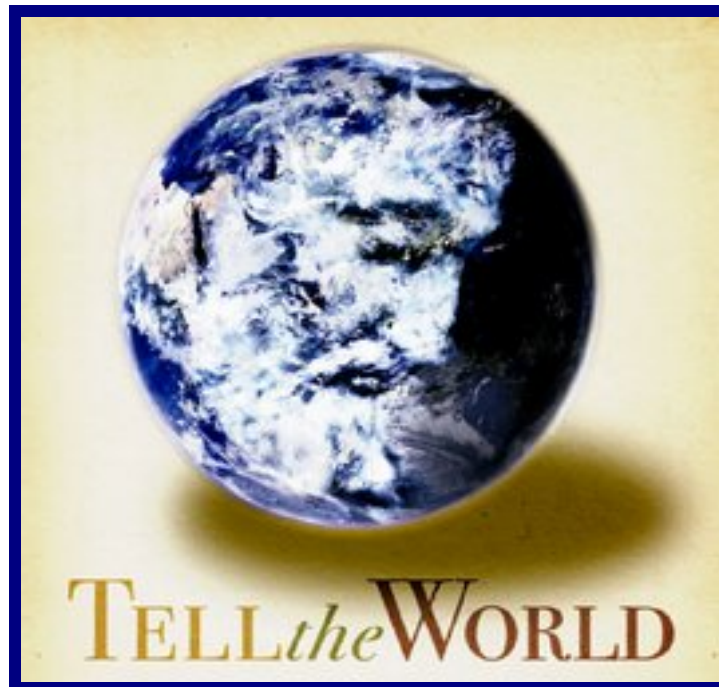


2010

Offertory Readings

Canadian English



North American Division
Of Seventh-day Adventists

STEWARDSHIP

World Budget Offering Distribution of Funds
(Effective January 2005)

The North American Division (NAD) has adopted the **Personal Giving Plan**. A key component of the plan is encouraging members to be systematic in giving a percentage of their income to support the worldwide work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church- all through one offering, the **World Budget** offering. The following information is the NAD authorized percentage breakdown of the entities and ministries supported by World Budget giving.

Offering Recipient	Percentage
---------------------------	-------------------

General Conference

Weekly Sabbath School	57.00
Thirteenth Sabbath	16.00
Birthday Thank	4.00
Annual Sacrifice for Global Mission	4.00
Fall Mission Appeal	1.00
Spring Mission Appeal	0.75
Adventist World Radio	0.75
Andrews University	0.375
Loma Linda University	0.375

Canada

Canadian It Is Written	3.00
Voice of Prophecy Canada	3.00
Inner City Ministries . ADRA	0.75
Multilingual Ministries (NAD)	0.375
Canadian French Evangelism	0.375
Canadian University College	5.75
Christian Record Services Canada	0.75
Disaster & Famine Relief . ADRA	1.75

During the year the offerings for World Budget feature different aspects of the World Budget. The offering of the day goes to World Budget. If an individual wants to contribute to the featured offering they will need to indicate it on the envelope.

Offering Distribution of Funds

The Alberta Conference has adopted the **Personal Giving Plan**. This systematic giving allows us distribute a percentage of the support the Alberta Conference to projects and programs throughout the Alberta Conference - all through one offering, the **Alberta Advance** offering. The following information is the percentage breakdown of the entities and ministries supported by Alberta Advance in 2010.

Offering Recipient	Percentage
CUC / PAA appropriations	27.00
Foothills Camp	24.30
Church School operating	19.00
Yellowknife Mission	11.10
Church / School Buildings	8.10
Evangelism	4.00
Youth Camp operating	3.20
Worthy Students	3.20

Canadian Offering Schedule

JANUARY

- 02 Church Family Budget
- 09 Alberta Advance
- 16 Church Family Budget
- 23 Religious Liberty*
- 30 Canadian K-12 Education

FEBRUARY

- 06 Church Family Budget
- 13 It Is Written Canada*(WB)
- 20 Church Family Budget
- 27 Alberta Advance

MARCH

- 06 Church Family Budget
- 13 Adventist World Radio* (WB)
- 20 Church Family Budget
- 27 Alberta Advance

APRIL

- 03 Church Family Budget
- 10 Christian Record* (WB)
- 17 Church Family Budget
- 24 Alberta Advance

MAY

- 01 Church Family Budget
- 08 ADRA Canada* (WB)
- 15 Church Family Budget
- 22 Alberta Advance
- 29 GC Session Project* (WB)

JUNE

- 05 Church Family Budget
- 12 Canadian French Work* (WB)
- 19 Church Family Budget
- 26 Alberta Advance

JULY

- 03 Church Family Budget
- 10 Women's Ministry*
- 17 Church Family Budget
- 24 Alberta Advance
- 31 Canadian University College*(WB)

AUGUST

- 07 Church Family Budget
- 14 Andres/Loma Linda*(WB)
- 21 Church Family Budget
- 28 Alberta Advance

SEPTEMBER

- 04 Church Family Budget
- 11 Fall Mission Appeal* (WB)
- 18 Church Family Budget
- 25 Alberta Advance

OCTOBER

- 02 Church Family Budget
- 09 Can. Voice of Prophecy* (WB)
- 16 Church Family Budget
- 23 Alberta Advance
- 30 Canadian Native Ministry

NOVEMBER

- 06 Church Family Budget
- 13 Annual Sacrifice* (WB)
- 20 Church Family Budget
- 27 Alberta Advance

DECEMBER

- 04 Church Family Budget
- 11 Canadian Inner City* (WB)
- 18 Church Family Budget
- 25 Alberta Advance

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein (Psalm 24:1).

Under the Jewish system the people were taught to cherish a spirit of liberality both in sustaining the cause of God and in supplying the wants of the needy. For **special occasions** there were **freewill offerings**. . . The **gleanings** and the corners of the field were reserved for **the poor**. . . The **first fruits** were to be presented before the Lord at the sanctuary and were then devoted to **the use of the priests**.

By this system of benevolence **the Lord sought to teach Israel that in everything He must be first**. Thus they were reminded that God was the proprietor of their fields, their flocks, and their herds; that it was He who sent them the sunshine and the rain that developed and ripened the harvest. **Everything that they possessed was His; they were but the stewards of His goods**.

It is not God's purpose that Christians, whose privileges far exceed those of the Jewish nation, shall give less freely than they gave. Unto whomsoever much is given, the Saviour declared, of him shall be much required. Luke 12:48. The liberality required of the Hebrews was largely to benefit their own nation; today the work of God extends over all the earth. **In the hands of His followers, Christ has placed the treasures of the gospel, and upon them He has laid the responsibility of giving the glad tidings of salvation to the world. Surely our obligations are much greater than were those of ancient Israel.** (Acts of the Apostles, pp. 336-337)

Today's offering is for Church Family Budget.

Let's pray.

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)

In a letter written in Melbourne, Australia, in 1892, Ellen White wrote, *My dear Brethren and Sisters:*

*My mind has been very much exercised for several nights, sleeping and waking, in regard to the work to be done in this country. In **this wide missionary field there is a great deal to be done in advancing the cause and work of the Master**, and with the great want of means and of workers, we know not how it can be done. We must humble our hearts before God, and offer up sincere, fervent prayer that the Lord, who is rich in resources, will open our way. "The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord," "and the cattle upon a thousand hills."*

The life of Christ, the Lord of glory, is our example. "He came from heaven, where all was riches and splendor; but He laid aside His royal crown, His royal robe, and clothed His divinity with humanity... The riches and glory of heaven were His own, but for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might become rich. The very foundation of His mission was self-denial, self-sacrifice. The world was His, He made it; yet in a world of His own creating the Son of man had not where to lay His head. He said, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head" (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 177).

Is the work in our local conference today less needful than that in Australia in 1893? As you give to Alberta Advance today you are supporting Evangelism and Christian education in the Alberta Conference.

Please give as Christ did.

Let's Pray

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein+(Psalm 24:1).

The earth is the Lord's, and all the treasures it contains. The cattle upon a thousand hills are His. All the gold and silver belongs to Him+

He has entrusted His treasures to stewards, that with them they may advance His cause and glorify His name. He did not entrust these treasures to men that they might use them to exalt and glorify themselves, and have power to oppress those who were poor in this world's treasure.

God does not receive the offerings of any because He needs them and cannot have glory and riches without them, but because it is for the interest of His servants to render to God the things which are His. **The freewill offerings of the humble, contrite heart He will receive, and will reward the giver with the richest blessings. He receives them as the sacrifice of grateful obedience. He requires and accepts our gold and silver as an evidence that all we have and are belongs to Him.**

He claims and accepts the improvement of our time and of our talents as the fruit of His love existing in our hearts. To obey is better than sacrifice. **Without pure love the most expensive offering is too poor for God to accept.**+
(*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, pp. 652-653)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.



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January 23, 2010

ffertory Reading for . . .

North American Division

Religious Liberty

(Suggested Offering: As the Holy Spirit impresses)

In the calling of His first disciples, Christ promised to make them %ishers of men.+(Matthew 4:19, NIV) **In order to be successful evangelists in this modern age, we must work first to protect our freedom of belief and our freedom to share the message of the Savior’s love with those around us.**

The annual Religious Liberty Offering helps ensure that churches—and individuals—are free to practice their faith as God has instructed. It also works to maintain our ability to preach and teach and witness in His name.

Your offering today will sponsor *Liberty* magazine subscriptions to high-level government officials and prominent social and religious leaders throughout the North American Division. It will also be used to support the North American Division litigation fund—resources that make it possible for us to defend and preserve your religious liberty in court if necessary.

Please give generously in support of these sacred freedoms of choice, belief, and practice. Our goal to bring souls to Christ and hasten His return cannot be fulfilled if we do not have the freedom to share His love.

Let us pray.



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January 30, 2010

Library Reading for . . .

Union Conference

Canadian K-12 Education

Information to be provided about the project.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

The length and usefulness of life do not consist in the amount of our earthly possessions. Those who use their wealth in doing good will see no necessity for large accumulations in this world; for the treasure which is used to advance the cause of God and which is given to the needy in Christ's name is given to Christ, and He lays it up for us in the bank of heaven in bags which wax not old. He who does this is rich toward God, and his heart will be where his treasures are secured. **He who humbly uses what God has given for the honor of the Giver, freely giving as he has received, may feel the peace and assurance in all his business that God's hand is over him for good, and he himself will bear the impress of God, having the Father's smile.**

Many have pitied the lot of the Israel of God in being compelled to give systematically, besides making liberal offerings yearly. **An all-wise God knew best what system of benevolence would be in accordance with His providence, and has given His people directions in regard to it. . .** Those who have thought to increase their gains by withholding from God . . . have been sure to suffer loss.+ (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 546)

Today's offering is for our church family budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.



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February 13, 2010

North American Division

World Budget

World Budget Offering Featuring It Is Written Canada

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2%-3% of income)

It Is Written is a half-hour weekly television program bringing the Adventist message to millions around the world. In Canada, the program is produced from the It Is Written Canada office in Oshawa, Ontario. In addition to weekly national messages by Pastor Bill Santos in English, It Is Written Canada also produces a Portuguese telecast, *Esta Escrito*, which reaches hundreds of thousands of Portuguese speaking Canadians, as well as millions of people in Brazil, Europe and Africa, where the program is also aired. A sister program, *Il Est Ecrit*, is independently produced in Quebec with speaker Josè Elyseè.

It Is Written Canada's main function is public evangelism, and the It Is Written team regularly conducts as many as 5 evangelistic series a year, as well as providing resources, training and support to churches throughout Canada. Their telecasts and on-site evangelism have continually proven to be highly effective in covering our Canadian territory with the message of Christ's soon return.

37 years ago, Pastor Henry Feyerabend aired the first 5-minute program igniting a flame which has grown into It Is Written Canada. Today we can all do our part to carry the torch that has been passed on by giving to the Lord for It Is Written Canada. Our gifts this Sabbath will make it possible for millions in Canada and around the world to hear the good news that they can become citizens of heaven.

Let us pray.

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)

Providence, though unseen, is ever at work in the affairs of men. God's hand can prosper or withhold, and He frequently withholds from one while He seems to prosper another. All this is to test and prove men and to reveal the heart. . .

Acts of generosity and benevolence were designed by God to keep the hearts of the children of men tender and sympathetic, and to encourage in them an interest and affection for one another in imitation of the Master, who for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich.

The system of benevolence was arranged to prevent that great evil, covetousness. Christ saw that in the prosecution of business the love of riches would be the greatest cause of rooting true godliness out of the heart. He saw that the love of money would freeze deep and hard into men's souls, stopping the flow of generous impulses and closing their senses to the wants of the suffering and the afflicted. Take heed, was His oft-repeated warning, and beware of covetousness. We cannot serve God and mammon. Covetousness is one of the most common and popular sins of the last days, and has a paralyzing influence upon the soul. (Testimonies for the Church, p. 547)

Today's offering is for our Church Family Budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness.+ (Psalm 50:10-12)

While in Europe, Ellen White wrote in the *Review & Herald*, July 8, 1890: *There were but very few of us to carry forward the work at first, and **it was very necessary for us to be of one mind** in order to have the work advance with order and uniformity. When we saw **the importance of being in the unity of faith**, our prayers were answered, and Christ's prayer was answered that we should be one as He was one with the Father. We were as destitute of means as you are here in these kingdoms, and we frequently went hungry, and suffered from cold for want of proper clothing. But **we saw that the truth must advance, and we must have means to carry it forward**. We then sought the Lord most earnestly that He would open ways that we might reach the people in the different cities and towns, and my husband and myself would have to work with our hands to get means to carry us from place to place, to open the treasures of faith to others. We could see that the Lord of heaven was preparing the way before us in the work. (Councils on Stewardship, p. 303)*

Like our early Adventist pioneers, **let us be of one mind and give sacrificially, so that Christ can answer our prayers to advance the gospel here in Alberta.** By working together supporting the Alberta Advance offering we can do great things for the young people in Alberta through the youth summer camp programs, and the Foothills camp facilities, the worthy student projects and all levels of the K to 12 education system.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

Our Redeemer, who knew man's danger in regard to covetousness, has provided a safeguard against this dreadful evil. He has arranged the plan of salvation so that it begins and ends in benevolence. Christ offered Himself, an infinite sacrifice. This, in and of itself, bears directly against covetousness and exalts benevolence.

Constant, self-denying benevolence is God's remedy for the cankering sins of selfishness and covetousness. God has arranged systematic benevolence to sustain His cause and relieve the necessities of the suffering and needy. **He has ordained that giving should become a habit, that it may counteract the dangerous and deceitful sin of covetousness.**

Continual giving starves covetousness to death. Systematic benevolence is designed in the order of God to tear away treasures from the covetous as fast as they are gained and to consecrate them to the Lord, to whom they belong.

%. If riches increase, men, even those professing godliness, set their hearts upon them; and the more they have, the less they give to the treasury of the Lord. Thus **riches make men selfish, and hoarding feeds covetousness;** and these evils strengthen by active exercise. **God knows our danger and has hedged us about with means to prevent our own ruin.**+ (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 548)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support. **Let us pray.**

World Budget Offering Featuring Adventist World Radio

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2-3% of income)

As you walked into church today, did you stop to think about the many religious freedoms we enjoy?

As we know, these freedoms do not exist in many parts of the world. **Adventist World Radio (AWR) is filling a unique role in carrying the gospel to places where the Adventist Church would otherwise have a very difficult time entering.** One new believer in Africa wrote:

“I used to be an Islamic extremist for many years. My conversion into Christianity has caused a lot of problems to me. Eventually, I was wrongly accused and was thrown into jail, and that is where I found your programs. They are not only a source of inspiration and courage but are also a great tool for me as I minister unto others here in prison.”

Every year, an organization called Open Doors publishes a list of the **50 countries where Christians are facing the highest intensity of persecution. AWR is currently broadcasting to 40 of those countries.**

AWR's programs can be heard in more than 75 languages, through AM/FM and short-wave radio, satellite transmissions, and Internet podcasts. These broadcasts bypass harsh governments and hostile cultures, bringing hope directly into people's homes and hearts. **With your help, AWR can keep adding new languages and reach ever further into untouched territories. We invite you today to join AWR in this vital ministry.**

Let us pray.

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)

The word of God has much to say in regard to sacrificing. Riches are from the Lord and belong to Him. Both riches and honor come of Thee. The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, saith the Lord of hosts. For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. It is the Lord thy God that giveth thee power to get wealth.

Riches are in themselves transient and unsatisfying. We are warned not to trust in uncertain riches. Riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.

Riches bring no relief in man's greatest distress. Riches profit not in the day of wrath. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath. Because there is wrath, beware lest He take thee away with His stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee. (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 549)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness.+ (Psalm 50:10, 12)

All the good that man enjoys comes because of the mercy of God. He is the great and bountiful Giver. His love is manifest to all in the abundant provision made for man. He has given us probationary time in which to form characters for the courts above. And it is not because He needs anything that He asks us to reserve a part of our possessions for Him.

The Lord created every tree in Eden pleasant to the eyes and good for food, and He bade Adam and Eve freely enjoy His bounties. But He made one exception. **Of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they were not to eat.** This tree **God reserved as a constant reminder of His ownership of all.** Thus He gave them opportunity to demonstrate their faith and trust in Him by their perfect obedience to His requirements.

Since **God is the owner of all our goods, shall not gratitude to Him prompt us to make freewill offerings and thank offerings, thus acknowledging His ownership of soul, body, spirit, and property?** Had God's plan been followed, means would now be flowing into His treasury; and funds to enable ministers to enter new fields, and workers to unite with ministers in lifting up the standard of truth in the dark places of the earth, would be abundant+(*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 385-386).

Today's offering is for the work in our local conference. As we give our offering today we are supporting evangelism in Alberta as well as the appropriations to the church and school building programs. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

The blessing of God will rest upon those . . . who have the cause of Christ at heart. **The freewill offerings of our brethren and sisters, made in faith and love to the crucified Redeemer, will bring back blessings to them;** for God marks and remembers every act of liberality on the part of His saints. **In preparing a house of worship, there must be a great exercise of faith and trust in God.** In business transactions those who venture nothing make but little advancement; **why not have faith also in an enterprise for God and invest in His cause?** (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 76-77)

Today's offering is for church budget. Each week we see evidence of our support of our church in the form of warm, clean, and attractive surroundings. Some expenses, such as electricity, gas, and water, are easy to see, but many are not so obvious. SS study guides, property insurance, church school operating expenses, children's magazines, teaching supplies, cleaning services, worthy student fund, staff salaries, church bulletins- these are but a few of the costs that must be met month after month.

Thank you for your systematic support of a suggested 3-5% of your income for our Church Family Budget.

Let us pray.



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April 10, 2010

ffertory Reading for . . .

North American Division

World Budget

World Budget Offering Featuring:
Canadian Christian Record Services for the Blind

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2-3% of income)

Would you do something for me? Would you please close your eyes and keep them closed while I tell you about Christian Record Services for the Blind?

Just imagine how you would learn about Jesus and find hope in Him if you could not see . . . **not** by reading a magazine or book or even a Bible in regular print . . . **not** by reading a handbill or seeing a billboard about an evangelistic series . . . **not** by picking up an enrollment card for a Bible course.

Our church is ministering to the blind and visually challenged. **We want them to see Jesus.** Because of your generosity, the ministry of Christian Record reaches out to them- with Braille, large-print, audio, and web-based books, magazines, and Bible lessons. Blind church members and many others subscribe to the Sabbath School Bible Study Guides in Braille and on cassette.

Two other outreaches touch lives in special ways. First, National Camps for Blind Children are held across North America. Secondly, Missionaries of the Blind links members like you with a blind person in the community.

You can open your eyes now to give your offering that will help God's blind children learn of His love. This is your opportunity to do something special for them. **If you want to direct your entire offering toward helping the blind see Jesus, write *CRSB* on your tithe envelope, or use the special envelope provided.**

Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

The liberality of the Jews in the construction of the tabernacle and the erection of the temple illustrates a spirit of benevolence which has not been equaled by Christians of any later date. They had just been freed from their long bondage in Egypt and were wanderers in the wilderness; yet scarcely were they delivered from the armies of the Egyptians who pursued them in their hasty journey, when the word of the Lord came to Moses. saying: Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take My offering.q

This people had small possessions and no flattering prospect of adding to them; but an object was before them--to build a tabernacle for God. The Lord had spoken, and they must obey His voice. They withheld nothing. **All gave with a willing hand**, not a certain amount of their increase, but a large portion of their actual possessions. They devoted it gladly and heartily to the Lord, and pleased Him by so doing. **Was it not all His? Had He not given them all they possessed? If He called for it, was it not their duty to give back to the Lender His own?**+ (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 77-78)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2% of income)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.+ (1 Chronicles 29:14)

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewed; and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth; lo, there thou hast that is thine.q

Thus men excuse their neglect of God's gifts. They look upon God as severe and tyrannical, as watching to spy out their mistakes and visit them with judgments. They charge Him with demanding what He has never given, with reaping where He has not sown.

There are many who in their hearts charge God with being a hard master because He claims their possessions and their service. But **we can bring to God nothing that is not already His.** All things come of Thee, said King David; and of Thine own have we given Thee.q1 Chron. 29:14. **All things are God's, not only by creation, but by redemption.** All the blessings of this life and of the life to come are delivered to us stamped with the cross of Calvary. Therefore the charge that God is a hard master, reaping where He has not sown, is false.+ (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 362)

Today **by financially supporting Alberta Advance**, let us return a portion of the gifts God has generously given us to manage. In our giving we are supporting church and school building projects, Evangelism, Youth camps, Foothills camp facilities, outreach in Yellowknife and the students in our schools throughout Alberta.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

This people had small possessions and no flattering prospect of adding to them; but an object was before them--**to build a tabernacle for God.** . . .

No urging was needed. **The people brought even more than was required,** and were told to desist, for there was already more than could be appropriated. **Again, in building the temple,** the call for means met with a hearty response.

The people did not give reluctantly. **They rejoiced in the prospect of a building being erected for the worship of God, and donated more than enough for the purpose.** David blessed the Lord before all the congregation, and said: ~~But~~ who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Again in his prayer David gave thanks in these words: ~~O~~ Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build Thee an house for Thine holy name cometh of Thine hand, and is all Thine own. q

David well understood from whom came all his bounties. Would that those of this day who rejoice in a Saviour's love could realize that their silver and gold are the Lord's and should be used to promote His glory, not grudgingly retained to enrich and gratify themselves. **He has an indisputable right to all that He has lent His creatures. All that they possess is His.**+ (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 78)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.



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May 8, 2010

ffertory Reading for . . .

North American Division

World Budget

World Budget Offering Featuring:
ADRA Disaster and Famine Relief Offering
(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2-3% of income)

ADRA Canada, along with the world-wide ADRA network, serves communities in more than a hundred countries. ADRA (the Adventist Development and Relief Agency) improves life for over 20 million people every year.

The sad reality is that millions of people around the world live in areas prone to drought, flooding, other natural disasters and continuous conflict. Since its beginnings as a denomination, Seventh-day Adventist members have been concerned about people suffering from these tragedies. And for more than twenty years Canadians have generously supported ADRA Canada to ensure that people caught by emergencies of all kinds receive prompt and appropriate help.

ADRA projects also help to reduce the vulnerability of communities by providing long-term solutions and training, not just handouts.

Discover more at www.adra.ca. **Thank you for your help. *Personal Giving Plan* participants mark “World Budget” on your envelope.**

Let’s pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

There are high and holy objects that require means, and money thus invested will yield to the giver more elevated and permanent enjoyment than if it were expended in personal gratification or selfishly hoarded for greed of gain. **When God calls for our treasure**, whatever the amount may be, **the willing response makes the gift a consecrated offering to Him** and lays up for the giver a treasure in heaven that moth cannot corrupt, that fire cannot consume, nor thieves break in and steal. **The investment is safe.** . . .

Can Christians, who boast of a broader light than had the Hebrews, give less than they? **Can Christians living near the close of time be satisfied with their offerings** when not half so large as were those of the Jews? Their liberality was to benefit their own nation; **the work in these last days extends to the entire world.** . . .

It is written . . . He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked. Let us inquire: **What would our Saviour have done in our circumstances?** what would have been His efforts for the salvation of souls? This question is answered by the example of Christ. **He left His royalty, laid aside His glory, sacrificed His riches, and clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might reach men where they were.** His example shows that He laid down His life for sinners.+ (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 78-79)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.



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May 22, 2010

ffertory Reading for . . .

Alberta Advance

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2% of income)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You. (1 Chronicles 29:14)

“How can we better show our appreciation of God's sacrifice, His great donation to our world, than by sending forth gifts and offerings, with praise and thanksgiving from our lips, because of the great love wherewith He has loved us and drawn us to Himself?”

Looking up to heaven in supplication, **present yourselves to God as His servants, and all that you have as His**, saying: Lord, of Thine own we freely give Thee. Standing in view of the cross of Calvary and the Son of the infinite God crucified for you, realizing that matchless love, that wonderful display of grace, let your earnest inquiry be: Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? He has told you: Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15.

“When you see souls in the kingdom of God saved through your gifts and your service, will not you rejoice that you had the privilege of doing this work?” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 480)

Today we have an opportunity to personally show our appreciation to God for His love and sacrifice to the world. We can give gifts of offerings for programs to spread the gospel right here in our local conference. Part of our giving supports Evangelism, our Mamawi Atosketan Native School and the work in Yellowknife. Let us show God that we love Him as we give our offerings this morning.

Let us pray.

GC Session Project: Silk Road 10-40 Window

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2%-3% of income)

For many decades a special offering has been promoted in connection with the General Conference Session, which is held every five years. These offerings are always evangelistic in nature and in recent years have been for **Hands Across the World**, **The 10-40 Window**, and **Hope for the Big Cities**.

The offering for this year's session is named, **The 10-40 Window— Salvation on the Ancient Silk Road**. The Silk Road was an important ancient trading route from about 100 B.C. until the 15th century, beginning in northern China and running westward as far as the Mediterranean Sea. It was named for the Chinese cloth that was traded abundantly along the route.

Instead of Chinese silk, porcelain, and other commodities, we wish to focus on providing the gospel to the millions of Islamic, Buddhist, and other peoples who inhabit that area and need to know Jesus. Very few Christians live in this vast area. But it is included among the **every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people** to whom the everlasting gospel must be preached.

Appeal

You can have a part in this challenging outreach by participating in our offering today.

Prayer



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June 9, 2010

ffertory Reading for . . .

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

Satan told Eve that a high state of felicity could be gained through the gratification of unlicensed appetite, but **the promise of God to man is through denial of self**. When upon the shameful cross Christ was suffering in agony for man's redemption, human nature was exalted. Only by the cross can the human family be elevated to connect with heaven. Self-denial and crosses meet us at every step on our heavenward journey.

The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven; the spirit of selfishness is the spirit of Satan. **Christ's self-sacrificing love is revealed upon the cross. He gave all He had, and then gave Himself**, that man might be saved. **The cross of Christ appeals to the benevolence of every follower of the blessed Saviour. The principle there illustrated is to give, give. This, carried out in actual benevolence and good works, is the true fruit of the Christian life.** The principle of worldlings is to get, get, and thus they expect to secure happiness; but, carried out in all its bearings, the fruit is misery and death.+ (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 79-80)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.



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June 12, 2018

Offering Reading for . . .

North American Division

World Budget

World Budget Offering Featuring:
Canadian French Work
(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2-3% of income)

Canada has two official languages: English and French. Most of the French population live in Quebec. History tells us that the Quebecois have become disillusioned with organized religion and are indifferent to the Present Truth. Our challenge is to reach 6.5 million of French-speaking Quebecois in la Belle Province one at a time.

Two Bible workers are planting a church in Chicoutimi and 15 people attend regularly. Another company has about 60 worshipers every Sabbath. Our most valuable evangelistic tool is the Il Est Écrit TV program. We receive hundreds of letters from seekers who have been blessed by it and ask for prayer, a visit and a Bible study. It warms our hearts to see that all over the province, new members have been baptized as a result of this telecast.

We wish to develop a strong SDA presence in Laval, one of the largest cities of Quebec. One evangelist and two Bible workers devote their time to the Caleb project, and we hope to double our membership there.

Today's offering for the World Budget will help us to provide French materials for our members and organize more outreach events.

Thank you for your generous support. Personal giving plan participants please mark World Budget on your envelope.

Let's Pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. Selfishness is a soul-destroying sin. Under this head comes covetousness, which is idolatry. **All things belong to God. All the prosperity we enjoy is the result of divine beneficence. God is the great and bountiful giver.** If He requires any portion of the liberal supply He has given us, it is not that He may be enriched by our gifts, for **He needs nothing from our hand; but it is that we may have an opportunity to exercise self-denial, love, and sympathy for our fellow men, and thus become highly exalted.** In every dispensation, from Adam's time to ours, God has claimed the property of man, saying: I am the rightful owner of the universe; therefore consecrate to Me thy first fruits, bring a tribute of loyalty, surrender to Me My own, thus acknowledging My sovereignty, and you shall be free to retain and enjoy My bounties, and My blessing shall be with you. Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 476-477)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.



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June 28, 2010

Library Reading for . . .

Alberta Advance

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2% of income)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.+ (1 Chronicles 29:14)

The Lord does not need our offerings. We cannot enrich Him by our gifts. Says the psalmist: All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Yet **God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God. He has provided no other.**+ (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 18)

Our local conference is a sisterhood of churches that helps each congregation to accomplish important objectives that are beyond the reach of any one church. The Conference Advance offering addresses specific needs in the conference that can only be met with non tithe funds.

One of the largest portions goes to fund Christian education- elementary, academy, etc. Another substantial part is set aside for the outreach that happens at Foothills Camp. This includes child and youth evangelism programs that happen at our summer camps. Evangelism and church building projects also benefit from this offering. **All these programs are possible because members choose to contribute a suggested 2% of their income to the Alberta Advance offering.**

Thank you for your support. Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

%The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

%God's requirements come first. We are not doing His will if we consecrate to Him what is left of our income after all our imaginary wants have been supplied. . . In the old dispensation **an offering of gratitude was kept continually burning upon the altar, thus showing man's endless obligation to God. If we have prosperity in our secular business, it is because God blesses us. A part of this income is to be devoted to the poor, and a large portion to be applied to the cause of God. When that which God claims is rendered to Him, the remainder will be sanctified and blessed to our own use. . .**

%**God has made men the channels through which His gifts are to flow to sustain the work which He would have carried forward in the world. He has given them property to be wisely used. . . He has entrusted them with means with which to support His servants in their labor as preachers and missionaries, and to sustain the institutions He has established among us. Those who rejoice in the precious light of truth should feel a burning desire to have it sent everywhere.+ (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, p. 477)**

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.

(Suggested Offering: As the Holy Spirit impresses)

Today the North American Division (NAD) offering will be for Women's Ministries. Since its inception, the Women's Ministries Department has been engaged in carrying out the mission of the Church, which is to proclaim to all peoples the everlasting gospel. Last year the women of North America baptized over 4,500 people as a direct result of evangelistic efforts.

When Jesus explained what separates the sheep from the goats in Matthew 25:31-46, He made it clear that ministry to others is a primary characteristic of Christian believers. With the theme, "Ministry for Every Woman," the North American Division Women's Ministries Department actively encourages every woman in the Church to be involved in some kind of ministry or service. In the home, in the church, and in the community, there is work that can best be carried out by women. According to Ellen G. White, "They [women] can come close to the hearts of those whom men cannot reach. Their labor is needed" (*Evangelism*, p. 465).

With your gift, you will affirm the work of women in the Church.

NOTE: Be sure to mark your tithe envelope **NAD Women's Ministries Offering.**

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)

The system of tithes and offerings was intended to impress the minds of men with a great truth--that **God is the source of every blessing to His creatures, and that to Him man's gratitude is due for the good gifts of His providence.**

"He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." Acts 17:25. The Lord declares, **Every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.** Psalm 50:10. **The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine.** Haggai 2:8. **And it is God who gives men power to get wealth.** Deuteronomy 8:18. **As an acknowledgment that all things came from Him, the Lord directed that a portion of His bounty should be returned to Him in gifts and offerings to sustain His worship.**

The tithe was to be exclusively devoted to the use of the Levites, the tribe that had been set apart for the service of the sanctuary. But this was by no means the limit of the contributions for religious purposes. **The tabernacle, as afterward the temple, was erected wholly by freewill offerings; and to provide for necessary repairs and other expenses, Moses directed that as often as the people were numbered, each should contribute a half shekel for "the service of the tabernacle."** In the time of Nehemiah a contribution was made yearly for this purpose.+ (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 525-526)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2% of income)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.+ (1 Chronicles 29:14)


God's people should practice strict economy in their outlay of means, that they may have something to bring to Him, saying, Of Thine own have we given Thee. Thus they are to **offer God thanksgiving for the blessings received from Him**. Thus, too, they are to lay up for themselves treasure beside the throne of God

Willingly and cheerfully Christ gave Himself to the carrying out of the will of God. He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Shall we feel it a hardship to deny ourselves? Shall we draw back from being partakers of His sufferings? His death ought to stir every fiber of the being, making us willing to consecrate to His work all that we have and are. As we think of what He has done for us, our hearts should be filled with love.

When those who know the truth practice the self-denial enjoined in God's word, the message will go with power. The Lord will hear our prayers for the conversion of souls. God's people will let their light shine forth, and unbelievers, seeing their good works, will glorify our heavenly Father. Let us relate ourselves to God in self-sacrificing obedience.+ (*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 301-302)

Thank you for giving to Alberta Advance for the conversion of souls. Your offering touches many lives throughout the year in our schools, at Foothills camp and the youth of Alberta. Pray that the message will go with power as you give this morning.

Let us pray.



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Library Reading for . . .

July 31, 2010

Canadian University College

World Budget Offering Featuring:
Canadian University College

Canadian University College (CUC) is our Seventh-day Adventist University, offering over 20 fully accredited undergraduate degree, diploma, and certificate programs plus pre professional and other transfer credit.

Most students come from our Adventist family across Canada and the United States, which results in a rich harmonious blend of students truly representative of our church in Canada and North America. As part of CUC's mission to spread the teachings of Jesus, all students who are interested in living and studying in a traditional Adventist context are welcome to apply.

With an enrolment nearing 400 students and a low student teacher ratio averaging 10 -1, students really get to know faculty, staff and each other in a warm family like atmosphere. CUC strives for excellence and has a lengthy list of supportive and successful alumni, many of who have been and currently are church and school leaders around the world.

Canadian University College strives to be the school of choice for students across Canada and beyond who desire a quality Christian education in an environment that values individual achievement, as well as a sense of mission and purpose based on the principles taught by Jesus Christ. Thank you for your support today and in the future.

Let's Pray.



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Offering Reading for . . .

August 7, 2010

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

**For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)**

The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes **amounted to fully one fourth of their income.** So heavy a tax upon the resources of the people might be expected to reduce them to poverty; but, on the contrary, **the faithful observance of these regulations was one of the conditions of their prosperity. On condition of their obedience God made them this promise: 'I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field. . . . And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts.'**
Malachi 3:11. *(Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 527)*

Today's offering is for church budget. Each week we see evidence of our support of our church in the form of warm, clean, and attractive surroundings. Some expenses, such as electricity, gas, and water, are easy to see, but many are not so obvious. SS study guides, property insurance, church school operating expenses, children's magazines, teaching supplies, cleaning services, worthy student fund, staff salaries, church bulletins- these are but a few of the costs that must be met month after month.

Thank you for your systematic support of a suggested 3-5% of your income for our Church Family Budget.

Let us pray.

World Budget Offering Featuring:
Andrews & Loma Linda Universities

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2%-3% of income)

Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, noted medical educator, wrote that starting a medical school at Loma Linda was %a thing which at this day and age is as impossible as to build a railway to the moon. Even if the thing could be accomplished after a fashion for a short time, its life must necessarily be limited for the profession will not tolerate a medical school with such a strong sectarian coloring as this school must have.+He **predicted, “The future of the Loma Linda medical school is absolutely hopeless.** The medical profession will not tolerate such a thing as a medical college under sectarian controlõ . I am as certain as I am alive that the Loma Linda sanitarium will never get any higher recognition than it gets nowõ I õ would hesitate to ask poor men and women õ to invest their hard earnings in an enterprise that has no future.+

He was wrong and since then, **nearly 10,000 physicians have graduated from LLU, with the 100th class graduating this year.**

Loma Linda University and Andrews University will benefit from today's offering as part of the World Budget. **Because of God's leading and rich blessing,** these schools **have miraculous histories.**

Thank you for your support of Adventist higher education.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)

A striking illustration of the results of selfishly withholding even freewill offerings from the cause of God was given in the days of the prophet Haggai. After their return from the captivity in Babylon, the Jews undertook to rebuild the temple of the Lord; but meeting determined opposition from their enemies, **they discontinued the work**; and a severe drought, by which they were reduced to actual want, convinced them that it was impossible to complete the building of the temple. . . **But a message was sent them by the Lord's prophet: 'Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?** Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages, earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.qHaggai 1:2-6. And then the reason is given: **Because of Mine house that is waste**, and ye run every man unto his own house.qVerse 9. . . **Roused by these warnings, the people set themselves to build the house of God. Then the word of the Lord came to them: 'From this day will I bless you.qVerse 19.+ (Patriarchs and Prophets, pp, 527-528)**

Today's offering is for church budget. Thank you for your systematic support of a suggested 3-5% of your income for our Church Family Budget.

Let us pray.



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August 28, 2010

ffertory Reading for . . .

Alberta Advance

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2% of income)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.+ (1 Chronicles 29:14)

With deepest interest the king [David] had gathered the rich material for building and beautifying the temple. Now his heart was made glad in God, as the chief of the fathers and the princes of Israel so nobly responded to his appeal. As they gave their service, they were disposed to do more. They swelled the offerings, giving of their own possessions into the treasury. The expression of loyalty in the ready response of the nobles of his kingdom . . . filled him with joy. **But it was God alone who had imparted this disposition to His people... It was He who had provided the people with the riches of earth, and His Spirit had made them willing to bring their precious things for the temple** if His love had not moved upon the hearts of the people, the king's efforts would have been vain, and the temple would never have been erected.

All that man receives of God's bounty still belongs to God. Whatever God has bestowed in the valuable and beautiful things of earth is placed in the hands of men to test them--to sound the depths of their love for Him and their appreciation of His favors. Whether it be the treasures of wealth or of intellect, they are to be laid, a willing offering, at the feet of Jesus; the giver saying, meanwhile, with David, **All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.** (Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 752-753)

Thank you for your willing support of the Conference Advance offering. This offering is used in Alberta to touch the lives of our students in K to 12 as well as all those who benefit from the use of Foothills Camp, including those who were at the youth summer camps this summer. May the Lord bless this offering as it touches lives here in Alberta.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth (Deut. 8:18)

God also entrusts men with means. He gives them power to get wealth. He waters the earth with the dews of heaven and with the showers of refreshing rain. He gives the sunlight, which warms the earth, awakening to life the things of nature and causing them to flourish and bear fruit. And He asks for a return of His own.

Our money has not been given us that we might honor and glorify ourselves. As faithful stewards we are to use it for the honor and glory of God. Some think that only a portion of their means is the Lord's. When they have set apart a portion for religious and charitable purposes, they regard the remainder as their own, to be used as they see fit. But in this they mistake. **All we possess is the Lord's, and we are accountable to Him for the use we make of it. In the use of every penny, it will be seen whether we love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves.**

Money has great value, because it can do great good. In the hands of God's children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. It is a defense for the oppressed, and a means of help to the sick. **But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the necessities of life, in blessing others, and advancing the cause of Christ.** *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 351.

Let us remember Who gives us power to get wealth . . . and why.

Today's offering is for our Church Family Budget.

Let us pray.



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September 11, 2010

ffertory Reading for . . .

World Budget

World Budget Offering Featuring:
**Fall Mission Appeal
Unusual Opportunities**

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2-3% of income)

Surprises happen every day all around the world. God opens doors, minds, and hearts. And suddenly, exciting opportunities exist for missions that were impossible before!

Today's World Mission Offering for Unusual Opportunities will give us the ability to respond quickly when God leads. Your gift may be used to send missionaries to a just opened area where no one knows about God.

Perhaps it will build a school to train young people to be Bible workers where such schools were not allowed before. Or it may print Bibles or literature for people who have never before studied the Scriptures in their own language.

However the offering is used, it will bring hope to millions who may have never heard about the Carpenter who died because He loves them and is coming soon to take them home.

Thank you for your generous support.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)

The system of tithes and offerings was intended to impress the minds of men with a **great truth** that God is the source of every blessing to His creatures, and that to Him man's gratitude is due for the good gifts of His providence.

He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things. Acts 17:25. The Lord declares, Every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. Psalm 50:10. The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine. Haggai 2:8. And it is God who gives men power to get wealth. Deuteronomy 8:18. **As an acknowledgment that all things came from Him**, the Lord directed that a portion of His bounty should be returned to Him in gifts and offerings to sustain His worship.+ *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 525.

To sustain His worship here in our community, our church has constant financial obligations to meet. Because of these expenses, *The Personal Giving Plan* recommends **3-5% of each member's income be set aside for the Church Family Budget**. Today we thank you for your systematic financial support of our church budget, so we can continue to present a warm, welcoming, clean, and attractive light here in our community.

Let us pray.

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2% of income)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.+ (1 Chronicles 29:14)

The Lord requires that we return to Him in tithes and offerings a portion of the goods He has lent us. **He accepts these offerings as an act of humble obedience on our part and a grateful acknowledgment of our indebtedness to Him for all the blessings we enjoy. Then let us offer willingly**

When the people of God were about to build the sanctuary in the wilderness, extensive preparations were necessary. Costly materials were collected, and among them was much gold and silver. **As the rightful owner of all their treasures, the Lord called for these offerings from the people; but He accepted only those that were given freely.** The people offered willingly, until word was brought to Moses: ¶The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work. qAnd the proclamation was made to all the congregation: †Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient. and too much.q

the sanctuary was not designed to honor man, but the God of heaven. The people were to be taught that He was a being of greatness and majesty, and that He was to be worshiped with reverence and awe.+ (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 267-269)

Let us give willingly of the goods the great and majestic God of heaven has lent us. Your offering to Alberta Advance will touch lives in a way that returning your tithe can not. A portion of your Alberta Advance will go to assist in the construction of new church and school buildings and renovations, in the upkeep of Foothills camp and the facilities at Yellowknife. Thank you for your support of your facilities throughout Alberta.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)

The tithe was to be exclusively devoted to the use of the Levites, the tribe that had been set apart for the service of the sanctuary. But this was by no means the limit of the contributions for religious purposes. **The tabernacle**, as afterward the **temple**, was **erected wholly by freewill offerings; and to provide for necessary repairs and other expenses**, Moses directed that as often as the people were numbered, each should contribute a half shekel for "the service of the tabernacle." In the time of Nehemiah a contribution was made yearly for this purpose. See Exodus 30:12-16; 2 Kings 12:4, 5; 2 Chronicles 24:4-13; Nehemiah 10:32, 33. From time to time sin offerings and thank offerings were brought to God. These were presented in great numbers at the annual feasts. **And the most liberal provision was made for the poor+** (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 526).

And Jehoash said to the priests, ~~±~~All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD· each man's census money, each man's assessment money· and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD, let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found· (2 Kings 12:4, 5).

Today let us again "provide for necessary repairs and other expenses" of our local church by giving to the church budget.

Let us pray.

World Budget Offering Featuring:
Canadian Voice of Prophecy

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2%-3% of income)

After **Hazel Knoll's** youngest son died suddenly on Christmas Day, she **had to know**, "Where was little Stephen? What had happened to him?" She had many sleepless nights.

Her lifeline was the Voice of Prophecy Bible Course she had just begun. Her instructor helped her understand the Bible's teaching about death. Before long, **Hazel and her five other boys were all baptized into the faith that provided answers** in their darkest hour.

The results of one Bible course were **just beginning**. Hazel's **five sons are all active members of the church**. They have married and raised families in the faith. Now **a third generation**, Hazel Knoll's great-grandkids, are **growing up in the church** that she discovered a half century ago while filling out VOP Bible lessons.

Your offering for Voice of Prophecy is an investment. The Lord can use one gift, one letter, one answer to bear fruit **for decades to come**.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)

Even before the tithe could be reserved there had been an acknowledgment of the claims of God. The first of every product of the land was consecrated to Him. The first of the wool when the sheep were shorn, of the grain when the wheat was threshed, the first of the oil and the wine, was set apart for God. So also were the first-born of all animals; and a redemption price was paid for the first-born son. The first fruits were to be presented before the Lord at the sanctuary, and were then devoted to the use of the priests.

Thus the people were constantly reminded that God was the true proprietor of their fields, their flocks, and their herds; that He sent them sunshine and rain for their seedtime and harvest, and that everything they possessed was of His creation, and He had made them stewards of His goods.

As the men of Israel, laden with the first fruits of field and orchard and vineyard, gathered at the tabernacle, there was made a public acknowledgment of God's goodness. When the priest accepted the gift, the offerer . . . described the sojourn in Egypt and the affliction from which God had delivered Israel with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders. And he said, He hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey. And now, behold, I have brought the first fruits of the land, which Thou, Jehovah, hast given me. Deuteronomy 26:5, 8-11+ (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 526-527).

Let us avow God's goodness with liberal offerings.

Let us pray.



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October 23, 2010

ffterory Reading for . . .

Alberta Advance

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2% of income)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.+ (1 Chronicles 29:14)

All that you have and are belongs to God. Then will you not say from the heart: All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee? Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase. Paul thus exhorts his Corinthian brethren to Christian beneficence: As ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. In his epistle to Timothy he says: Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Liberality is not so natural to us that we gain this virtue by accident. It **must be cultivated**— This is too sacred a duty to be left to chance or to be controlled by impulse or feeling. **We should regularly reserve something for God's cause**, that He may not be robbed of the portion which He claims— If we live so that we can have the blessing of God we shall have His prospering hand with us in our temporal affairs— + (*Testimonies for the Church*, pp. 271-272)

May God bless you with prosperity as you give an offering for Alberta Advance. Remember that your offering touches many student lives in Alberta including those who yearly receive worthy student funds.

Let us pray.

October 30, 2010

Union Conference

Canadian Native Ministries

The Word of God, the Creator's Word, tells us that one day, people from every tribe and nation will live with the Creator in a new heaven and a new earth.

When this happens, the Creator's way of living, the Jesus Way, will never be broken again. He will live with His people and walk with them as He did in the beginning. To share in this, we must be followers of the Son of God, Jesus.

After the death of Jesus on the Cross, He rose from the dead with power and glory. Now the Jesus Way of truth and life can be our way, too. When we follow the Jesus Way, we are finding our home with the Creator.


Last year the *Terrace All Nations Centre* began a new chapter in its history and hope. A previously rented building in Terrace, B.C., was purchased to be the home of this outreach ministry to the First Nations people of the Skeena River Valley of northwest BC.

The vision is that of a community service centre and worship centre with the mission of meeting the needs of the First Nations People of Terrace and the many villages in the region.

God is using the *Terrace All Nations Centre* team to reach out to the many First Nations People in this part of Canada with the saving grace of Jesus.

Your prayers and offerings for Canadian Native Ministries will greatly help in this and other outreaches to our First Nations People.

Let Us Pray.



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November 8, 2010

ffertory Reading for . . .

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
 (Psalm 50:10)

The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes **amounted to fully one fourth of their income**. So heavy a tax upon the resources of the people might be expected to reduce them to poverty; but, on the contrary, **the faithful observance of these regulations was one of the conditions of their prosperity. On condition of their obedience God made them this promise: I will rebuke the devourer** for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field. . . . And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:11.

A striking illustration of the results of selfishly withholding even freewill offerings from the cause of God was given in the days of the prophet Haggai [see chapters 1, 2]. After their return from the captivity in Babylon, the Jews undertook to rebuild the temple of the Lord; but meeting determined opposition from their enemies, they discontinued the work; and a severe drought, by which they were reduced to actual want, convinced them that it was impossible to complete the building of the temple. . . . But a message was sent them by the Lord's prophet: **Is it time for you . . . to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways** (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 527).

May the Lord “rebuke the devourer” as we return our tithe and bring an offering to His house today is my prayer.

Let us pray.

World Budget Offering Featuring:
Annual Sacrifice Offering
Global Mission

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 2-3% of income)

Every day we are bombarded by bad news. But **we have a special hope. We know** that a loving God wins in the end. **We know** that sadness, death, and pain will be history. **But what about the millions who don't know?** What about those who live in fear and despair?

Did you know that **there are more than two-dozen countries or regions of the world where there isn't a single Adventist church** for people to hear God's end-time message? Did you know that there are still millions who have never even heard of His love?

The challenge is huge. But God's power and grace are bigger! His commission to reach every kindred, tongue, and people is a promise that if we let Him, He will use us to do more than we could ever imagine.

Today's offering will help Global Mission carry the gospel to the unreached people and areas of the world. **Every penny will be used to help start new groups of believers.**

Your offering today will bring hope to someone in need. **It will share the best news ever** with those living in a bad-news world.

Thank you for your generous support of Global Mission.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)

Says the wise man, There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. Proverbs 11:24. And the same lesson is taught in the New Testament by the apostle Paul: He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8.

God intended that His people Israel should be light bearers to all the inhabitants of the earth. In maintaining His public worship they were bearing a testimony to the existence and sovereignty of the living God. And this worship it was their privilege to sustain, as an expression of their loyalty and their love to Him. The Lord has ordained that the diffusion of light and truth in the earth shall be dependent upon the efforts and offerings of those who are partakers of the heavenly gift. He might have made angels the ambassadors of His truth; He might have made known His will, as He proclaimed the law from Sinai, with His own voice; but in His infinite love and wisdom He called men to become colaborers with Himself, by choosing them to do this work+ (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p.528).

Praise the Lord for choosing us to be His ambassadors to show our loyalty and love to Him by financing public worship of the living God.

Today's offering is for our Church Family Budget.

Let us pray.

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2% of income)

%But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.+ (1 Chronicles 29:14)

%**Men are not naturally inclined to be benevolent**, but toõ live for self. And Satan isõ glad when he can influence them to shirk duty and rob God in tithes and offerings. But not one is excused in this matter. ±Let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.qThe poor and the rich, the young men and the young women who earn wages- all are to lay by a portionõ The spiritual prosperity of every member of the church depends on personal effort and strict fidelity to God. Says the apostle Paul: ±Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good worksõ q**All are required to show a deep interest in the cause of God in its various branches...**

%All should feel that they are not proprietors, but stewards, and that the time is coming when they must give an account for the use they have made of their Lord's money. Means will be needed in the cause of Godõ **Schools are to be established** in various placesõ nowõ is your opportunity. We are standingõ on the borders of the eternal world. We are looking for the glorious appearing of our Lordõ When we realize the greatness of the plan of redemption we shall be far moreõ self-sacrificingõ than we now are.+(*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, 382)

Please continue to support Christian education in all the schools in Alberta through your offering to Alberta Advance. Thank you.

Let us pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.+
(Psalm 50:10)

In the days of Israel the tithe and freewill offerings were needed to maintain the ordinances of divine service. Should the people of God give less in this age? **The principle laid down by Christ is that our offerings to God should be in proportion to the light and privileges enjoyed.** Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required. Luke 12:48. Said the Saviour to His disciples as He sent them forth, **Freely ye have received, freely give.** Matthew 10:8. **As our blessings and privileges are increased—above all, as we have before us the unparalleled sacrifice of the glorious Son of God—should not our gratitude find expression in more abundant gifts to extend to others the message of salvation?** The work of the gospel, as it widens, requires greater provision to sustain it than was called for anciently; and this makes the law of tithes and offerings of even more urgent necessity now than under the Hebrew economy. . . .

God has made men His stewards. The property which He has placed in their hands is the means that He has provided for the spread of the gospel. To those who prove themselves faithful stewards He will commit greater trusts, Saith the Lord, **Them that honor Me I will honor.** 1 Samuel 2:30. **God loveth a cheerful giver,** and when His people, with grateful hearts, bring their gifts and offerings to Him, **not grudgingly, or of necessity,** **His blessing will attend them, as He has promised** (Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 528, 529).

Let us pray.

World Budget Offering Featuring:
Canadian Inner City Ministries

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2-3% of income)

Canadian Inner City Ministries is one of the 17 ministries and institutions that will benefit from today's World Budget Offering.

The ADRA Canada Inner City Program provides vital help to individuals and families who are unemployed, working-poor, uninsured or disadvantaged in poverty-stricken and urban areas here in Canada. This is part of the ADRA Canada ministry. **Your Church is not ignoring the needs of the poor.**

The program offers relief services as well as promoting individual and community development; equipping people with skills for self-sufficiency; and partnering with other agencies and volunteers.

Volunteers funded and trained by ADRA Canada go into neighbourhoods, get acquainted with people, and nurture their hope, self-value and ability to succeed. **Thank you** for your help by systematically giving 2-3% of income to the World Budget Offering every payday. ***Personal Giving Plan*** participants mark "World Budget" on your envelope.

Let's Pray.

Church Family Budget

(Personal Giving Plan suggests 3%-5% of income)

The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.+ (Psalm 24:1)

In the Jewish system it was required that beneficence should first be shown to the Lord. At the harvest and the vintage the first fruits of the field. . . were to be consecrated as an offering to the Lord. **The gleanings and the corners of the fields were reserved for the poor.** Our gracious heavenly Father did not neglect the wants of the poor. The first fruits of the wool when the sheep were shorn, of the grain when the wheat was threshed, were to be offered to the Lord; and it was commanded that **the poor, the widows, the orphans, and the strangers, be invited to their feasts. At the close of every year all were required to make solemn oath whether or not they had done according to the command of God.**

This arrangement was made by the Lord to impress upon the people that in every matter He must be first. **By this system of benevolence they were to bear in mind that their gracious Master was the true proprietor of their fields, their flocks, and their herds; that the God of heaven sent them sunshine and rain for their seedtime and harvest, and that everything they possessed was of His creation. All was the Lord's, and He had made them stewards of His goods.**+ (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 77)

Today's offering is for our church budget. Thank you for your support.

Let us pray.

(**Personal Giving Plan** suggests 2% of income)

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You.+ (1 Chronicles 29:14)

None of us can do without the blessing of God, but God can do His work without the aid of man if He so choose. But He has given to every man his work, and **He trusts men with treasures of wealth** or of intellect, as His stewards. Whatever we render to God is, through His mercy and generosity, placed to our account as faithful stewards. But we should ever realize that this is not a work of merit on man's part. **However great the ability of man, he possesses nothing which God did not give him**, and which He cannot withdraw if these precious tokens of His favor are not appreciated and rightly applied. **Angels of God**, whose perceptions are unclouded by sin, **recognize the endowments of heaven as bestowed with the intention that they be returned in such a way as to add to the glory of the great Giver**. With the sovereignty of God is bound up the well-being of man. The glory of God is the joy and the blessing of all created beings. When we seek to promote His glory we are seeking for ourselves the highest good which it is possible for us to receive. **God calls for the consecration to His service of... every gift, you have received from Him** + (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 736-737)

As we bring our gifts to Jesus this morning for Alberta Advance remember all the lives your gift has touched this year. The students of Alberta thank you for what you have done for them this year through the Alberta Advance. The people who have been to Foothills Camp thank you.

With angels on high, let us give glory to the greatest Gift Giver of all by consecrating to His service every blessing we have received from Him. Glory to God in the highest . . .