adventist Community Services is responding to individual needs, developing relationships, and committing to make a difference in people’s lives.

ACS supports community outreach programs by funding development projects that make a major impact in your communities. A washer/dryer serves thousands of homeless to bring dignity and value to their lives. A shelter provides protection and offers hope. A portable shower trailer prepares someone for a job interview. And so much more.

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

By supporting ACS, you can make a lasting impact and know that your dollars are going to something that is making a difference in a life.

Wynelle Stevens is Assistant Director at Adventist Community Services.

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

December 18, 2021 - Local Church Budget

The Lord called Joseph and Mary to the responsibility of raising the Messiah who would take away the sins of the world. They were poor. They had no resources. They didn't know where their next journey would take them. But they trusted God. They knew God was guiding their lives one step at a time. God has a way of touching the hearts of people from all walks of life.

Soon after the birth of Christ, the magi arrived to worship Jesus. "They saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh."

Matthew 2:11

These gifts were unexpected. The magi traveled far from foreign lands to bring their gifts and worship. Through these gifts, God provided the income Joseph and Mary needed to take care of the Child Jesus.

When we step forward in faith to fulfill the ministry to which God has called us, He opens the way before us.

Today, you can be that person who God touches to help others. You can help a child go to school. You can join with your brothers and sisters in the church to provide funds to reach your community. You can win souls for Christ.

When the church calls for support, you can hear God speaking to you. Open your heart and watch how our Lord uses you to touch lives for the growth of His kingdom.

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

December 25, 2021 – Carolina Youth 8001

It had been a hard year for the family. Expenses had been high, income ran low. They had to go to the food bank to receive powdered milk, blocks of cheese, and whatever other staples were available. They had few special treats.

By the middle of December, the children began asking questions.

“Will we have a Christmas tree?” “Will we get any Christmas gifts this year?” “What about Christmas dinner?”

Mom told the children to keep praying. “The Lord will provide,” she said. “You never know how God will bless us.”

A few days before Christmas, their uncle came to visit. He was the head elder of a church in the Bronx. He came to see how things were with the family. Tears welled up in his eyes as he hugged them goodbye. He hadn't realized how bad it had been for them.

Two days later, someone delivered a Christmas tree. By the end of the week, presents appeared under the branches. A gift box came that contained a nativity scene.

We worship a wonderful God who promises to provide for our needs. God inspired their uncle to look after the family that year for Christmas. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17
Remember during this season, as we give for Carolina Youth, that God wants to use our hands to give to others in their times of need. Your gift can make a difference to a child.

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!