

Offering Readings 2014

January 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

As this New Year begins, we are eager to see God's work receive the financial support it deserves and needs.

The local church needs to be adequately funded. It is vital to remind your church members of the various needs and projects that continually support the church.

The local conference, as well as the worldwide church, are continually involved in various endeavors to introduce others to Christ. There are amazing opportunities to reach people at home and in foreign countries, and we should do all we can to help our members support this worldwide effort.

Following are some suggestions on how to achieve this goal:

1. The offertory readings have been developed to help church members be faithful in "returning" their tithe and in "giving" generous offerings. They are also intended to remind the church that giving is an act of worship.
2. These readings are intended to inform the church members as to how God's work functions financially in the local church and abroad.
3. The offertory readings should be assigned in advance. The presenter is encouraged to give some prayerful thought as to what should be said in calling for the offering.
4. It is often true that people in the congregation follow the example of the one making the offering appeal. Our positive words can impact others to give.

Thank you for giving prayerful consideration to these suggestions. Let's determine to do what we can to make 2014 a financially successful year for God's work, locally and abroad.

The distribution of the World Budget offerings collected in Canada are shown on page 57 of this document.

January 4, 2014

Today's offering –Church Family Budget

A blind Indian beggar wearing only a loin cloth sat beside a road, eating the rice in his little bowl. A few travelers occasionally gave him a little rice. One day he heard the thunder of a chariot in the distance. It was the grand entourage of the great king. Surely he would stop to give him baskets of rice.

Indeed, the golden chariot stopped before the beggar. The great one stepped down, and the beggar fell before him. "Give me your rice," said the great king.

A fearful, hateful, scowl masked the face of the beggar. He reached into his bowl and thrust one grain of rice toward the king. "Is that all?" said the great one. The beggar spat on the ground, cursed, and threw him one more grain of rice. Then the great one turned, entered his chariot, and left.

The beggar—angry, empty, and crushed—grabbed for the remaining rice he had hoarded in his bowl. Yet he felt something different. He pulled it out. It was one grain of gold. Pouring out his rice, he found another grain of gold. Had he trusted the great one, he could have received a grain of gold for every grain of rice he had.

Galatians 6:7 says, "For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (NKJV). When we give our offerings today, let's remember to treat God as we would like Him to treat us.

Let's determine to cultivate a loving and generous spirit this New Year. We can make 2014 an exceptional financial year, here in our local church and worldwide.

January 11, 2014

Today's offering – Alberta Advance

The Alberta Conference is actively involved in supporting local churches and the Alberta Conference membership as a whole. Currently the Alberta Advance offering enables the conference to assist local church projects, youth camps, church schools, CUC, PAA, worthy students and Foothills Camp. As a result we have witnessed stronger congregations and have had many members share with us the blessings they have received in their lives.

Thank you for your support and ministry to the Alberta Conference.

January 18, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

Henry Ward Beecher once said, “There never was a person who did anything worth doing who did not receive more than he gave.” This concept of unselfish giving may seem unrealistic, but it has been shown again and again that there is a blessing to those who give generously.

Notice what Solomon says: “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself” (Proverbs 11:24, 25, NKJV). What a true and wonderful Biblical principle!

If we would but take this important principle to heart, we would actually be blessed, and God's work in this church would be supported generously. Certainly the needs of our own local church need ongoing and generous support. Thank you for giving today.

January 25, 2014

Offering: Religious Liberty / Emphasis: Liberty Magazine

“This principle we in our day are firmly to maintain. The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God’s witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. We are to receive this word as supreme authority. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God’s word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A ‘Thus saith the Lord’ is not to be set aside for a ‘Thus saith the church’ or a ‘Thus saith the state.’ The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates” (Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 68, 69).

Appeal: *Liberty* magazine is sent to thought leaders all across the North American Division. This includes the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and Guam Micronesia. As issues in society become more complex, *Liberty* seeks to give a balanced perspective that clearly presents freedom of religious liberty. Your offering today will assure that *Liberty* continues to be a vital ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Offering Readings 2014

February 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

Is love versus selfishness a critical issue to God's people preparing for His soon return? As we seek to grow more like Jesus every day, unselfishness and love certainly need to be cultivated. Notice the following quotation:

“The spirit of liberality is the spirit of heaven. . . . The principle there illustrated is to 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 and thus they expect to secure happiness; but carried out in all its bearings, the fruit is misery and death” (Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 254).

Let us remember that God wants to help us grow in these virtues. This is one of the reasons we need to cultivate generosity and faithfulness in our weekly giving.

February 1, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

Many years ago, William Allen White, a famous newspaper editor in Emporia, Kansas, once gave a 50 acre tract of land to the city for a park. At the dedication, he made a strange statement: There are “three kicks in every dollar. One kick is when you make it—and how I love to make a dollar! One is when you save it—and I have the Yankee lust for saving. The third kick is when you give it away—and the biggest kick of all is the last one.”

It seems Mr. White had discovered what Jesus taught twenty centuries earlier: “ ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’ ” (Acts 20:35, NKJV). Do you believe that? Do you want a big “kick” from practicing generosity right here in your home church? The expenses of operating this building are necessary and need your regular financial support. Thank you for your faithfulness by helping to provide for the financial needs of our congregation.

February 8, 2014

Offering: World Budget/Emphasis: It Is Written Canada

It Is Written Canada, based in Oshawa, Ontario, a ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada maintained through the sacrificial donations of our supporters, is a television and internet ministry committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ first and foremost to the people of Canada, and secondly to Portuguese speaking areas of the world through national and international television programming, Bible Prophecy Seminars, and the development of resources to support local church evangelism.

The It Is Written Canada team invite you to be partners with them to take the Adventist message of Hope to Canada and beyond.

The ministry is guided by 2 key Bible passages -

- Matthew 4:4 – “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”
- 2 Timothy 4:2 – “Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season.”

Appeal: By giving liberally today to It Is Written Canada, you help share the gospel at a time of unprecedented opportunities in communication and broadcast media.

February 15, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

In Malachi 3, God says that His people are robbing Him by not returning their tithes and offerings. He goes on to say that they will not be financially blessed by this course of action. Then He makes an amazing proposal.

“ ‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it’ ” (Malachi 3:10, NKJV).

Millions of people have taken God at His word and found that He does indeed bless those who return a faithful tithe. If you have not yet tested this promise, why not discover it for yourselves? You may be surprised to discover that God will keep His word.

February 22, 2014

Today's offering – Alberta Advance

What a joy in being able to support the work amongst unreached groups in Alberta. We are fortunate that through Alberta Advance we have heard unreached children say “I think these people really love us”.

Thank you for helping us reach out to people for our Lord Jesus Christ and being able to demonstrate HIS love towards them. You will be amazed at the number of people in heaven who will thank you for supporting the work here on earth.

Offering Readings 2014

March 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

Our church is like a team of horses. The story is told of a horse pull in Canada. One horse pulled 9,000 pounds, while another pulled 8,000. Together you would expect them to pull 17,000 pounds. Not so! When teamed together, they pulled 30,000 pounds.

This principle is called *synergism*. By definition, the simultaneous action of separate agents working together has a greater total effect than the sum of their individual efforts. More can be done in a team effort than can be accomplished solo. In order for the principle of synergism to work as it should, there has to be cooperative effort.

In order for God's work to succeed in our church and conference, we need teamwork. If everyone pulls together, it is incredible what could actually be accomplished.

Let's encourage all our members to be a part of this church team by giving their tithes and offerings so that God can bless His people in our congregation.

March 1, 2014

Today's Offering – Church Family Budget

A woman in Germany brought to her pastor an amount of money equivalent to ten dollars in U.S. money. She said, "In former years I have had to pay this amount for medicine, yet this year I have remained healthy. I want to show my gratitude to the Lord by giving this money to the church." Sometime later, the woman came to him again with five dollars, explaining that many of her neighbors had suffered damage in a windstorm, but that her farm had been spared. "I now bring to the church this donation as an offering of thanks."

The offering today is for Church Family Budget. There are various church needs and expenses on an ongoing basis. We would encourage each member to give generously and regularly to support this offering, which is the backbone of the church.

Thank you for your generosity. As we give, may we do so with loving, joyful hearts because of God's generosity and goodness toward us.

March 8, 2014

Offering: World Budget/Emphasis: Adventist World Radio

With 1.3 billion people, China is one of the church's largest mission fields. For years, Adventist World Radio has broadcasted programs in Mandarin for 10 hours a day to China. All of those programs can now be heard online.

This voice of hope is bringing news of God's love to those who need it most, such as this listener who wrote:

“The past years, I have counted on your prayers and your website to help me pass through [many] difficulties. Though we have not met, it was your prayers that led me to feel the love of the Lord, and I have felt it was the Lord helping me through you. As a single parent having a daughter with depression and suicidal inclination, I felt the sky was to collapse on me. [You] made me feel there is someone praying for me in some part of the world. The Lord has cared for my daughter time after time. May [He] bless our family as we work for Him.”

Appeal: The World Budget supports Adventist World Radio's programs that can be heard on shortwave, AM/FM, and online in nearly 100 languages. Your generous gift will keep these programs traveling to the furthest corners of the globe. Thank you for your support!

March 15, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

A sixteen-year-old boy pulled up to the curb in a shiny, new car. Soon he was surrounded by excited friends.

A little boy exclaimed, “That’s a nice car. Where did you get it?”

“My brother gave it to me,” was his reply.

“Well, that’s the kind of brother *I’d like to be!*”

Do you see anything unusual with this comment? Most people would have responded, “That’s the kind of brother I’d like to *have,*” rather than, “I’d like to *be.*”

John 3:16 points out this principle of love above selfishness: “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. . . .” (NKJV). When we are motivated by love to give and to share instead of selfishly seeking things for ourselves, we will be blessed, and God’s work will be greatly strengthened.

Today as you give to our Church Family Budget, remember the little boy who wanted to be like the brother who gave.

March 22, 2014

Today's offering – Alberta Advance

Today's offering is for Alberta Advance.

Foothills Camp is an important part of the ministry of our conference. Over the past 40 years that the camp has been in operation, many lives have been touched and many decisions have been made to follow Christ. Programs take place there year round and include our camp meeting, kids and youth camps, family camp, blind camps, church retreats, training programs and so much more. This past summer we were blessed to have the addition of the playground and petting zoo along with other important improvements.

As we know, our camp isn't getting any younger and there are things that need upgrading in order to continue the ministry there. This morning please be generous and support this important ministry.

March 29, 2014

Today's offering – Canadian University College

Located in Alberta, Canada's sunniest province, and surrounded by lakes and sweeping landscapes, Canadian University College offers an Adventist Christian atmosphere and exceptional academics. Established in 1907, CUC has a rich history and tradition with thousands of alumni worldwide. With their smaller class sizes, students not only learn but build relationships with their professors. Students are encouraged to not only THINK, but BELIEVE, and ACT. At CUC they believe in the complete university college experience. Students are provided an environment where academic, physical, and spiritual growth is encouraged. CUC has provided high quality education in an Adventist Christian atmosphere for more than 100 years, and offers more than 20 undergraduate degree programs.

Appeal: How good it is to have a Canadian Adventist school of higher learning. The only reason we have it is because of the continued faithfulness of people like you. Thank you so much for investing in the education of our Canadian students in Canada. Those who attend school in Canada are more likely to stay living in Canada and helping to build this Country and Church. At CUC there is a place for you.

Offering Readings 2014

April 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

It is imperative to discuss how to effectively call for the offering on Sabbath mornings. It is important to make sure the church members understand what the various offerings are designed to benefit as they are received each week. The importance of returning a faithful tithe to God should certainly be emphasized.

Here are four “P’s” that are key to remember when calling for the offering:

1. Pray Pray for guidance when making the appeal.
2. Prepare Prepare for the offering appeal prior to arriving to church.
3. Purpose Explain the purpose of the offering—people like to know where their money is going.
4. Positive Be positive and enthusiastic in telling how God’s work is getting accomplished as a result of their giving.

April 5, 2014

Today's Offering– Church Family Budget

John Wanamaker once made a trip to China to determine how the money he had given to missions was being used. He came upon an old man plowing with a crude instrument; it was drawn by an ox and a young man. Asking for an explanation, he was told that his chapel needed a spire so that it could be visible from miles away. The members had prayed, but the money was insufficient. Thus, the man had agreed to sell one of the oxen and take the yoke of the ox they sold. Wanamaker prayed, “Lord, let me be hitched to a plow so that I may know the joy of sacrificial giving.”

Our church budget funds a number of things here in this church. The utilities, insurance, and maintenance are only a part of the many ongoing, monthly expenses.

Thank you for your regular support of the operating expenses. No doubt the Lord is pleased as His people support His work here in our home church.

April 12, 2014

Offering: World Budget / Emphasis: Christian Record Services Canada

Every summer there are camps for the blind all over the North American Division including four in Canada. Every month materials produced in braille are made available to the visually impaired.

Thanks to your generous mission offerings, prayers, and personal involvement, the Seventh-day Adventist Church shares the love of Jesus in more than 200 countries around the world. It feeds the hungry, cares for the sick, leads people to Jesus, and establishes new churches and congregations each and every day! It is truly “love in action.”

In addition to funding many frontline projects, it is your mission offerings that sustain the continuing mission work of the church.

Appeal: A portion of the World Budget supports Christian Record Services Canada, a ministry for blind people. Thank you for your generosity in bringing the life-changing good news about Jesus to the visually impaired.

April 19, 2014

Today's Offering – Church Family Budget

A. A. Hyde, a millionaire manufacturer, said he began tithing when he was \$100,000 in debt. Many people said it wasn't necessary to give God a tenth of his income while he was in debt. Mr. Hyde said he agreed with that viewpoint until one day he was impressed to make God his first creditor. He began paying God first, and all the other creditors were eventually paid in full.

If a man owes you money, it would be a wise business policy on your part to encourage him to pay his debt to God first.

Notice the following passage from Proverbs 3:9, 10: "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine" (NKJV).

God is the ultimate financial partner! Again and again people have discovered that when they make Him their partner, He blesses them and enriches their lives in many ways.

Remember to give to God first, and you will also receive His many blessings.

April 26, 2014

Today's Offering – Alberta Advance

We are accustomed to hockey stats, census stats, and shopping stats...almost any kind of stats. Listen to some Alberta Adventist Education stats for the 2013-2014 school year. Keep in mind that these numbers are close approximations.

- 65 classrooms (including 9 virtual classrooms) filled with 834 students taught by 80 teachers and overseen by 12 administrators
- 105,000 instruction hours in Grades K-12
- 1600 lunch hours
- 20 Spiritual Emphasis weeks held bi-annually sometimes with guest speakers and sometimes presented by students
- 3 nature-based intentional days/weeks for students in Grades 5-9 where the time spent is intentionally Christ centered
- Countless classroom worships and opportunities to pray together
- Unnumbered outreach projects, acts of kindness and moments of care demonstrated by staff and students alike

It all happens because of:

- Immeasurable dedication from teachers who do their utmost to help students achieve academic success
- A myriad of rehearsals for special programs at school and in our churches

Adventist Education in Alberta

- Employs dedicated and certified teachers
- Serves Seventh-day Adventist families in every corner of Alberta
- Impacts the surrounding community
- Provides nurture and training to future church leaders
- And lastly...needs and values your support! Thank you for being a part of educating our youth!

Offering Readings 2014

May 2014

Dear Pastor and Church Leaders:

We all realize that God's church needs generous, ongoing financial support. Not only does the church need adequate money to function, we also are personally blessed when we give. Following are reasons for us to be generous in our giving.

1. We love God. "God so loved the world that He gave. . . ." (John 3:16, NKJV).
2. God will bless us. "The generous soul will be made rich. . . ." (Proverbs 11:25, NKJV).
3. Faith In God will increase as He blesses. " 'And try me now in this,' says the Lord of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.' " (Malachi 3:10, NKJV).
4. Spiritual mindedness will result. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21, NKJV).
5. It actually makes us happy. " 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' " (Acts 20:35, NKJV).

In view of the texts above, we are doing a great favor to our church members when we help motivate them to grow in the area of stewardship.

May 3, 2014

Today's Offering – Church Family Budget

Usually when a successful meeting has been concluded, the person who organized it receives the credit. The credit instead should go to God—exactly where it belongs.

David and the people had given a fortune in gold and silver, plus thousands of tons of bronze and iron. How the papers would be filled with that sort of news today.

First Chronicles 29:13–15 reads:

“ ‘Now therefore, our God,
We thank You
And praise Your glorious name.
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.
For we are aliens and pilgrims before You,
As were all our fathers;
Our days on earth are as a shadow,
And without hope’ ” (NKJV).

As we support the ministry of our own church, remember that God makes it possible for us to give and is pleased when we show a generous spirit in doing so.

May 10, 2014

Offering: World Budget/Emphasis: ADRA CANADA Disaster and Famine Relief

In the news, we are often overwhelmed with images of misery and pain. Most global headlines are about conflict, suffering, and death. Annually, millions around the world needlessly suffer from hunger and are displaced by disaster.

Statistics tell us that hunger kills more people than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. Millions more suddenly find themselves victims of a disaster and are left with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Do you find yourself wondering what you can do to help someone in need?

In cases of emergency, ADRA CANADA is there to show God's love and mercy to the suffering. Following the example of Jesus, ADRA CANADA joins with the ADRA international network to be able to help an estimated 20 million annually. In over 120 countries around the world, ADRA feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, educates the illiterate, provides health care to the sick, protects the innocent, and gives hope to the hopeless.

Appeal: Through the World Budget, ADRA CANADA supports the work of the world church in providing help from disasters and famine. Each of us are agents of hope and healing today, to men, women, and children, like Jesus did while He was on earth.

May 17, 2014

Today's Offering – Church Family Budget

Leprosy is a horrible, dreaded disease that is no respecter of persons. It can cause a father to die and break up a family. A mother or child may be found with the curse and sometimes have to be isolated from loved ones.

In Jesus' time, a man who contracted leprosy had to announce his presence in a loud voice: "Unclean, unclean."

Do you suffer from leprosy of the soul today? When leprosy first begins, it doesn't kill a person. But little by little, it steals a bit of the finger, then more and more until only a stub is left.

Many today suffer from the leprosy of selfishness. Selfish thoughts crowd out generous impulses. This morning, let us invite Christ to come into our hearts and ask Him to help us develop an unselfish, generous spirit.

Please remember the many needs of our own Church Family Budget as we return our tithes and offerings.

May 24, 2014

Today's Offering – Alberta Advance

The offering today is for Alberta Advance. This offering provides the opportunity to support priority initiatives within the Alberta Conference. Foothills Camp receives a portion of the Alberta Advance offering to fund its improvements and ongoing development.

Foothills Camp, located in a natural setting along the Red Deer River, provides an environment where guests are able to appreciate the beauty and richness of nature provided by our Creator. Deer, squirrels, various birds, are amongst the Camp's frequent "visitors". This, along with the camp's peaceful surroundings, provide a restful setting for meetings and sessions focused on spiritual growth and achieving our mission of sharing God's love and the Gospel.

Programs for the youth are able to draw on Foothills Camp natural setting to provide learning opportunities about nature and experience living close to nature.

Please generously support Foothills Camp through Alberta Advance.

May 31, 2014

Offering: North American Division / Emphasis: Evangelism

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14, NKJV).

“To the early church had been entrusted a constantly enlarging work—that of establishing centers of light and blessing wherever there were honest souls willing to give themselves to the service of Christ. The proclamation of the gospel was to be world-wide in its extent, and the messengers of the cross could not hope to fulfill their important mission unless they should remain united in the bonds of Christian unity, and thus reveal to the world that they were one with Christ in God. . . . Their spiritual life and power was dependent on a close connection with the One by whom they had been commissioned to preach the gospel (Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 90).

Appeal: Today’s offering helps fund evangelistic training activities and provides resource material and special evangelistic events that focus on evangelism in the North American Division. As we worship in giving, remember we are still dependent on Christ, our Leader for spiritual life and power. Thank you for your generosity in supporting transformational evangelism, retention of young adults, women in ministry, education, and emerging immigrant populations for God’s mission field.

Offering Readings 2014

June 2014

Dear Pastor and Church Leaders:

The financial support provided by the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is generally satisfactory. Even though this may be true, we need to continue to remind God's people that generous, faithful, financial support of the church is a blessing to the givers as well as the organization itself.

It is amazing how many members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church could testify that as they give back to God, they have in turn been blessed in many and various financial ways. Letting these members share their stories would inspire others to be more generous themselves.

It is certainly true that God is not dependent on our gifts to keep His work moving forward. He has many ways to strengthen, encourage, and bless His children. The reality is that we will be better off ourselves when we learn to be generous and unselfish. We need to grasp that “ ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive’ ” (Acts 20:35, NKJV).

June 7, 2014

Today's Offering – Church Family Budget

The story is told of a very rich lady who dreamt she died and was taken up to heaven. She was given an angel to escort her to her new home. The angel took her past many exquisite mansions.

Passing one of the most elegant, the angel said, “And this is the mansion of your servant who died last year.” Since this was a fine home, the lady became really excited about the anticipated size of her new home. Soon they rounded a turn and came upon a small shack.

“Here is your new home,” the angel announced.

“Is this all? I was of a very wealthy family on earth,” she said.

“Well,” the angel explained, “this is all you sent up.”

Jesus Himself said, “ ‘But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal’ ” (Matthew 6:20, NKJV).

As we plan our weekly giving, let's be sure that we give due consideration to *eternal* values, as well as present needs and desires.

June 14, 2014

Offering: World Budget/Emphasis: Canadian French Work

According to Matthew 24:14, the gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world and then the end will come. Imagine the awesome task of sharing the gospel of the Kingdom with every tribe, nation, tongue and people. The reality of this commission may seem overwhelming to the average person.

The work among the French population of Quebec is a tribute to the pioneers and the church members of today who, with determination and courage, dreamed and continue to dream of a large harvest of souls in their province when Jesus comes again. In 1971 the Quebec Conference was separated from the Ontario & Quebec Conference, with a Quebec membership of 605. The membership of the Quebec Church as of September 2013 now stands at 7,080! Praise the Lord!

Since it is now our turn to walk the earth while the pioneers rest from their labours, let us continue and push forward the work they began under such difficult conditions. Let us invest for eternity and give the French work in Canada a boost today.

June 21, 2014

Today's Offering – Church Family Budget

Did you know that most church members expect others to carry the financial load of the church? An interesting study was conducted some time ago which revealed that about 30 percent of church members carry 80 percent of the financial load. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every member would generously and faithfully support their own local church? Are you a "giver" in your church, or do you expect someone else to "carry" your share of the load?

Paul tells us that, "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." Then Paul goes on to say that, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6, 7, NKJV). God desires to bless us when we take Him at His word and support the work of His church.

June 28, 2014

Today's Offering – Alberta Advance

Today's offering is for the Alberta Advance.

A portion of this offering supports our camp – Foothills Camp. Over 40 years ago, this camp was dedicated to the ministry of the gospel and is used as a spiritual retreat for all ages, including our youth. Many decisions for Christ have been made and many have been baptized in the pool and in the shallow waters of the river.

The prayer of the Youth Department is that you give the gift of camp to some young person that you know and that you financially support this important ministry.

Today, as the offering is collected, be generous. Let's all take ownership of our camp and give to help maintain and grow this important ministry.

Offering Readings 2014

July 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

Stewardship is primarily a spiritual issue. Our appeal to our church to give is sometimes skewed. It is true that the need for funds in the church is urgent, but the most important reason for generous giving is how it changes us spiritually.

Ellen G. White spells out why we need to encourage people to be generous in their financial support of the church:

“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. 9, p. 254).

In Acts 20:35, Jesus says, “ ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’ ” (NKJV). It is easy to forget the primary purpose of encouraging generosity, which is to help our church grow spiritually.

July 5, 2014

Today's Offering – Church Family Budget

A hiker was thirsty, but could not find water until he came up to an abandoned house. There he found a water pump and proceeded to pump with all the strength he had remaining. Yet no water came out. He saw a small jug with a cork at the top and a penciled note directing that the water in the jug be poured into the pump to prime it.

The man was so thirsty that he was tempted to drink the water that was in the jug, but decided to follow the directions in spite of his thirst. When he primed the pump, he was blessed with all the water he needed. Before going on his way, he filled the jug with water so the next thirsty person could secure water. He added to the note, "Believe me, it really works. You have to give it all away before you get anything back."

Solomon said, "There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself" (Proverbs 11:24, 25, NKJV).

July 12, 2014

Offering: North American Division/Emphasis: Women's Ministries

The vision for Women's Ministries in the North American Division is "to encourage, equip, promote and challenge Adventist women in their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His Church and to bring women's unique perspectives to the issues facing the Church."

The Mission

"Provide opportunities for women to deepen their faith and experience spiritual growth and renewal. Elevate women as persons of worth. Address the concerns of women. Mentor young women, teens and girls. Promote opportunities for wider service for women. Challenge Adventist women to use their talents and spiritual gifts for the glory of God in the home, church and community."

Appeal: Today, women make up the majority of church membership. They are involved in leadership, finances, Bible studies, and caring for children, to mention a few areas. The offering today supports Women's Ministries at the conference and division levels of the church. Our church cannot exist without their love, commitment, and dedicated effort to make church life a better and happier place. Thank you for your gift and generosity.

July 19, 2014

Today's Offering—Church Family Budget

A drought had ravaged the land. Streams and rivers were dried up. The green vegetation withered in the hot sun. Food supplies were fast running out. Starvation would soon be the lot for the widow of Zarephath and her son.

While facing this tremendous trial, she was approached by the prophet Elijah who asked her for food and water. Elijah said, “ ‘but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son’ ” (1 Kings 17:13, NKJV). God was testing her. She and her little boy faced starvation, yet a promise was given to her if she would obey the voice of Elijah. “ ‘For thus says the Lord God of Israel: “The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth” ’ ” (verse 14). The widow obeyed God’s voice, and consequently, she and her son were cared for during the entire drought.

Dear Christian friends, this promise is just as good today as it was then. If we remember God and give to Him first, He has promised to take care of us no matter how severe our trials may be. We need to put God first as we give to His cause every week.

July 26, 2014

Today's Offering – Alberta Advance

Recently we have been able to assist two of our local congregations in the Alberta Conference acquire church buildings. The joy we saw in the members faces was heartwarming but greater still was seeing them being more effective in ministry to their local community as a result of having their own place of worship.

You cannot imagine how much your offering helps each member of the Alberta Conference. In fact, all of the Alberta Advance offering goes directly to the work here in Alberta – nothing is used for the Alberta Conference office.

Offering Readings 2014

August 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

From time to time various churches report that their local financial picture is quite bleak. It is not unusual for these churches to also find it difficult to give strong support to their conference as well as the worldwide work of the church. There is no doubt that the Lord is interested in the welfare of every Adventist church and wants to see it succeed and prosper. Following are some suggestions that may prove helpful.

1. Encourage your church members to pray for an increase of faithfulness in tithing and generosity in offerings. Also, have the church body pray for financial blessings on members whom are struggling.
2. Make sure that interesting and well-thought-out offering appeals are presented each week.
3. Encourage members who have been blessed recently as a result of their faithfulness to share their experiences with the church.
4. Share interesting stories that illustrate the benefits and blessings that come from God when His children give back to God.

August 2, 2014

Today's Offering – Church Family Budget

A successful businessman was once asked the secret of his success. His reply summed up success in these three words: *and then some*. He learned early in life that the difference between average people and successful people could be summed up by doing what was expected of them, “and then some”!

Unfortunately, many have accepted the idea of just getting by. The student who is satisfied with a “C” grade could be making an “A.” Or the employee who is only concerned about receiving a paycheck could be working toward a promotion. This is what Jay Lockhart calls, “the malady of the minimum!”

To be average is to be just as near the bottom as the top. It is the best of the worst and worst of the best. Why seek to be average in anything? Seek to excel! Go higher! Grow! Why be an average Christian? Why be an average church?

Let these words “and then some” serve as medicine for your spirit! Attend services faithfully—and then some. Greet those near you—and then some. Meet your obligations—and then some. Be dependable—and then some. Be a good friend—and then some. Today, as the offering plate comes down your aisle, give generously—“and then some!” Remember *Who* has done that for you already.

August 9, 2014

Offering: World Budget/Emphasis: Andrews University/Loma Linda University

God gives the best gifts! Matthew 25:14, 15 says, “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey” (NKJV).

What are you doing with the gifts God has gifted you with?

Ellen G. White declares, “God has committed to each of us sacred trusts, for which He holds us accountable. It is His purpose that we so educate the mind as to be able to exercise the talents He has given us in such a manner as to accomplish the greatest good and reflect the glory to the Giver” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 32).

The Master is about to return to check on His investments. Will He celebrate with us on a handsome return, or will we find ourselves outside of the kingdom giftless and lost?

Appeal: A portion of the World Budget supports Andrews University and Loma Linda University. As we give today, let us remember to use our gifts for His glory, so that the lives of young, university students are impacted for eternal life.

August 16, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

Does God need our money? The most obvious answer to that question is “no.” God does not need our money. He is the Creator of the universe. Giving is for our own good. It helps us learn to be unselfish. It reminds us to keep our priorities straight. It enables us to respond in a positive way to His blessings. It teaches us to trust Him more.

Does God need our money? Some may reply “yes.” God does need our money because of the way He has chosen to operate. God could use the angels to preach the gospel, but He has chosen to work through people to reach people. Therefore, He needs us! God could send a check written from the Bank of the Universe to pay our utilities bill, but He hasn't chosen to work in that manner.

Ultimately, God just needs for us to turn loose of some of His money. Then we can learn the lessons He wants to teach us, and there will be plenty of money in the storehouse to do His work.

As you give back today, contemplate the blessings that are poured out in so many ways when you choose to trust your Heavenly Father.

August 23, 2014

Today's offering – Alberta Advance

Giving. What does it mean to you? A charitable receipt at the end of the year? A specific project you may be interested in? Or, does it mean furthering the work of our church here in Alberta?

The Alberta Conference is composed of congregations that have joined together to advance Adventist missions within our province. The responsibilities and needs are great and include coordinating evangelism, education, technology, involving the youth, training local leaders for effective ministry, and supporting the pastors. A church and conference that is on the cutting edge of ministry and accomplishing Adventist mission will always be in need of funds to support and expand the work.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJV it says, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver”.

We are asking today for you to give. Don't leave the giving to the person next to you or the person in front of you or even the person who has more than you may have. Be a part of the bigger picture in furthering the mission in Alberta.

August 30, 2014

Today's offering – Canadian Native Ministries

It is Canadian Native Ministry Offering time again, and first I want to tell you thank you so much for your support. I have used the Canada-wide Native Ministry offering funds for the Native School in Alberta, supporting Native Bible workers, producing more Native New Health DVDs, and for providing evangelistic type seminars.

With the funds you so generously donate this year, we will complete the Native New Health DVD series, we still need to support Native Bible workers, provide health and spiritual publications, and strengthen our First Nations School, which has now expanded to include Grade 11. I so much appreciate your prayers and financial support.

Proverbs 19:17 says “He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD. And He will pay back what he has given.” That is a wonderful promise from the LORD that He will reward what we will give to help others. May God bless you as you invest in His Work.

Edward Dunn
Canadian Native Ministry Coordinator

Offering Readings 2014

September 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

As church leaders, it is important for us to set a Christian example in every aspect of our lives. Hebrews 10:24, 25 says, “Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (NKJV).

Not only should we show love to our church family, but we need to remember that our Lord supplied the greatest example of love and good works. It will always be by His power that we are able to do the same. His “gift” should awaken in us a pure response to His love, that of gratitude, teaching us the works which we are to do and how we are to encourage one another.

On a practical note—as the offering is taken each Sabbath and the plate is passed to those on the platform, try to be an example to the adults and children by always putting something in the plate.

September 6, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

It's better to give to Christ than wish you had! The fact is we're not really "giving" our tithes and offerings; we're just taking our hands off of what is already His.

A certified public accountant decided to open a journal with God. He wanted to write everything God gave to him and everything that he gave to God. He started keeping a debit and credit book with God.

If someone did him a favor, he put it down as God's gift to him. He credited God with the sun, his food, his health, his family and friends, the fresh air and flowers, and a thousand other benefits he received.

On the other hand, he put down what he did for God. Finally he gave up saying, "It is impossible for me to balance the books. I find that God is indeed my creditor and what I have done for Him is next to nothing."

Although it may seem next to nothing, God truly appreciates what we do week after week by returning our tithes to Him, as well as giving our generous offerings. The truth is that we can never out give God.

September 13, 2014

Offering: World Budget/Emphasis: Fall Mission Appeal – “Unusual Opportunities”

Funding the mission of the church is complex and can be full of surprises. Opportunities to spread the gospel can quickly come and go. From time to time, situations develop which create mission opportunities to which we could respond quickly if funds were available. In these cases, if we had to wait for months or years to raise funds, these opportunities might disappear. The “Unusual Opportunities” offering which we are receiving today will be used for these kinds of situations.

For the past several years, this offering has averaged over U.S. \$600,000, and has been used in places like Syria, Zanzibar, and Yemen.

Appeal: As the controller of the General Conference and a local church treasurer, I understand the needs of the local church and the world church. Join with me in participating in today’s offering with a special gift to the Fall Mission Appeal and support these urgent opportunities by giving through the World Budget offering.

September 20, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

Ellen G. White once spoke to a church about the importance of paying tithe. “As the sin of robbing God was presented, the people received clearer views of their duty and privilege in this matter. One brother said that for two years he had not paid his tithes, and he was in despair; but as he confessed his sin, he began to gather hope. ‘What shall I do?’ he asked. I said, ‘Give your note to the treasurer of the church; that will be businesslike.’ He thought that was a rather strange request; but he sat down, and began to write, ‘For value received, I promise to pay—’ He looked up, as if to say, Is that the proper form in which to write out a note to the Lord?

‘Yes,’ he continued, ‘for value received. Have I not been receiving the blessings of God day after day? Have not the angels guarded me? Has not the Lord blessed me with all spiritual and temporal blessings? For value received, I promise to pay the sum of \$571.50 to the church treasurer.’ After doing all he could to do his part, he was a happy man. In a few days he took up his note, and paid his tithe into the treasury” (*Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 95, 96).

God blesses those who are faithful in returning their tithe to His church. Let us determine to be faithful stewards by giving back to His storehouse.

September 27, 2014

Offering: Alberta Advance

What does Adventist Education mean to you? Have you had opportunity to witness the fruits of the dedicated teachers and administrators who make up our Adventist school system in Alberta?

One church member and graduate of the Seventh-day Adventist system reflects:

“From my earliest childhood days I longed to go to a “church school”. I lived in a remote part of Alberta and Christian Education was available to no one in my corner of the world. During my middle school years, I had a short taste of what it was like to attend church school. My fellow students knew so much about the Bible. How I envied them. During my high school and college years, I was able to attend Seventh-day Adventist academies and colleges. Those were some of the best years of my life. I had leadership opportunities, travel opportunities through fine arts tours, and educational experiences that have served me well throughout my life.

Later, when choosing an education path for our children, we made personal sacrifices to provide the best Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. Today, as we participate in our grand-children’s education, we have no regrets for the past...and praise God for the future He provides for us.”

Is Adventist education perfect? No! Perfect does not exist on this earth, but it is the most perfect choice that can be made as we journey together to the kingdom.

Whether or not we have children, we are provided an opportunity to participate in shaping children’s lives for eternity. We invite you to dig deeply and partner with God to educate and nurture ambassadors for Christ!

Offering Readings 2014

October 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

There are two conflicting principles of motivation in a person's life. Notice how Ellen G. White outlines the struggle God's people often face:

“Selfishness is the strongest and most general of human impulses, the struggle of the soul between sympathy and covetousness is an unequal contest; for while selfishness is the strongest passion, love and benevolence are too often the weakest, and as a rule the evil gains the victory. Therefore in our labors and gifts for God's cause, it is unsafe to be controlled by feeling or impulse. . . . Christians should act from fixed principle, following the Saviour's example of self-denial and self-sacrifice” (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 25).

This quote helps us understand why it is so important to encourage God's people to be generous in their giving. Church leaders need to understand how Satan tries to motivate us selfishly, while God continually seeks to develop love and generosity as a very real part of our nature.

Systematic giving is a good plan to follow because it helps the giver support God's work regularly.

October 4, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

Louis XI of France once made out a deed in which he gave the province of Buologne to the Virgin Mary. He expressly stated that all the income and revenues should forever be paid to himself and his heirs. Thus he gave without suffering personal sacrifice.

If I give to God only after I have met all of my own needs and desires, am I really sacrificing for Him? Or am I like those who dropped their gold loudly into the temple treasury in order to be seen and praised by others? The poor widow, on the other hand, gave to God *instead* of satisfying her own wants or even her own necessities (Mark 12:41–44).

This spirit of sacrifice is most pleasing to Jesus. It expresses to Him our love and trust in Him. Shall we, like the widow, place our needs, our comfort, and our securities into His scarred hands and trust Him to supply our lack?

Let's remember to support our local church as we give to the Lord each week. After your tithes, perhaps the most important offering is the Church Family Budget.

October 11, 2014

Offering: World Budget / Emphasis: Voice of Prophecy Canada

The church of the first century was an exciting church to be involved in. It was a church of action, activity, and productivity. It was founded by God, functioned by the Holy Spirit, and focused on Christ and His return. Acts 2:46, 47 records, “Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (NKJV).

Ellen G. White says, “The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church . . . are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to ‘the principalities and powers in heavenly places,’ the final and full display of the love of God” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9).

Appeal: Are you excited to be a part of God’s last day church? Communication is a necessity in making the good news available to every person in Canada. Radio is an effective way to preach the message. Let us give to the Voice of Prophecy and watch God add to the church daily.

October 18, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

The Egyptian Pharaoh Cheops devoted his entire reign and mobilized his nation to build the Great Pyramids. Why?

Michelangelo started painting the Sistine Chapel in 1508. For four years, hardly eating or sleeping, he dedicated his energies to completing this project. Why?

Andrew Carnegie came to America at the age of 13. For his first job, he worked two hours a day for \$1.20 a week. During his lifetime he developed U.S. steel and became one of the richest men in the world. Carnegie dedicated the later years of his life building over 3,000 libraries in cities all over the world. Why?

In the time of Moses, Jews were asked to give 25 percent of their income to the temple, and the most devout gave 30 and 35 percent. Why?

Certainly the eternal rewards of investing in God's work outweigh any temporal advantages this world has to offer us. God's promise to meet our needs here and now are also of great value. But what can compare to the motive of love. Love will cause people to gladly do things that are amazing and beyond belief.

As we give to support Church Family Budget today, let's demonstrate our great love for God and our desire to see His church successful and effective.

October 25, 2014

Today's offering – Alberta Advance

The offering today is for Alberta Advance. This offering provides the opportunity to support priority initiative within the Alberta Conference. Foothills Camp received a portion of the Alberta Advance Offering to fund its improvements and ongoing development.

Foothills Camp, located in a natural setting along the Red Deer River, provides an environment where guest are able to appreciate the beauty and richness of nature provided by our Creator. Deer, squirrels, various birds, are amongst the Camp's frequent "visitors". This, along with the camp's peaceful surroundings, provide a restful setting for meetings and sessions focused on spiritual growth and achieving our mission of sharing God's love and the Gospel.

Programs for the youth are able to draw on Foothills Camp natural setting to provide learning opportunities about nature and experience living close to nature.

Please generously support Foothills Camp through Alberta Advance.

Offering Readings 2014

November 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

As church leaders, the congregation looks to us for guidance in spiritual matters. As we prayerfully contemplate what we can do to help finish God's work, our hearts should be touched by what He has given to make that possible. He has blessed us in so many ways and gives us the opportunity to give of our means to help others learn of what Jesus has done for us.

In *Quiet Talks on Service*, S. D. Gordon tells the following beautiful story. The imaginative scene is the return of the Son of God to glory after having died for the sins of the world and His meeting with His Heavenly Father. Attention is called to the scar marks of Calvary that our Savior bore on His face and form.

“Gabriel is saying: ‘Master, you died for the whole world down there, did you not?’

‘Yes.’

‘You must have suffered much,’ with an earnest look into that great face with its unremovable marks.

‘Yes,’ again comes the answer in a wondrous voice, very quiet, but strangely full of deepest feeling.

‘And do they all know about it?’

‘Oh no! Only a few in Palestine know about it so far.’

‘Well, Master, what’s your plan? What have you done about telling the world that you died for, that you *have* died for them? What’s your plan?’

‘Well,’ the Master is supposed to answer, ‘I asked Peter, and James and John . . . and some more of them down there just to make it the business of their lives to tell others, and the others are to tell others, and the others others, and yet others, and still others, until

the last man in the farthest circle has heard the story and has felt the thrilling and thralling power of it.'

And Gabriel knows us folk down here pretty well. He has had more than one contact with the earth. He knows the kind of stuff in us. And he is supposed to answer, with a sort of hesitating reluctance, as though he could see difficulties in the working of the plan, 'Yes—but—suppose Peter fails. Suppose, after a while, John simply *does not* tell others. Suppose their descendants, their successors away off in the first edge of the twentieth century, get *so busy about things*—some of them proper enough, some maybe not quite so proper—that *they do not* tell others—*what then?*'

And his eyes are big with the intenseness of his thought, for he is thinking of—the *suffering*, and he is thinking too of the difference to the man who hasn't been told—'what then?'

And back comes the quiet wondrous voice of Jesus, 'Gabriel, *I haven't made any other plans—I'm counting on them.*' "

November 1, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

Perhaps you have had an experience that illustrates this Biblical principle: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7, NKJV). The following story illustrates this truth.

A group of coolies (Asian slaves) had been hired by an Asian farmer to bring in his grain harvest. All through the day the men carried basketfuls of grain.

As the sun was setting, the coolies made their way in with the baskets of grain. Each one was met at the door by the farmer. He said, “Don't empty the basket. It is your pay for the day.”

Those who had chosen the larger baskets were joyful. Those who chose to do minimal work by selecting the smaller baskets turned away sorrowful.

People who develop an unselfish, generous attitude will certainly experience a happier, richer life than those who are stingy and selfish.

Thank you for supporting our Church Family Budget today.

November 8, 2014

Offering: World Budget / Emphasis: Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)

Since 1990, the Annual Sacrifice Offering has made it possible for Global Mission pioneers to establish more than 13,000 new congregations in previously unreached areas of the world.

With a presence in nearly 200 countries, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the fastest growing denominations in the world. But there is still much work to be done.

Global Mission, the frontline mission arm of the church, uses a holistic approach to reaching people. The pioneers work within their own culture where they understand the community and speak the local language. They often help with people's basic needs like food, water, shelter, health care, education, and Bibles.

Your financial support makes it possible for frontline workers to offer hope and assurance to those who live in fear and despair. Every dollar makes a big difference to a man, woman, or child somewhere—to *someone* who is still waiting to hear about Jesus.

Appeal: Please give generously to the World Budget that supports the Annual Sacrifice Offering/Global Mission.

November 15, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

The God of heaven had just granted Israel a great victory over the largest city of Jericho. The small city of Ai came next. Since Ai was a small village, they thought it would be an easy victory. In fact, Israel sent only a small force to do battle. However, Israel suffered defeat.

When they returned with the sad news, Israel could not understand why they were defeated. Later, God told Joshua the problem. There was an “accursed” thing in the camp; consequently, God could not bless their efforts. The gold and silver that Achan had coveted belonged to God.

Sometimes “accursed” things infiltrate our hearts. Sometimes God’s people keep for themselves what belongs to God. As a result, He cannot bless their efforts.

A man once said, “I cannot afford to pay an honest tithe.” The truth of the matter is Christian people cannot afford to covet what belongs to God.

As we give today, let’s remember to be faithful to the Lord in returning His tithe, and also be generous in supporting our own church budget.

November 22, 2014

Today's offering – Alberta Advance

It's hard to imagine there was a time when Seventh-day Adventists believed the Gospel Commission extended no further than the Atlantic Ocean in the east, and the Pacific Ocean in the west. They believed that going to every nation, kindred, tongue and people could be done right at home in the United States and Canada.

Fortunately, it wasn't long before the church realized its mission was for the whole world, and today we see tremendous progress. We've scattered literature like leaves of autumn. We've sent thousands of missionaries. We've broadcast satellite TV programs. We've established work in over 200 countries.

Yet major parts of Alberta still remain virtually untouched by the good news about Jesus. Today we need a fresh and larger vision for the needs of the people in our Province. Once again, like the early Adventists, we need to move outside our local congregations (comfort zones) and traditional thought patterns, and find new and fresh ways to reach the unreached in our Province with hope.

Because of your sacrificial and generous offerings in the past we were able to conduct approximately 40 evangelistic seminars which resulted in over 266 baptisms and profession of faith.

Appeal: There's nothing more important in all the world than sharing the love of Jesus with people who don't know Him. There's nothing more rewarding than seeing the new life and hope that Jesus brings. Today you can help reach the unreached with hope by supporting the Alberta Advance offering. 100 % of your offering today goes to projects in the Alberta Conference.

Prayer:

November 29, 2014

Offering: North American Division Evangelism

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” (Revelation 14:6, NKJV).

Evangelism is exciting and has been considered by some as “the life blood of the church.” If a church is not growing, there is no advancement. On the other hand, if a church is active, there is excitement and expansion. I can hear the singing in the New York subway station.

“As the steel wheels of the New York subway train screeched to a grinding halt at Manhattan’s Hunter College station a strange refrain filled the air. A group of Adventists waiting on the platform began to sing, ‘Lift up the Trumpet and Loud let it ring, Jesus is coming again.’ The echoes of the familiar hymn were picked up by another group of Adventists waiting for a different train on the opposite side of the track. Up and down the line, more voices joined the chorus. Soon the subway station was filled with the glorious, hopeful refrains of ‘Lift up the trumpet. . . . Jesus is coming again’ ” (Mark Finley).

Appeal: The offering today will support the ever-expanding need of evangelism in the North American Division. Your gift will be like singing in the New York subway: “Jesus is coming again”!

Offering Readings 2014

December 2014

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

Sincerely praying for God's blessings can help build up His work financially. Notice what Ellen G. White says in this regard:

“From every church, prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality. My brethren and sisters do not plead for retrenchment in evangelical work” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 55).

Let's encourage our church members to pray earnestly about the financial needs facing our church and denomination. If we humbly bow before God, He will grant us with greater success in the future.

December 6, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

Most of us think we could be happier if we had more money. Even those who are well off wish they had more. What would it take for us to be totally satisfied?

Here is a quiz from the Book of Proverbs. The question is one of priorities. Which is better?

1. A little with the fear of the Lord, or great treasure with trouble? (15:16)
2. A dinner of herbs where love is, or a fattened calf with hatred? (15:17)
3. A little with righteousness, or vast revenues without justice? (16:8)
4. Wisdom or gold? (16:16)
5. Understanding or silver? (16:16)
6. A dry morsel with quietness, or a house full of feasting with strife? (17:1)
7. A poor man with integrity or a fool? (19:1)
8. A good name or great riches? (22:1)

Let us remember our priorities as we give to help Church Family Budget at this time.

December 13, 2014

Offering: World Budget / Emphasis: Canadian Inner City Projects

“Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Philippians 2:4, NKJV).

For millions around the world this is the season for giving. Every year about this time we consider ways in which we can give. There’s nothing better than the feeling of giving a gift. Jesus came and modeled what true giving is. He came as a babe in a manger and throughout His life, He impacted the world one life at a time.

That same model is continued through the ministry of ADRA Canada. Projects within Canada provide help to individuals and families who are unemployed, working-poor, or disadvantaged in poverty-stricken and urban areas here in Canada. The ADRA Canada Inner City Offering supports churches and compassionate volunteers who are implementing community development and relief services across the country. They are giving the precious gift of hope.

Appeal: The World Budget today supports Canadian Inner City community service projects. Simply put, projects operated by local churches in large cities, help people. The offering today will help people in need that live in our larger cities.

December 20, 2014

Today's offering – Church Family Budget

In a story entitled, “A Modern Miracle,” Revel Papaioannou wrote in the 1999 women’s devotional about four families that comprised the small Adventist church in Berea, Greece. They offered potluck to 150 Adventist youth that were touring their country.

“A phone call informed us that the group would not be arriving before 3:00 p.m., so after church, all gathered in our home to await our guests. They arrived, all 150 of them.

“Lord,” I cried, “We’re really going to need a miracle if all these people are to be fed.”

After the blessing, the group leader requested that the 50 who hadn’t eaten anything for a day to go first. The remaining 100 could eat if there were any leftovers. “One hour later they had all had enough, and there was still food for at least twenty more people.”

We had the privilege of witnessing a twentieth-century version of one of Christ’s miracles on a hillside in Galilee. Christ fed a group of 5,000 men, plus women and children. He used a small boy’s lunch, freely given, and Jesus’ blessing multiplied until all were filled. How do you suppose God will multiply the gifts that you give to His cause today?

December 27, 2014

Today's offering – Alberta Advance

The offering today is for Alberta Advance. The Alberta Advance offering provides the opportunity to support priority initiatives within the Alberta Conference which includes assisting with church building programs.

Many of Alberta's church congregations do not have a church facility and meet in rented locations. The lack of a permanent church home often limits the ability of these congregations to provide a full range of programs or provide a site from which to base outreach activities. The high cost of real estate and construction makes proceeding with a church facility development impossible without additional assistance. The offering today is your opportunity to assist these congregations in furthering their mission.

Please generously support Alberta Advance.

World Budget Offering Distribution of Funds

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 |
| Multilingual Ministries | 0.375 |

Canada

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| Canadian It Is Written | 3.00 |
| Voice of Prophecy Canada | 3.00 |
| Inner City Ministries - ADRA | 0.75 |
| Canadian Chaplaincy Ministries | 0.375 |
| Canadian University College | 5.75 |
| Christian Record Services Canada | 0.75 |
| Disaster & Famine Relief - ADRA | 1.75 |