

## To the Presenter,

Thank you for being willing to share the following appeals with the local congregation. It is an awesome responsibility. How you present these readings could determine how effective they are. Here are some suggestions you may want to consider before you share:

1. **PRAY:** Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that God will use your words to speak to the hearts of the congregation.
2. **PRACTICE:** Read over the appeal at least three times to familiarize yourself with it. Find key words (underline or highlight them) to emphasize throughout the reading. Strive to share these readings with excellence.
3. **PREPARATION:** There may be times when other materials are sent to your local church to distribute or present along with the appeal. Please use them accordingly and determine how they can be used most effectively.
4. **PRESENT WITH PASSION:** Read slowly and clearly. It is an awesome responsibility to lead out in the worship in giving. Fill your heart with the thoughts presented and God will do the rest.
5. **PRAY:** Each appeal has a prayer that has been prepared as a guide to go along with the thought of the day. Present to God what is on your heart as it relates to the appeal. Please keep the prayer concise and to the point.

May God richly bless you and speak through you as we take this journey together in 2013.

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May God richly bless you and speak through you as we take this journey together in 2013.

**Sabbath 1****January 5, 2013****Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

What a privilege to gather together this first Sabbath of the year to bring our worship to God. Our God is worthy of our worship. David wrote in Psalm 8:1, "O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens." With David we too proclaim the majesty of God's name in all the earth. This New Year represents new beginnings and new opportunities to bring to God gifts that represent how much we love Him and how thankful we are for His faithfulness. May God bless you, as we bless Him, through our worship in giving.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, we give you our hearts, we give you ourselves, and we give you these gifts. They are your tithes and our offerings that we have prepared as our act of worship and service. Please take them and bless them to further your work around the world, and here in our local church. We hope and pray they bring you joy. Thank you for this privilege, we love You and serve You. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen."*

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**Sabbath 2**  
**January 12, 2013**  
**Today's offering: Our Conference**

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By now you would have taken the time to think through some New Year's resolutions. Thinking about them, doesn't mean that you are doing them. If you want something bad enough, you have to make it happen. There is one thing that is required for you to get that which you long for in your heart of hearts. In order to attain it, you must choose it. The choices you make today, can change your life forever.

Let's choose today to be an active partner with God, **managing all we can**, so we can **give all we can** for God's Kingdom sake. Our offerings today will impact the work in our Conference. Thank you in advance for doing your part.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we do not want this year to be another year of unfulfilled resolutions. We do not want to regret being faithful to you in any way. So we bring You these gifts as our worship to You and ask Your blessing upon it. Bless our Conference and all we do together. Thank you for new beginnings, In Jesus name we pray, Amen. "*

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**Sabbath 3****January 19, 2013****Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

In Psalm 8:3, David was in awe of the work of God's hand in creating the heavens, the moon and the stars. David acknowledged that God not only created them but set them in place. That's creative power! What an awesome reality to know that God created all things. He gets all the credit. Actually, that's why we are here today, because He deserves all our worship. This is the part of our service where we worship in giving. Today is a great opportunity to honor our creator by returning to Him His tithes, and giving our offerings of thanks.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, we have come to present to you these gifts. This is our worship in giving. Teach us how to give in a way that represents just how worthy You are as our Creator. We know that You will use this Tithe to grow your Kingdom. Thank You that the offering today will support the ministries of our local Church. Bless us as a church family to fulfill your mission according to Your will. We thank You for hearing our pray. For we pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 4**

**January 26, 2013**

**Today's offering: NAD / Religious Liberty**

To serve and worship God is a matter of conviction and choice. It is at the heart of our relationship with God. But what do you do when the power to choose is taken away?

The Apostle Paul struggled against systems of authority that restricted the Christian to experience freedom in Christ. In Galatians 5:1, Paul counseled the church, to "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

From the inception of our church, we Seventh-day Adventist Christians have been dedicated to free choice in matters of faith, religion, and conscience. We as a church united have determined to uphold Christ's example of free will!

As we continue in our worship in giving, let us take advantage of the freedom we have to make a difference through our generous tithes and offerings to the Lord.

**Let's pray:** *"Lord, we bring you these gifts as our worship. We are thankful that we have the freedom to worship in this place. Please bless those who are serving in the department of Religious Liberty. Grant them wisdom, strength and boldness. As we partner with them through this offering, bless it and multiply it for Your names sake, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 5**

**February 2, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

In Psalm 8:4 David asks the question, "What is Man? Has anyone ever asked you the question, "Just who do you think you are?" David helps us understand that we have been created by God and given the awesome responsibility of having dominion over all that God has created on the land, in the air and in the sea. What a great partnership; God creates and we manage His creation. That's who you are!

The offering that we give today is for our Church. It will help pay for our utilities, materials, programs and so much more. The reality is God doesn't need our money, He needs us! God needs our time, our abilities and of course our faithfulness in giving our money to help accomplish our dreams as a church family.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, thank for creating us and caring for us. We are not worthy to manage all you have created. But because you've designed your world order that way, we trust you and ask you to empower, lead and guide us to be the most effective managers of your kingdom we can be. Please bless our time, our abilities, and the tithes and offerings we bring as our worship. For we pray this in Jesus name, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 6**

**February 09, 2013**

**Today's offering: NAD/ World Budget / Adventist  
Television Ministries**

Someday we will see Jesus face to face. As Adventists we believe that there are exciting times ahead when the skies will open and our Redeemer will come as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, to take us home. What a day that will be!

Jesus made it very clear in Matthew 24 that before that happens, the good news of the Kingdom will be preached to all nations. One way in which this prophecy is being fulfilled in our day is through the efforts of Adventist Television Ministries.

Our offerings today will be used as part of a global initiative to spread the gospel to as many people as possible through the use of media.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we long to go to our heavenly home with our family, friends and all those You are even now calling. Bless the gifts we have brought as our worship today. Bless the efforts of Adventist Television Ministries and all those who continue to work tirelessly to partner with You in Your work. Lord Jesus come quickly. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 7

February 16, 2013

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

Matthew tells the story of the disciples in a boat on the Sea of Galilee. After seeing Jesus walk on the water, Peter decided to get out of a boat. You'll remember he soon began to sink. But Jesus was there to rescue him. After he and Jesus got back into the boat the winds died down. The disciples responded in worship. Jesus was worshipped as a result of what He did and who He was. He was recognized as the Son of God, the one who controls the storms. Many times when the word 'worship' is used in the Bible it is used in the context of a response; a response to who God is or to what He has done.

Praise God! Jesus still calms storms today. He is still in control of the storm. Will you respond to Him in worship today? Let's worship Him, the one who creates and sustains by bringing to Him His tithes and our offerings of thanksgiving.

**Let's pray:** *"Father, you are above all. You hold us in your hands and we are safe. We worship you today for who You are and all that You do to help us through our storms. Please bless the tithes and offerings that we bring today, so that those of us in our local Church and community may see you clearer and grow to love You more deeply. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 8**  
**February 23, 2013**  
**Today's offering: Our Conference**

David begins Psalm 9 with words of praise to God. He says, "I will praise *You*, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High." He continues by giving many reasons why God is worthy of praise; the Lord reigns forever (vs.7), the Lord is a refuge for the oppressed and a stronghold in times of trouble (vs. 9), and that He has never forsaken those who seek Him (vs. 10). And then in verse 11, David proclaims, "Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people."

With David, we too desire for this declaration to be made among the people in every city and community throughout our Conference. God has given you time. Use it to declare His praises! God has given you talents and abilities. Use them to declare His praises! God has given you money. Use it to declare His praises! Together we can!

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we declare that You are worthy of our praise. We praise You for Your goodness and Your sustaining power. We recognize that You and You alone are worthy of our worship. Today we bring You these tithes, and offerings and ask for Your blessing over them to be used to declare Your deeds among the nations. We thank You for hearing and answering this prayer. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 9**

**March 2, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

The Book of Acts tells of the account of the early church in its infancy. It was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and thousands came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Ordinary people like you and I engaged in a missional lifestyle. They did whatever was necessary to see the work move forward. They taught, fellowshiped, ate and prayed together. Many sold their possessions and gave to anyone in need. This community, this movement, gained favor among the people. And God added to their number daily.

I want to be that kind of community don't you? Today's offering is for our local church. Let's do whatever we can to bless our church family and its mission to our community.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, we need the power of the Holy Spirit. We want to be a church that rightly represents you as we love each other and our community around us. Help us to live out your mission. We give you all we are and all we have. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 10**  
**March 9, 2013**

**Today's offering: World Budget / Adventist World Radio emphasis**

Remember the record player? How many of you still have records? How many of you still listen to cassette tapes? It's hard to believe that there are young people who have never listened to, or have seen for that matter, an eight track tape. Technology is always changing.

One means of communication that has stood the test of time, is radio. Although it has changed in appearance and functionality, it is still listened to by millions around the world.

Our offering today will support the great work of Adventist World Radio who, since 1923, continues to use radio to share the gospel.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, today we've come to worship You with our gifts. Take these funds and multiply them for Your honor and glory. Bless the work of Adventist World Radio as they continue to share the good news and hope of Your soon return. You have led them in the past, and we pray that You will continue to lead this great ministry in the future. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**March 16, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

Someone once said that 'worship is a lifestyle'. Do you agree with that? I mean really, can worship to God be transformed into a lifestyle? I often wonder if that's what Paul was getting at when he challenged his audience in Romans 12:1 to present their bodies as 'living sacrifices'. It's interesting to note that he never put time limits on that challenge. In other words, it wasn't a two hour exercise, once a week, it was for always.

When Paul talks about being transformed by the renewing of the mind, he was talking about an extreme total makeover from the inside out. That results in a lifestyle of serving and worshipping God in all we do.

This is the part of our worship where we have come to give back to God. Whatever God is impressing upon your heart right now, give it to Him in total surrender. Truly worship Him by giving to Him, every moment of everyday. You will never be the same again.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we've come to give ourselves to You in total surrender as living sacrifices. Help us to walk with an awareness of Your presence among us and to respond with a life of service and worship. You alone are worthy! We submit to You, and give You these gifts. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 12

March 23, 2013

Today's offering: Our Conference

David said it right when he wrote in Psalm 20:7, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God." Trust is a difficult word in our day and age. Many products never live up to the promises on the advertising. Many companies over promise and under deliver. Even us humans, continue to let each other down from time to time.

Praise God that He always over delivers. He never breaks His promises. He truly can be trusted. He stands behind every word He's ever spoken, for He is the 'Word'. As we come before Him today and worship Him by bringing to Him tithes and offerings, let us trust Him that He will continue to work all things out together for good for us and all those who love Him and are called according to His purposes. (Romans 8:28)

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, we thank You for Your faithfulness. It is awesome that we can trust You. We worship You today as expressed through our giving. You've said that if we bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that You will open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that we will not have room enough for it. So we come, worshipping and expecting. Forgive us for those times we haven't been faithful. Bless our Conference who will administer the tithes and use today's offerings to further your work. We pray in Jesus name, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 13

March 30, 2013

Today's offering: Our Union - Special Offering

This weekend we reflect on the greatest sacrifice given to humanity. Jesus loved this world so much that He gave His everything through His life, death and resurrection, when we deserved death. He paid our ransom to redeem us from the consequences of our choices. He suffered greatly, that we might experience joy everlasting. And praise God He continues to minister on our behalf. Oh, what a Savior!

Today we have an opportunity to give back. More important than all burnt sacrifices and offerings<sup>1</sup>, Jesus wants our hearts fully devoted to Him. This is the time of our service where we can show God just how much we love Him as we give back to Him His tithes and our offerings of thanks giving.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we are unworthy and rebellious. Yet in Your love for us, You came and paid the ultimate price to make it possible for us live with you, in Your presence, for all eternity. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do for us. Please bless these gifts we give to you, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 14

April 6, 2013

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

As David was bringing the ark back into Jerusalem, he was careful to stop every six paces to offer sacrifices to the Lord. As the triumphal procession approached the capital those marching sang out with these words, " lift up your heads, oh you Gates; and be lifted up you everlasting doors; that the King of glory shall come in."

The band of singers and players answered: "who is this King of glory?" From another company came the response: "the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Then hundreds of voices, uniting, swelled the triumphal chorus:" lift up your heads, oh ye Gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in." Again the joyful inauguration was heard," who is this King of glory?" And the voice of the great multitude like the sound of many waters was heard in the rapturous reply: "the Lord of hosts he is the King of glory." Psalm 24:7-10.<sup>3</sup>

Today that same question rings out, 'who is this King of glory?' How will you answer that question today? Is He worthy of your sacrifices? Do you desire to live in the awareness of His presence? Let's take this time as part of our worship to give to our King of glory.

**Let's pray,** " Lord we bring You these gifts today and pray that they will bring You glory. We recognize You as our King, the King of glory and pray that Your presence will be marked in a very powerful way among us. Lord today's offering will go to our church budget. Bless these funds that You might be lifted up among us and in our community. In Jesus name we pray Amen."

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<sup>3</sup> PP 707,708

## Sabbath 14

April 6, 2013

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

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**Sabbath 15**

**April 13, 2013**

**Today's offering: World Budget / Christian Record  
Services emphasis**

The Bible tells a story, in John 9, of a blind man whose sight was restored with mud and a wash in the pool of Siloam. Jesus performed that miracle, so that a blind man could meet him face to face. Someday everyone on this planet will come face to face with Jesus. Revelation 1:7 tells us that when Jesus comes, 'every eye will see Him'.

Today, Christian Record Services, an international organization, continues serving blind and visually impaired individuals in approximately 80 countries worldwide. Through the use of Christian publications, they are helping individuals see Jesus.

Our offering today is for the World Budget, of which Christian Record Services is a part.

**Let's Pray:** *"Lord, we desire for everyone to see You and know You intimately. Please continue to bless the ministry of Christian Record Services. May lives be changed for all eternity as they behold Jesus, the Lamb of God. In Jesus name we pray, Amen. "*

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**Sabbath 16**

**April 20, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

What does it mean to have and experience the abundant life that Jesus promised in John 10:10? Some say that Jesus was talking about a future experience we will have. Others suggest that Jesus was talking about His presence. Still others suggest that we can have abundant life in the here and now.

Abundant life involves living out the full potential of the four major quadrants of our lives: faith, family, fitness and finance. When these areas are doing well, then we are experiencing life to the full. Our offerings today will help our Church help others enjoy abundant life. May the Lord richly bless you as support the work of our local church.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, we thank you that we have the assurance that if we have You, we have life. Even more, we pray for the abundant life that only comes from You. Help us to make good choices as we manage our faith, families, fitness and finances for your Kingdom. Help us to find balance and teach others to do the same. We ask you Lord to bless the funds we give as our worship today that our local church might be all that You call us to be. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 17

April 27, 2013

Today's offering: Our Conference

What gift would you give to the person who puts gas in your vehicle? What about the attendant at the grocery store? Ok, how about the person who pilots the plane that you will be on in the near future? What about the doctor that attended your last visit?

Would your gift be the same for each one, or would it be different? And why? Each one is providing a service. Each one has the potential to do what they do very well. And yet, realistically, the gifts would be different based on certain criteria like, how well we know them or even more, how big of an impact their service was on our lives.

David writes in Psalm 29:2, "Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness." What kind of gifts can we bring to God today that would best represent the glory due His name?

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we've come today to worship You. We bring ourselves, our gifts, our talents and our money. . You are worthy of the best...You are holy. We hope our worship will be as beautiful to You as Your holiness is to us. We give you our hearts and ask You to take it and re-make it into Your beauty, Your holiness, and for Your glory. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 18**

**May 4, 2013**

### **Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

Imagine being called by God to build a large boat. Noah, responded to God's instruction and because he did, he and his family along with the animals were saved from the flood waters. What a day of rejoicing that must have been when Noah was able to open the doors of the ark and once again walk on solid ground.

The Bible tells us that one of the first things he did was to present a sacrifice offering to the Lord. God kept His promise and Noah responded by bringing the Lord an offering. Think about all the times the Lord has brought you through a difficult time in your life. He is and always has been faithful. This is the time of our service where we worship through giving. We return to Him His tithes, and our offerings of thanksgiving. Today's offering is designated to support the local ministries of our church. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving to God and His work.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we can't imagine what it must have been like to be in a boat, with all the animals, while experiencing a torrential flood. But we can relate to the many storms in our lives that You have led us through, by your faithful, guiding hand. Thank You Lord. We praise You for Your faithfulness and give to You as our act of worship. Bless these gifts we pray, In Jesus name, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 19**

**May 11, 2013**

**Today's offering: World Budget / Disaster & Famine  
Relief emphasis**

In Matthew 25, Jesus refers to a group of people that win His praise at the end of time because of their self-sacrificing giving and service. He describes them to be a people that give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, clothes and lodging to those in need, medication and care to the sick, and visits to those in prison.

Jesus tells them that every time they responded to a need of His children, it was as if they were doing it to Him. This group doesn't seek recognition or fame. They do it because of their love for God and people.

Seventh-day Adventists continue to be active in reaching out to those in need. Our offering today is for our world budget that provides support for disaster and famine relief around the world. Thank you for your faithfulness. It's making a difference one life at a time!

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, please accept our gifts today and multiply them to meet the great needs around our world. We long for the day when disasters and famines will be a thing of the past. Come quickly Lord Jesus, Come! In Your name we pray, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 20

May 18, 2013

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

In Psalm 84:1, 2, David tells us how much he loves to be in the presence of God in His temple. He says, "How lovely *is* Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God." Still later in the chapter, David again declares, "Blessed are those who dwell in your house, they are ever praising you." And finally in verse 10 David continues the theme, "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked."

David loved to experience the presence of God in His Temple. It was there he communed with God, brought his praises, his offerings and his sacrifices.

Today, the offerings that we have brought as our act of worship will be for our church. With God's blessings, it will support our local ministries that others too might come and enjoy the blessings of God's house.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, it is good to be in Your house this morning. It is a joy to be in Your presence always, and especially today, Your holy Sabbath day. We have gathered as Your people to honour You and worship You. We present these gifts to You because we love You. Bless Your church we pray in Jesus name, Amen. "*

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**Sabbath 21**

**May 25, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Conference**

We have an awesome privilege to share the gospel message of the Kingdom of God with freedom. We can declare, to the cities, towns, and communities, throughout our Conference, the wonderful truth that Jesus is alive, He is faithful, and He is coming back. David proclaims, in Psalm 89, "I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations." The offerings we have prepared for our worship today will go in support of the initiatives and work throughout our Conference. Together we can make a difference. Thank you in advance for your faithfulness.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, we declare that You have been faithful in the past and You are faithful today, and that You will always be faithful! That's who You are. We praise You for Your righteousness, forgiveness, compassion, love and faithfulness. We ask Your blessing on these gifts we have presented before You today. Bless the work of our Conference, empower our leaders, embolden each one of us, so that together we can fulfill Your divine plan. In Jesus name we pray, Amen. "*

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## **Sabbath 22**

**June 1, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

In Psalm 86:11 David makes this request, "teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth." It's one thing to know where you are going; it's another, to know 'the way' there. Modern technology has made it easier to travel. We simply punch in a destination into our GPS (Global Positioning System) and it will take us on the most effective route.

In regards to our spiritual destination, our church acts as a HPS (Heavenly Positioning System). Think about it. God has called us to teach, train and equip believers how to take the journey to our heavenly destination. Here, we learn to walk with Jesus who is the truth, the life and the way that leads us to our heavenly home. (John 14:6)

The offerings we give today, as part of our worship in giving, will go to support the ministries of our local church. This 'HPS' (Heavenly Positioning System) needs your help. Thank you in advance for helping us help others.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we can't wait to see You face to face. Until then, continue to teach us Your way so that we will walk in Your truth. Bless the tithes and offerings we have presented to You as our act of worship. Multiply the efforts of our Church and make us an effective tool for Your Kingdom sake, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 23****June 8, 2013****Today's offering: NAD / World Budget / Multilingual /  
Chaplaincy Ministries emphasis**

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.

But praise the Lord for Multilingual and Chaplaincy Ministries who continue to aspire to the challenge. These ministries strive to reach out to individuals and people groups wherever opportunities avail themselves. Today we can be part of seeing this prophecy fulfilled. Our offerings today will support in part the North American Division and World Budget with emphasis particularly on the Multilingual and Chaplaincy Ministries.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we pray that the gospel of the Kingdom might be preached in the whole world. Please use our gifts today as a means to support the Multilingual and Chaplaincy Ministries. Guide and direct their every effort we pray in Jesus name, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 24****June 15, 2013****Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

When was the last time you've gone for a checkup? On a scale of one to five, (five being the best), how would you rate your overall health? We hope and pray that all of us might experience good healthy bodies. Paul describes the church as the body of Christ. It is made up of many parts, but forms one body. Just as we need good physical health, we also desire good spiritual health. It is our goal that each one in the body of Christ is fed proper spiritual food, exercising discipleship and the gospel commission, resting in Jesus and living in the hope and joy we share.

Our offerings today will support our local body of Christ, the Church. Please consider ways that you can contribute your time, energy, gifts and funds to make our church the best it can be.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we thank You that we can come to You anytime knowing that Your presence is among us. You are the head, and we are your body. We pray today that You will empower us, strengthen and heal us. Bless the gifts we have brought for our worship in giving today. Bless the ministries of Your Church. May Your will be done among us today and always, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 25**

**June 22, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Conference**

In 2 Samuel 24, David desired to build an altar to the Lord in an effort to petition the Lord to stop the plagues on the nation of Israel. When he arrived at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, Araunah graciously offered to give King David everything he needed.

But David insisted on paying for everything, making this statement, "I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So he purchased the threshing floor and presented his offering to the Lord and the Lord responded favorably.

What offering can we bring today that will truly represent a sacrifice worthy of our God? Today, with the Lord's blessing, our sacrificial offerings will support the work and initiatives of our local Conference.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, today we present to you tithes and offerings that we have prepared from our hearts. We, like David, will not bring to You anything that costs us nothing. We give You ourselves, our time, energy and these gifts. Bless them according to Your will. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 26****June 29, 2013****Today's offering: NAD – Evangelism**

Three times in the Psalms David proclaims of the Lord, “Your love and mercy are higher than the heavens, and Your faithfulness and truth reaches to the skies.”<sup>5</sup> We have so much to be thankful for. As Christians we resonate with David’s proclamation because we know it to be true! Today, our offering will support the work of the North American Division in the area of evangelism. Thank you for your support in reaching out to those who do not know, and are not aware of the blessings we see and experience in God’s love and faithfulness.

**Let’s pray**, *“Lord, we have experienced Your love and faithfulness. We know You are a God of mercy and love. Today we pray that You will bless our gifts as it is used to support the work of evangelism in North America. Thank You that You are always working on behalf of humanity to ensure our future with You. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.”*

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<sup>5</sup> Psalm 36:5, 57:10, 108:4

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**Sabbath 27**  
**July 6, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

Everywhere Jesus, went while He was on this planet, He gave. Matthew 4 and 6 tell us of how Jesus gave hope and salvation through the good news of the Kingdom. Jesus gave restoration from disease and sickness. Everywhere he went he modeled what a life of self-sacrificial giving looked like. He touched lives, healed them, and made an eternal difference. What a mission!

The Church is Jesus' agency of hope to the world. Our sacrificial giving today will go in support of our ministries here at home. We can give our time, our talents, ourselves and of course our monetary gifts to advance the cause Jesus lived and died for. May God richly bless you as you partner with the Savior today.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, You are the same yesterday, today and forever. You never change. We've come today to worship you. We present to You our gifts and tithes that we give with a cheerful heart. Lord, it wasn't always easy for You to give, but You did it anyway. Because You did, we, and countless others can be with You for all eternity. Thanks so much, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

**Sabbath 27**  
**July 6, 2013**

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**Sabbath 28**  
**July 13, 2013**

**Today's offering: NAD – Women's Ministries**

Weary and thirsty, Jesus came to a well in Samaria. There he met a woman who came to draw water. Through the course of a life altering conversation, Jesus revealed Himself to her and she became a great evangelist to the people of Sychar. Her testimony had a powerful impact on those in her community. As a result, many came to know Jesus that day.

The offering we give today, will go in support of the North American Division's, Women's Ministry. Here women are encouraged and trained to be used by God as powerful tools in the Masters hand to advance His Kingdom. May God richly bless you as you give in support of this power ministry.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord we are thankful for how you have led us in the past and how You lead us today. We pray for the Women's Ministries of the North American Division. Bless the funds we have given today as our support of this great work. We thank You for the privilege of serving You, In Jesus name we pray, Amen. "*

**Sabbath 28**  
**July 13, 2013**

**Today's offering: NAD – Women's Ministries**

Weary and thirsty, Jesus came to a well in Samaria. There he met a woman who came to draw water. Through the course of a life altering conversation, Jesus revealed Himself to her and she became a great evangelist to the people of Sychar. Her testimony had a powerful impact on those in her community. As a result, many came to know Jesus that day.

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**Let's pray,** *"Lord we are thankful for how you have led us in the past and how You lead us today. We pray for the Women's Ministries of the North American Division. Bless the funds we have given today as our support of this great work. We thank You for the privilege of serving You, In Jesus name we pray, Amen. "*

## Sabbath 29

July 20, 2013

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

Have you ever stood close to a lighthouse? Or better yet, have you ever seen the powerful light that a lighthouse produces as it shines abroad? There's nothing better than to see a lighthouse while in the midst of a storm. It provides a sense of assurance and hope. John describes Jesus as the 'True Light'<sup>7</sup> that gives light to everyone in this dark world. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus describes His followers as the 'light of the world', suggesting further that they should shine their light before men, that they may see their good deeds.<sup>8</sup> This world needs light! Jesus and his followers are that light.

Today, as we worship through giving, the funds we collect will go towards ministries of our local lighthouse, our church. Of course that's not just for the needs of our building, it is also for our ministries. We are the church, a lighthouse on a hill that cannot be hidden.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, You are the true light. Without You we are in darkness and we cannot see our way. Continue to guide and direct us through this journey that we, along with many others in our community, may see You face to face. Bless these gifts we bring to You as our worship. We pray in Jesus name, Amen."*

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<sup>7</sup> John 1:9

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 5:16

## Sabbath 29

July 20, 2013

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

Have you ever stood close to a lighthouse? Or better yet, have you ever seen the powerful light that a lighthouse produces as it shines abroad? There's nothing better than to see a lighthouse while in the midst of a storm. It provides a sense of assurance and hope. John describes Jesus as the 'True Light'<sup>9</sup> that gives light to everyone in this dark world. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus describes His followers as the 'light of the world', suggesting further that they should shine their light before men, that they may see their good deeds.<sup>10</sup> This world needs light! Jesus and his followers are that light.

Today, as we worship through giving, the funds we collect will go towards ministries of our local lighthouse, our church. Of course that's not just for the needs of our building, it is also for our ministries. We are the church, a lighthouse on a hill that cannot be hidden.

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<sup>9</sup> John 1:9

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 5:16

## Sabbath 30

July 27, 2013

Today's offering: Our Conference

You may have heard someone whistling a simple tune or say the words, "Don't worry, be happy". Jesus himself, in the Sermon on the Mount, said that we should not worry about our tomorrows, the clothes we will wear or our life in general. But rather, we should seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and then all these things will be given to us.<sup>11</sup>

Maybe what you're going through is making it difficult not to worry? Seek God's Kingdom and the one who promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Our worship in giving will support in part the ministries of our local Conference. Today we can partner together to share the good news that in Jesus we do not have to worry. He has promised to supply our every need.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, sometimes we get good at worrying. Often when the trials of life weigh us down, it's difficult not to worry. Help us to look at our Champion, not our challenges. Help us to seek you first in all things. Empower us to live the principles of Kingdom life every day. We love You, trust You, and thank You for hearing and answering this prayer, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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<sup>11</sup> Matthew 6:33

## Sabbath 30

July 27, 2013

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You may have heard someone whistling a simple tune or say the words, "Don't worry, be happy". Jesus himself, in the Sermon on the Mount, said that we should not worry about our tomorrows, the clothes we will wear or our life in general. But rather, we should seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and then all these things will be given to us.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Matthew 6:33

## Sabbath 31

August 3, 2013

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

The story is told in Luke 5:1-11, of Jesus teaching by the Sea of Galilee as the crowd pushed in around Him. He noticed two boats on the shore and decided to speak to the crowd from the one belonging to Simon Peter. After Jesus finished speaking he asked Simon to go out into deep water and lower his net for a catch.

Simon Peter, an experienced fisherman, could have come up with quite a few good reasons why he did not want to do that. He simply pointed out that he had been working hard all night and hadn't caught anything. And then he said something profound to Jesus, "because You say so, I will let down the nets.

The Bible tells us that they caught so many fish it not only broke their nets, it almost sunk the other boat that came to help them. Peter responded and God blessed them. The same is true today. As we continue with our worship in giving, from week to week, let's bring the whole tithe into the storehouse just because God said so. And see if God will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.<sup>13</sup>

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, give us the faith we need to respond to You in all things. Teach us to trust and obey because You said it. Thank You for Your continued faithfulness in blessing our time, talents, temple and treasure that we offer to You today, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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<sup>13</sup> Malachi 3:10

## Sabbath 31

August 3, 2013

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

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<sup>14</sup> Malachi 3:10

**Sabbath 32**  
**August 10, 2013**

**Today's offering: World Budget / Oakwood University –  
Andrews University – Loma Linda University emphasis**

Matthew 28 describes an encounter Jesus had with his disciples after his resurrection. Jesus said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.”<sup>15</sup>

The Seventh-day Adventist Church through its institutions of education continues to teach, train and equip students of all ages to become disciples of Jesus. Today our offering will support our World Budget that funds Oakwood, Andrews and Loma Linda Universities.

**Let's pray,** *“Lord we pray for Your continued blessing on Oakwood University, Andrews University and Loma Linda University. They have an awesome responsibility as they train up young people for Your Kingdom. Walk among them by Your Spirit. Bless the leadership, faculty, students, and all the support staff that enables them to fulfill Your mission. We give You these gifts as our act of worship today. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.”*

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<sup>15</sup> Matthew 28:19,20

**Sabbath 32**  
**August 10, 2013**

**Today's offering: World Budget / Oakwood University –  
Andrews University – Loma Linda University emphasis**

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<sup>16</sup> Matthew 28:19,20

### **Sabbath 33**

**August 17, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

After Jesus taught in the temple courts, he sat down opposite the temple treasury. He observed many rich people depositing large amounts of money. Most likely their coins could be heard from a great distance. Jesus observed a widow enter and humbly deposit two small copper coins worth only a fraction of a penny. The sound they made could hardly be heard or noticed by anyone, except Jesus. Jesus called his disciples together to tell them that this poor widow put more into the treasury than any of the rich contributors that day. And the reason he gave them was because she gave all she had to live on. The others gave from their wealth.

Imagine, taking that step of faith and bringing to the Lord a gift of all the money you possess. Not the left over, or the excess of your wealth, but rather everything you had to live on. That's what she did. Jesus recognized her faith and by the Holy Spirit ensured that her story would be shared with every generation of believers as a testimony of her life of faith. Today as we continue with our worship in giving, let us give with all our hearts as our act of faithfulness to the Lord.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, many of us do not know what it is like to bring to you an offering that represents everything we have to live on. Give us that faith so we can trust you even in the most difficult times. Give us a humble willing heart to serve you always. Please bless the tithes we bring, and our offerings we give today to support our local church budget for Your Kingdom's sake, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 34****August 24, 2013****Today's offering: Our Conference**

In Psalm 24 David makes it very clear that God owns the earth and everything in it. Think about, God owns everything. We cannot declare ownership of one thing on this planet. It all belongs to Him. As owner and creator, God also designed the plans. He designed all things for a specific purpose. That purpose was to bring Him joy and glory. Nothing has changed today. God still owns everything. He still desires that His creation bring Him joy and that His children enjoy His creation. One way we can bless Him who has blessed us so abundantly, is to bring Him His tithes and our offerings of Thanksgiving.

**Let's pray,"** *Dear Lord, Creator of all, we recognize you today as our creator. Thank you for the life You've given to us and for this world in which we live. Help us to be good stewards of all that You have created. Help us to be mindful that everything we have belongs to You. As our act of worship we bring You these tithes. Lord multiply it further Your work. Bless our Conference, who will receive the offerings that are collected today. We pray that together, we will bring You joy. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.*

**Sabbath 34****August 24, 2013****Today's offering: Our Conference**

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## Sabbath 35

August 31, 2013

Today's offering: Union Designated

Nehemiah dreamed of a better day for Jerusalem and his people. With great opposition and even greater determination Nehemiah examined the situation, cast a vision and developed a plan and prayed, prayed, prayed. His first task was to remove the rubble and position the workers. In spite of the threats of the opposition, he gave them this charge, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."<sup>17</sup>

Desperate times call for desperate measures. We are in desperate times today. Work as usual will not accomplish the God sized vision that is laid before us. Nehemiah commissioned everyone to take a part in the plan and in 52 days the wall was restored. What a blessing it must have been to be part of that miracle. Today, God is about to work out a miracle in our midst. Let's rally together and do our part to see His plan accomplished. Together we can! May God bless you as you give today.

**Let's pray,** *"Father, You know the beginning from the end. You know all things and what's best. We trust You today and ask You to bless these gifts we have presented for Your honor and glory. May they be used to further Your work according to Your plan. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

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<sup>17</sup> Nehemiah 4:14

## Sabbath 35

August 31, 2013

Today's offering: Union Designated

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<sup>18</sup> Nehemiah 4:14

**Sabbath 36**  
**September 7, 2013**  
**Today's offering: Church Budget**

A certain rich ruler<sup>19</sup> had a conversation with Jesus about eternal life. Jesus quickly went to the heart of the issue and asked him to sell all he had and give it to the poor. Unfortunately, that was the one thing that this young rich ruler could not do. He was disciplined to obey all the laws, but could not put the poor above his wealth. And so the young man left the presence of Jesus disheartened.

Jesus went on to explain that kingdom life is not about what we are able to acquire while on this earth, but rather, about the riches we will enjoy throughout eternity in heaven. Paul affirms that same message to the Colossian believers, when he counseled them to “set their minds on things above, not on earthly things”.<sup>20</sup>

Today we can put deposits in our heavenly bank account. The gifts we present as our worship in giving will support the ministries of our local church who will help others towards their eternal destination. That's making heavenly deposits!

**Let's pray**, *“Lord, when the things of this world look so appealing, and we lose sight of You, please forgive us. Help us keep our eyes on our heavenly home and our life we will spend with You. Bless these gifts that others in our community might experience the same hope. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.”*

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<sup>19</sup> Matthew 19:16-30

<sup>20</sup> Colossians 3:2

**Sabbath 36**  
**September 7, 2013**  
**Today's offering: Church Budget**

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<sup>21</sup> Matthew 19:16-30

<sup>22</sup> Colossians 3:2

## Sabbath 37

September 14, 2013

Today's offering: World Budget: Fall Mission Appeal

Many parents have had to wrestle with the proverbial question of their children, "Are we there yet?"

Sometimes, this question is asked at the beginning of a journey and could last throughout the entire trek. The answers come in various forms:

Not yet! Over half way there! We are closer to getting there than we are from home! Almost! Just a little further!

Imagine how refreshing it was to hear, "Get ready to cross!"

Joshua and the children of Israel had arrived at the Jordan and it was time to cross over and take the land God promised. After a long difficult journey, they were about to enter Canaan.

We are living in a time in earth's history when it's soon time to cross. The song writer captured our hope:

"We are nearing home!

See the splendor gleaming from the domes afar!

See the glory streaming thro' the gates ajar!

There we soon will enter, never more to roam

Hear the angels singing! We are nearing home.

Oh Yes! We are nearing home!"

Our offerings today will support the finishing of the work as we anxiously await the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we give You these gifts in preparation of our final destination. We long to be home with You, and with as many of our family and friends as possible. Bless the tithes and offerings we bring. Lord Jesus come quickly, we pray these things in Jesus name, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 38**

**September 21, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

John chapter 6 records a story of the enormous task of feeding over five thousand people. It would have taken a small fortune. Actually the best the disciples could come up with was a boys lunch consisting of five small barely loaves and two small fishes. Andrew spoke up with a reality check, "how far will they go among so many?" In other words, "Really, what impact could this possibly make in this situation?"

That thought may have crossed your mind as you presented a gift to the Lord. "How far can this go among so many needs?" The truth is, Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes and fed thousands of people. Today, He can take our gifts and multiply them to spiritually feed thousands of people in our community and beyond. Let's be faithful in our giving and leave the rest to God.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we present to You tithes and offerings as part of our worship today. Please bless and multiply them to feed a multitude with both physical and spiritual food for your Kingdom's sake, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 39**  
**September 28, 2013**  
**Today's offering: Our Conference**

Before Jesus left this planet, he made a promise that he would never leave us alone or forsake us. He would send another helper or comforter<sup>23</sup>. The Spirit of Truth would live in us to guide and convict us of what is right and wrong, and remind us of the consequences of our choices. The Holy Spirit teaches and helps us to remember the things we've learned. Now that's a helper we don't want to be without.

Today the gifts we bring as our worship will support our Conference. Let's continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct our Conference leadership and all its initiatives, that together we will accomplish great things for God's Kingdom.

**Let's pray,** *"Father, we thank you for the promise of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for the provision You have made to empower and guide Your people. Please bless us with a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit as we present these gifts to You. Grant wisdom, discernment and boldness to our Conference leaders as we partner with them today and always. We pray in Jesus name, Amen,"*

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<sup>23</sup> John 14:16

**Sabbath 39**  
**September 28, 2013**  
**Today's offering: Our Conference**

Before Jesus left this planet, he made a promise that he would never leave us alone or forsake us. He would send another helper or comforter<sup>24</sup>. The Spirit of Truth would live in us to guide and convict us of what is right and wrong, and remind us of the consequences of our choices. The Holy Spirit teaches and helps us to remember the things we've learned. Now that's a helper we don't want to be without.

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<sup>24</sup> John 14:16

## **Sabbath 40**

**October 5, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

After Jesus resurrection, He appeared to the apostles and over a period of forty days He spoke about the things concerning the Kingdom of God. <sup>25</sup> He told them they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit and that they would be His witnesses to continue the Kingdom agenda. And the church grew; first 3000, then 5000, then more and more....

Today we can all be part of the Kingdom agenda by praying for the power of the Holy Spirit, using our gifts and talents, making time and providing the funds to accomplish the vision. As we continue with our worship in giving, consider what you can give as our part in this great mission.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, You used ordinary people in the past to accomplish extra ordinary things. You enabled, empowered and emboldened men, woman and children to do Your work. Today we give You ourselves and these gifts as our offering to support our Church. Make us into what You want us to be. We pray these things in Jesus name, Amen."*

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<sup>25</sup> Acts 1:3

## **Sabbath 40**

**October 5, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

After Jesus resurrection, He appeared to the apostles and over a period of forty days He spoke about the things concerning the Kingdom of God. <sup>26</sup> He told them they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit and that they would be His witnesses to continue the Kingdom agenda. And the church grew; first 3000, then 5000, then more and more....

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<sup>26</sup> Acts 1:3

**Sabbath 41**

**October 12, 2013**

**Today's offering: NAD / World Budget – Voice of  
Prophecy**

Song writer Henry Smith captured these words in song:  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy one,  
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say I am strong,  
let the poor say I am rich,  
because of what the Lord has done for us,  
Give thanks.

Every one of us has a personal reason to give God thanks.  
As a church it is a privilege to share what God has done and  
continues to do for us. One way of expressing our thanks is  
through the gifts we bring to God. The offerings we collect  
during our worship in giving will support the World Budget  
which supports the ministry of the Voice of Prophecy. This  
powerful ministry continues to share the wonderful truths of  
the Bible and all the reasons we have to give thanks to our  
Creator and Redeemer.

**Let's pray,** *“Lord, we truly thank You today for all that You  
have done for us. Thank You for Your continued work in our  
lives. Thank You for the opportunities and privilege of  
sharing the good news of the Kingdom. Continue to bless  
the Voice of Prophecy. Work through them as they continue  
to proclaim Your message of hope. In Jesus name we pray,  
Amen.”*

**Sabbath 41**

**October 12, 2013**

**Today's offering: NAD / World Budget – Voice of  
Prophecy**

Song writer Henry Smith captured these words in song:  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy one,  
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say I am strong,  
let the poor say I am rich,  
because of what the Lord has done for us,  
Give thanks.

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continues to do for us. One way of expressing our thanks is  
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to proclaim Your message of hope. In Jesus name we pray,  
Amen.”*

## **Sabbath 42**

**October 19, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

The story is told of a land owner who went on a trip. He entrusted his wealth to three of his property managers. To one he gave the equivalent of 90 years wages in silver. To another he gave the equivalent of 36 years wages, and to a third, he entrusted the equivalent of almost 20 years wages.

After a long time, the land owner returned and called the three managers in to share what transpired while he was away. Imagine the joy as the first manager gave his report of a 100% increase. That's right; he doubled the land owners asset. The second came with a similar report, 100% increase, and the asset doubled. The third manager gave his report, 100% in tack, no increase, no interest, no growth of any kind.

Which manager would you like to be? What report, of the three, would you like to present? May God bless each one as we continue to manage all He has entrusted to us. It's that part of our service when we can present our gifts to the owner of all. Today's offering will support our local Church. Thank you in advance for your faithfulness.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord we count it a privilege to serve You as 'stewards' and managers. Empower us to see as You see. Enable us to grow Your Kingdom, to multiply heavenly investments, and expand Your territory. Please bless these gifts we present to You today. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 43

October 26, 2013

Today's offering: Our Conference

The Psalms are full of words that describe God. David personally declares in Psalm 18: 1-3, "... I will love You, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised..."

Over and over David describes who God is. In the last verse of the last Psalm, David desires that everything that has breath, praise his God. That says a lot about who God was to David.

As a Conference it is our desire that God is made known to all the communities we serve. The offerings that are collected as our worship in giving, will support the local initiatives of our Conference. Thank you to helping us help others to know God more intimately.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord we desire to know You more. We want others to know and experience You as Lord and Saviour. Bless the initiatives of our Conference as we work together with You to make this dream a reality. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 44**

**November 2, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

As Jesus was teaching on the mountain side, He shared eternal principles of life in the kingdom of God. One in particular is recorded in Matthew 7:12 which states, "... in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." Some have called this the golden rule. Everyone likes to be treated well. Everyone likes the feeling of being respected and cared for. That's why we exist as a church.

Many of us were without hope until someone reached out and introduced us to Jesus. Perhaps others of us were lonely and isolated, until someone invited us to become part of the family of God. We thank the Lord for our Church family, a community where this principle is lived out. The offering we present to the Lord in our worship in giving today will support the ministry of our local Church. Thank you in advance for your faithfulness.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we are so glad to be part of the family of God, we've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by Your blood, we are joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, yes Lord, we are so glad to be part of the family of God" Please bless the gifts we present to You today. Bless our Church family as we continue to bless others, In Jesus name we pray, Amen*

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## **Sabbath 45**

**November 9, 2013**

**Today's offering: World Budget / Annual Sacrifice  
(Global Mission Emphasis)**

James and John approached Jesus with a question, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask?" In response Jesus asked them, "Well, what do you want?" They replied, "To sit on Your right and left side in Your Kingdom." Those were the greatest positions of honor, glory and privilege.

Jesus quickly reminded them about the Kingdom principle of selflessness. To make matters worse, when the disciples caught wind of James and John's request, they began to argue as to who among them was the greatest. Jesus said to them, "if anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last and servant of all." That's how Jesus lived. Actually, that's how Jesus died; taking our place as a ransom sacrifice.

Today, we have an opportunity to participate in the Annual Sacrifice. Our offering will support the Global Mission Emphasis. Here's our chance to follow Jesus' example and sacrifice for those in need.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we thank You for what You have done and continue to do for us. Today, we want to give back to those in need. Please bless the gifts we've brought as our worship to You. Thank you that we can be part of this great work. In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 46****November 16, 2013****Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

If a rich man would ask you the question, "What do you want?" how would you answer? If you could have anything you wanted, what would you ask for? Jesus asked a man by the name of Bartimaeus, what he wanted. He didn't ask for riches, or fame. He didn't ask for recognition or status. He wanted Jesus to open his eyes so that he could see. For the first time in this blind man's life, he could see the face of Jesus, the one who healed him.

That's why we're here today. As a church we help people see Jesus. He's the only one that can provide the things we really need. Our offering today will support the ministries in our local church. This is the part of our service where we all have a chance to participate. Thank you in advance for your faithfulness.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, we want to see You face to face. We pray for clearer vision. Help us help others to see You and experience a rich vibrant relationship with You. We present to You these tithes and offerings as part of our worship. Bless and multiply them according to Your will we pray, In Jesus name, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 47**

**November 23, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Conference**

In Acts chapter 5, the story is told of the apostles who had been performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. Unfortunately, the high priest and religious leaders became very jealous of their influence on the people and had them arrested and put in jail.

During the night the angel came and released them. You would think for some of the disciples that this would have been a good opportunity to run. Surely they had had enough persecution and opposition. Scripture tells us that they didn't run, rather, they remained faithful to the call. They knew that God was all powerful. They experienced firsthand that God was with them in their time of trouble. Back to the spiritual battlefield they went, bold, determined, and renewed!

Today, we want to be faithful to the call. The battle rages on. Our offering today is designated to support our Conference. As a Conference we have a tremendous opportunity to advance the cause of God's Kingdom. We need your help. Together we can make a difference.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, we know that whatever the trial or challenge that comes our way, You will be with us. We are giving these gifts today to You as our act of worship in hopes that it will support the work of our Conference and lives will be touched as a result. May Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 48

November 30, 2013

Today's offering: NAD Evangelism

Romans 10 gives us a snapshot of Paul's passion for his people. He desired that they would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. He confidently declared, "If you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Paul lived and experienced the power of the gospel and desired that as many as possible call on the name of the Lord to be saved."

But then he made the following observations:

How can they be called if they don't believe?

How can they believe if they haven't heard?

How can they hear if no one is sharing the good news?

How can they share the good news if no one is being sent?

That's why we are here today. Our offering will support the North American Division Evangelism strategies. We, like Paul, desire as many people as possible to get to know Jesus. Your generous donations today will help make that a reality. Together we can make a difference.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, You love us so much that You went the distance for us. We can't wait to see You when You come to take us home. But Lord, there are still so many that don't know about you. Today we give You these gifts so that as many as possible might hear the good news, believe and enjoy life with You as Lord and Savior. We pray this prayer, in Jesus name, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 49**

**December 7, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Church Budget**

How do you define success? Some might say, living a comfortable life is being successful. Others might suggest that true success is having the means and abilities to purchase anything they wanted. Some may define success by having a certain degree, a certain job or career, living on a certain street, or driving a certain type of car, or all the above. Or another might suggest that true success is having the ability to be happy with what you have.

In Philippians 4:12, Paul shares his secret to success, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

Imagine what could happen if we would practice contentment, the principle of true success. Imagine, if instead of having-to-have-it, we gave to the advancement of God's Kingdom. Our offering today will support the ministry of our local church. May God grant us all true success today.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, thank You for Your blessings. You have given so much for us and today we have come to worship You through our giving. Please take these gifts and increase Your Kingdom. Continue to teach us to be content in all things, at all times. We thank You for hearing our prayer, In Jesus name we pray, Amen."*

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**Sabbath 50**

**December 14, 2013**

**Today's offering: NAD / World Budget / Adventist  
Community Services emphasis**

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 Adventist Community Services. Our offering today will go in support of the World Budget which funds in part the ministry of Adventist Community Services. This is the part of our worship service where we have an opportunity to present our gifts to the Lord.

**Let's pray,** *"Lord, thank you for coming to this world and showing us how to live. You touched so many lives through your actions of giving. We want to model that to our world. Bless the ministry of Adventist Community Services and our gifts in support of the great work they do. We pray in Jesus name, Amen."*

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## **Sabbath 51**

**December 21, 2013**

**Today's offering: Our Local Church Budget**

This is the part of our worship where we give to God. This time of year we reflect on all that He has given to us. Imagine, God coming to this world as a human to live among us. Living, loving and giving, even unto death. He continues to give us so much and more.

You might ask, "what can I give to God, who owns everything, and who needs nothing?" "What would He want from me?" To those questions, God would say, "love me with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." (NIV Mark 12:30)

One way we can show God how much we love Him is to bring to him tithes and offerings. All of us, as Christ's body, can take part in this act of worship. Our offerings today are for our local church, the place we learn and practice love for God and our community. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts. May God richly bless you and keep you, today and always.

**Let's pray**, *"Lord, thank you for coming to this world, living a life that made a difference and showing us how to give. These tithes and offerings have been prepared for this gathering of worship as a gift to You to tell You just how much we love You. We want to love You with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Please accept and bless these gifts from our hearts to Yours. We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord, Amen."*

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## Sabbath 52

December 28, 2013

Today's offering: Local Conference Advance

This is the last Sabbath we will worship together in the year 2013. Another year is past and we are on the verge of a brand new year. What will you do differently next year than you did this past year? Let's quickly explore the top 4 areas to consider:

1. **Faith** – what choices can we make that will grow our faith and help us develop authentic, deep and rich relationship with God and His church?
2. **Family** – what can we do in this New Year that will enable us to draw closer to our family and friends through love and respect?
3. **Fitness** – What routines can we cultivate that will develop into healthy habits?
4. **Finance** – How can we budget to spend less, reduce debt, save like we never have, so we can give like we never have?

May God richly bless you as we determine to live out God's ideal everyday as His managers of the kingdom, now and forever!

**Let's pray**, *“Lord, without You we cannot do anything. Actually, life is not life, without You. So we invite You anew today to take control of our lives. Empower us to make good choices. Enable us to develop good habits. Continue to Entrust us with all you've created and we will do our best to be good managers of Your Kingdom. Lord Jesus come quickly, we pray and thank you for hearing and answering our prayers, In Jesus name we pray, Amen.”*

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5. **Faith** – what choices can we make that will grow our faith and help us develop authentic, deep and rich relationship with God and His church?
6. **Family** – what can we do in this New Year that will enable us to draw closer to our family and friends through love and respect?
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**JANUARY**

- 05 Our Church Budget
- 12 Our Conference
- 19 Our Church Budget
- 26 NAD/Religious Liberty

**FEBRUARY**

- 02 Our Church Budget
- 09 NAD/World Budget/Adventist Television Ministries
- 16 Our Church Budget
- 23 Our Conference

**MARCH**

- 02 Our Church Budget
- 09 World Budget/Adventist World Radio
- 16 Our Church Budget
- 23 Our Conference
- 30 Our Union–Special Offering

**APRIL**

- 06 Our Church Budget
- 13 World Budget/Christian Record Services
- 20 Our Church Budget
- 27 Our Conference

**MAY**

- 04 Our Church Budget
- 11 WB / Disaster & Famine Relief Emphasis
- 18 Our Church Budget
- 25 Our Conference

**JUNE**

- 01 Our Church Budget
- 08 NAD/WB/Multilingual/Chaplaincy Ministries
- 15 Our Church Budget
- 22 Our Conference
- 29 NAD – Evangelism

**JANUARY**

- 05 Our Church Budget
- 12 Our Conference
- 19 Our Church Budget
- 26 NAD/Religious Liberty

**FEBRUARY**

- 02 Our Church Budget
- 09 NAD/World Budget/Adventist Television Ministries
- 16 Our Church Budget
- 23 Our Conference

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- 02 Our Church Budget
- 09 World Budget/Adventist World Radio
- 16 Our Church Budget
- 23 Our Conference
- 30 Our Union–Special Offering

**APRIL**

- 06 Our Church Budget
- 13 World Budget/Christian Record Services
- 20 Our Church Budget
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- 04 Our Church Budget
- 11 WB / Disaster & Famine Relief Emphasis
- 18 Our Church Budget
- 25 Our Conference

**JUNE**

- 01 Our Church Budget
- 08 NAD/WB/Multilingual/Chaplaincy Ministries
- 15 Our Church Budget
- 22 Our Conference
- 29 NAD – Evangelism

**JULY**

06 Our Church Budget  
13 NAD – Women’s Ministries  
20 Our Church Budget  
27 Our Conference

**AUGUST**

03 Our Church Budget  
10 WB/Oakwood Univ/Andrews Univ/Loma Linda Univ  
17 Our Church Budget  
24 Our Conference  
31 Union Designated

**SEPTEMBER**

07 Our Church Budget  
14 WB/Fall Mission Appeal  
21 Our Church Budget  
28 Our Conference

**OCTOBER**

05 Our Church Budget  
12 NAD/WB/Voice of Prophecy  
19 Our Church Budget  
26 Our Conference

**NOVEMBER**

02 Our Church Budget  
09 WB/Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission Emphasis)  
16 Our Church Budget  
23 Our Conference  
30 NAD Evangelism

**DECEMBER**

07 Our Church Budget  
14 NAD/WB/Adventist Community Services  
21 Our Church Budget  
28 Our Conference

**JULY**

06 Our Church Budget  
13 NAD – Women’s Ministries  
20 Our Church Budget  
27 Our Conference

**AUGUST**

03 Our Church Budget  
10 WB/Oakwood Univ/Andrews Univ/Loma Linda Univ  
17 Our Church Budget  
24 Our Conference  
31 Union Designated

**SEPTEMBER**

07 Our Church Budget  
14 WB/Fall Mission Appeal  
21 Our Church Budget  
28 Our Conference

**OCTOBER**

05 Our Church Budget  
12 NAD/WB/Voice of Prophecy  
19 Our Church Budget  
26 Our Conference

**NOVEMBER**

02 Our Church Budget  
09 WB/Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission Emphasis)  
16 Our Church Budget  
23 Our Conference  
30 NAD Evangelism

**DECEMBER**

07 Our Church Budget  
14 NAD/WB/Adventist Community Services  
21 Our Church Budget  
28 Our Conference