

Sabbath 1

January 7, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJV

God longs for us to acknowledge him as the provider of all things. In this New Year it would be good to make the needs of our church here and around the world a subject of our prayers. In these economic times it would be easy to feel like we will not be able to meet our needs. Aren't you glad that God's blessings are not dependent on our feelings?

He has the provisions that will carry us through these times and in fact prosper us in the things that are truly important. But we must ask Him.

Let's make a New Year's resolution that is actually carried out. A resolution to pray daily, and more often as needed, for the needs in our church and the proclamation of the Three Angels' messages to a hurting planet.

Appeal: Our church has many needs and we, its members, are the only ones that can meet those needs. So today, in this New Year, with God's blessings, we give a portion of what He has provided to us for the building up of His Kingdom.

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Sabbath 2

January 14, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

*"Every valley shall be filled
And every mountain and hill brought low;
The crooked places shall be made straight
And the rough ways smooth;
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Luke 3:5-6 NKJV

Martin Luther King was a minister and he made a very famous speech known as the "I have a Dream" speech. A lot of it is emphasized in the media, but listen to these words from the speech that is not as often publicized:

"I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together"...(he goes on to talk about the day when God's people)..."will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

Appeal: Our Conference works very hard to provide for the spiritual needs of all people within its territory. Some of the needs are for our children and others are outreach efforts to find God's children. Our offering today will help with these needs.

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Sabbath 3

January 21, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:31-33 NKJV

We humans have a hard time prioritizing things. Many of us are easily distracted from the job at hand. In this New Year it would be good for us to decide what is really important versus what is secondary, the “first things first” idea.

One question that can get things prioritized really quickly is this: “If you died tonight would you be ready?” That kind of puts things in order because is there anything more important than being ready for Jesus?

All the things that God asks us to do come with a promise to provide all that is needed to accomplish them. Whether it is a talent or a resource our gracious God will provide.

Appeal: Our church has a mission to prepare people for the soon coming of Jesus. It takes money to pay for the utilities, the materials, the programing, and other needs. Being a church member has its responsibilities. Today, we have the privilege of supporting the needs of this, our church.

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**Sabbath 4
January 28, 2012**

Today's offering: NAD / Religious Liberty

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2 Corinthians 3:17 NKJV

There is a vital connection between faith and liberty. To the Christian the presence of the Lord in our lives produces true liberty. This liberty is essential to happiness and to the carrying out of God's plans on earth.

We hear stories of various countries around the world where there is no tolerance for other religions and those who practice the forbidden faiths are often subject to rejection, ridicule and in some cases death.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has taken the position that people should be free to choose their faith and practice their religious principles without restrictions from the government.

The Adventist church has been active for over 100 years advocating freedom of religion for all people, regardless of faith. In 1893 it founded the *International Religious Liberty Association*, which is universal and non-sectarian. The Seventh-day Adventist Church State Council serves to protect religious groups from legislation that may affect their religious practices. This is primarily achieved through advocacy.

Appeal: Today's offering will go to support this important phase of the church's ministry including support for Liberty Magazine so it might impact thought leaders all over North America.

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Sabbath 5

February 4, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marveled, saying, 'How does this Man know letters, having never studied?' Jesus answered them and said, 'My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.'" John 7:14-16 NKJV

The religious leaders in the time of Christ didn't consider Him a theologian as is evident in their question. And in some circles today Jesus wouldn't be considered a theologian for the same reason.

His teaching astonished the doctors of the law for He did not deal in abstract theories. His instruction was practical and down to earth. It had to do with essential character development, the enlargement of a person's capacity to know God. He taught those principles which applied to daily living; those things that would once more unite humans with the heavenly family.

God ordained that we should live by principle; not by rules. To obey a rule doesn't require any great degree of intelligence because all that is required is to do what the rule says. But to apply a principle requires intelligence of a higher order along with mental and moral courage. But, strange as it may seem, many would rather live by rules — it takes less effort — less thought — no decisions.

Appeal: Our church is a place where Biblical principles are taught and practiced. We value the practical teachings of the Bible as our only rule of faith and practice. It is our privilege to support our church in these endeavors by our gifts today.

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Sabbath 6
February 11, 2012

Today's offering: NAD / World Budget / ATM emphasis

Jesus said in Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV); "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'" And then in Acts 1:7-8(NKJV) just before he returned to Heaven He said: "And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'"

When annual birth rates exceed annual death rates by the millions it means that as each year passes we have millions more to reach for Jesus Christ. This will only be accomplished by a miracle of God's blessings. One of those blessings is the use of media, such as: Television, streaming internet and perhaps other forms in the future.

Faith for Today's Lifestyle Magazine for the secular audience, *Breath of Life* targeting the urban audience, and *It Is Written's* full-message telecast will benefit from today's offering. These three North American ministries reach out in ways that could never have been imagined not many years ago. Adventist programming is now even available for cellular phones and other mobile devices.

Appeal: The funds we give today will find their way into service for the many ministries of the World Budget like the television ministries.

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Sabbath 7

February 18, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

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

Genesis 1:1 NKJV

The most important words of this scripture are the first four: “In the beginning God!” As stewards, we are endowed with mental, physical and moral capabilities. These must be developed and combined into an intangible we call character. This character is the only thing we will take, in its acceptable form, from this earth to Heaven. Therefore, these capabilities must be perfected through the power of choice: the choice and application of principles to specific situations. It is this consideration, decision and implementation that form the foundation and growth of character. It was to this end that God formed humanity a free, moral agent; a person who could recognize their capabilities and develop them to the glory of his Creator; a person who would be able to return love as they were loved. Such people were to take their places in the heavenly family as contributors to the celestial happiness.

To accomplish this divine purpose, a person must recognize their origin and their God-given appointment as a manager over the things with which they have been entrusted. To help us God gave us great, guiding principles to live by.

Appeal: Our church has been given the task of guiding humans in the ways of God and to know and understand the divine principles. We give our resources today for that purpose.

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Sabbath 8
February 25, 2012
Today's offering: Our Conference

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” Matthew 9:37-38 NKJV

2012 is a leap year. Leap years are years with 366 days, instead of the usual 365. Leap years are necessary because the actual length of a year is 365.242 days, not 365 days, as commonly stated. Basically, leap years occur every 4 years, and years that are evenly divisible by 4 (2004 and 2008 for example) have 366 days and the day is added on February 29th.

One exception is that century years are only considered as leap years if they are evenly divisible by 400. Therefore, 1700, 1800, 1900 were not leap years, and 2100 will not be a leap year. But 1600 and 2000 were leap years, because those year numbers are evenly divisible by 400.

For most of us we don't even notice the extra day. But it brings to mind the issue of time. We are stewards of time and God has told us that laborers are needed for the harvest. Our conference is given the task of providing and coordinating laborers. This can be in the form of pastors, teachers, support personnel and training of the laity.

Appeal: It would be nice if the extra day, in 2012, provided for more laborers for the harvest, or even more resources. In our giving today we bless the work of our Conference with our gifts generated by our time and talent.

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Sabbath 9
March 3, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless." Ecclesiastes 5:10 NIV

We long to have lives that are purposeful and meaningful, God wired us that way. Too often we look for this purpose in all the wrong places. A bottle, a pill, self-destructive behaviors while all the time looking for meaning.

Solomon says in our Scripture that one place that is meaningless is money, when it is the center of life.

"When we love God supremely, temporal things will occupy their right place in our affections. If we humbly and earnestly seek for knowledge and ability in order to make a right use of our Lord's goods, we shall receive wisdom from above. When the heart leans to its own preferences and inclinations, when the thought is cherished that money can confer happiness without the favor of God, then the money becomes a tyrant, ruling the man; it receives his confidence and esteem and is worshiped as a god. Honor, truth, righteousness, and justice are sacrificed upon its altar. The commands of God's word are set aside, and the world's customs and usages, which King Mammon has ordained, become a controlling power." Adventist Home page 372

Appeal: Our offering today is for our precious church. To help with the ministries and costs of operating this light in our community.

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Sabbath 10
March 10, 2012

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

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

Our Lord himself gave us an order to proclaim His message to the world. That is the greatest reason we need a world organization to coordinate and guide this work around the world.

We must also remember that what God asks us to do; He will provide the means and talents needed to successfully accomplish it. Ultimately, our success as a church in any endeavor will be traced to His provisions and blessing.

The World Budget provides funds for many ministries that go beyond the borders of North America. Ministries like: Adventist World Radio that proclaims the Good News over radio waves into places that missionaries would not dare to go.

Appeal: The funds we give today will find their way into service for the many ministries of the World Budget.

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Sabbath 11

March 17, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.’” Mark 12:41-44 NIV

The economy of heaven is different than ours. In this story the widow put in two small coins, the rich put in large amounts, yet Jesus said, she “put more into the treasury than all the others.” Who would get the largest tithe and offering receipt from the church treasurer? This is very interesting.

The reason the widow was exalted by Christ is because in giving “motive is everything,” The widow put in everything indicating her total trust and total commitment to God. While we are not asked to give everything we have, we should be willing to give it if God asked for it and our commitment to the Kingdom of Christ must occupy first place in our hearts.

Appeal: Our church has many needs, things like electricity, materials, water, program costs, and in some cases a mortgage along with many other expenses. As members it is our privilege to give from our hearts to assist the church in its work in our area.

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Sabbath 12

March 24, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

“And he told them this parable: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.’ And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.” Luke 12:16-21
NIV

This sounds like a success story, until you get to the end. The farmer had a bumper crop, that’s a good thing! He was storing it up, that’s a wise thing! Only one problem, he was attempting to keep it all for himself. This text is full of self-centered pronouns like: I, me, my and so on. The last three words warn about those who are “not rich toward God.” What does this mean because it is a key to the parable?

To be “rich toward God” means that God is the focus of your life and that you find total security in Him. Not your wealth or possessions but in Him. He is what you value most.

Appeal: Our Conference will benefit from your giving today. It serves our church and many others in this area to provide guidance and help in building the Kingdom and calling people to be “rich toward God.”

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Sabbath 13

March 31, 2012

Today's offering: Our Union - Special Offering

“Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.”

1 Chronicles 29:11-13 NIV

What subject is addressed most often in the Bible? If your answer is “Salvation,” you are correct. Do you know the second most addressed subject in Scripture? It is “financial matters,” described in various ways, such as: wealth, possessions, stewardship, money or money management principles, or giving.

The reason this is addressed so strongly is that it is one of the keys to our relationship with God. Wealth and money have such a powerful hold on us we must get that right or everything else will be distorted. The Christian life is a call to God-centered living. Rather than focus on the provisions we focus on the Provider the one through whom all wealth and honor comes.

Appeal: In the organization of our church our Union provides a valuable place in the regional work needed. Our offering will provide for the special needs in our territory.

PRAY

Sabbath 13

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Today's offering: Our Union - Special Offering

“Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.”

1 Chronicles 29:11-13 NIV

What subject is addressed most often in the Bible? If your answer is “Salvation,” you are correct. Do you know the second most addressed subject in Scripture? It is “financial matters,” described in various ways, such as: wealth, possessions, stewardship, money or money management principles, or giving.

The reason this is addressed so strongly is that it is one of the keys to our relationship with God. Wealth and money have such a powerful hold on us we must get that right or everything else will be distorted. The Christian life is a call to God-centered living. Rather than focus on the provisions we focus on the Provider the one through whom all wealth and honor comes.

Appeal: In the organization of our church our Union provides a valuable place in the regional work needed. Our offering will provide for the special needs in our territory.

PRAY

Sabbath 14
April 7, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring *it* to pass." Psalm 37:3-5 NKJV

Perhaps you are thinking, as many people do, "If I had enough money, I could do what I want, and then I would be happy!" Perhaps you should listen to *The Rolling Stones*. They were both rich and popular enough to be able to have and do just about everything they wanted. Yet when I mention *The Rolling Stones*, the first song that comes to mind is "I Can't Get No Satisfaction".

John D. Rockefeller, the richest man of his day and the first billionaire, said, "I can think of nothing less pleasurable than a life devoted to pleasure." He certainly could have bought any pleasure he wanted, but he knew that true satisfaction takes more than owning everything you want and doing whatever you think sounds like fun.

True satisfaction comes only from God. Our scripture makes that clear. This does not mean that if you really want a Porsche, "delight yourself" in God and He will give you a Porsche. It means that if you delight yourself in God, He will first and foremost give you Himself. In doing so, He will meet the true needs of your heart, so that you won't need a Porsche to try to fill the empty void in your life.

Appeal: Our offering today is for our Church's Budget.

PRAY

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April 7, 2012

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Appeal: Our offering today is for our Church's Budget.

PRAY

Sabbath 15

April 14, 2012

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

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. I and *My* Father are one." John 10:27-30 NKJV

A person once asked, "If a person is PHYSICALLY blind, how do they 'search the scriptures' or 'study to show thyself approved?'"

Physical blindness in no way keeps a physically blind person from "hearing the voice of the Shepherd" as suggested in this scripture. However there are obvious limitations for the literal study of the Bible.

The ministry of Christian Record Services uses technology to assist the blind and visually handicapped to be able to hear the word of God. In today's society the blind can read with braille or listen to CDs or cassettes of the Bible and other life changing literature. In that sense a physically blind person is blessed with not being tempted and tried by all that the world offers us via television or computers with images which tend for the most part to distract those with healthy natural vision. The truth is that all of us, by nature, are born spiritually blind, and must be brought to acknowledge that fact before being blessed with spiritual vision.

Appeal: The funds we give today will find their way into service for the many ministries of the World Budget like Christian Record Services.

PRAY

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April 14, 2012

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Services emphasis

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Appeal: The funds we give today will find their way into service for the many ministries of the World Budget like Christian Record Services.

PRAY

Sabbath 16

April 21, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me."

Matthew 25:40 NKJV

Our use of our money is a test. It is a part of the full picture of stewardship. Money is a master and very central to our lives. To the Christian our use of the money that has been given to us will reveal our true nature.

Money is neither good nor bad; it depends on how it is used.

Listen to these words from the book, Christ's Object Lessons page 351:

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

Here we see the real value of money: (1) Providing for the necessities of life; (2) Blessing others; and (3) Advancing the cause of Christ.

Appeal: Our offering today will go to assist our church in its ministry to our area. I believe this is a godly use of our funds.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 17

April 28, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

Paul says this in Philippians 4:11–13 (NIV):

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 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. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

Paul gives us a glimpse into his life experience. Notice the words “learned” and “know.” The Christian’s life is a life of learning. This is best indicated in the word: disciple. A disciple is a learner, a student, a follower of Jesus Christ.

I am sure Paul learned a lot of other things in life but here he focuses on the idea of contentment. In a world that is anything but content the Christian’s life should be a model of contentment. Paul clearly points us to the reason for contentment in “any and every situation.” It is through the one that gives him strength.

What Paul had learned and what Paul knew to be fact was that a God-centered life was the only way to truly live.

Appeal: Our Conference is in the business of bringing contentment to the people in our area. Through churches, pastors, education, and other programming. Our offering today will go to assist with this vital work for our time.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 18
May 5, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

In Matthew 6:19–21 (NIV) Jesus cautions us:

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

A basic human need is security, but money doesn't fulfill this need. That is because money itself is not secure. It can be lost, stolen or wiped out in a bank failure or stock market crash. If your security is placed in money, and you lose the money, you lose your security.

Even if you don't lose your money, it still fails to give you true security. In a total economic collapse, money won't help at all. Money in the bank won't shield you from a bank failure. In the event of war, money may allow you to move to an uninvolved nation, but it can't stop a bullet or a missile.

In a time of famine, money lets you buy what food there is, but when there is truly no food left, you can't eat money. Real security, by definition, can only come from something that will always be there for you. Money does not meet this standard. God does.

Appeal: The only thing that is certain in our world is uncertainty. Our offering today will help provide resources for our church's work of pointing people to the true source of security.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 19
May 12, 2012

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

Matthew 24:4–8 (NIV)

“Jesus answered: ‘Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.’”

One thing that has been very apparent in the last few years is the increase in major catastrophic events. Earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, fires, tornadoes, famine, uprisings, and the list could go on and on. While these are signs of the end times they are also opportunities for the church to show compassion on those that are impacted by these events.

Sharing with those in need is a basic Christian trait. In 1 Timothy 6:17–19 (NIV) Paul says, “*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*”

Appeal: Our offering today is for World Budget and one of the ministries that will receive funds is the Disaster and Famine Relief work of the Church.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 20
May 19, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”
Colossians 1:15-18NKJV

The word “head” conveys not only the ideas of authority and summation, but also the concept of source, or origination. Some say Peter founded the Church but the Bible makes it clear that Christ is its founder. As “head of the body, the church,” Jesus is the Lord of his people and also the source of their life and growth. Not only the church, but “all things” are summed up in Christ. In this symbolic figure, Paul gives the church a powerful image of universal scope of Christ’s dominion. The Church deserves our highest honor, our deepest passion, our fullest commitment because in so doing, we are giving ourselves to Christ.

Appeal: Our offering today is for our church, but in reality we are giving to Christ’s church. He is the head and center of all that we do here.

PRAY

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May 19, 2012

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PRAY

Sabbath 21
May 26, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the Lord your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. For *in* six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. Exodus 20:8-11 NKJV

Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the last Monday of May. Formerly known as Decoration Day, it commemorates U.S. soldiers who died while in the military service. First enacted to honor Union and Confederate soldiers following the American Civil War, it was extended after World War I to honor Americans who have died in all wars. Memorial Day often marks the start of the summer vacation season, and Labor Day its end. Canada has a similar holiday as well.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians we have a Memorial Day as well. We are stewards of the Bible Sabbath. As such, we proclaim the blessing and purpose of Sabbath observance to a world needing its message.

Appeal: The offering today will provide funding for some of the special work of our conference, among which is the proclamation of Bible truth.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 22
June 2, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.”

Phillipians 4:15 NKJV

In this scripture Paul gratefully recalls that this recent gift from his friends at Philippi was another example of the same generous spirit that had characterized them from the time when they were first committed to the gospel. After his departure from Macedonia and particularly when he settled in Corinth, the Philippians—the only congregation in such a close personal relationship with him—had continued to support him with their gifts.

The Spirit of generosity is from God. It is a characteristic of God shown most clearly in the life of Christ. This same character trait will be seen in those who follow Christ. In our giving to support the ministry of our church we are following in the footsteps of Jesus and the spirit that actuated the saints at Phillipi.

Appeal: “Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts.” (AA12) Today, our church will benefit from our offerings to the entity upon which God bestows His “supreme regard.”

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 23
June 9, 2012

**Today's offering: NAD / World Budget / Multilingual /
Chaplaincy Ministries emphasis**

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

1 Peter 5:7–11 (NIV)

Our world is becoming more complex as the ease of travel finds people of various cultures merging into others. Native language and cultural sensitivities can aid in reaching these people. We also find the continued needs of those who are sick and hurting or perhaps in the Armed forces and feeling very much alone.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the World Budget and two ministries of special emphasis are the Chaplaincy and Multilingual ministries. Both of these ministries strive to restore those who are lonely, hurting and distressed. There is an additional challenge when there is a language barrier so the work of multilingual ministries is to provide the Three Angels Messages in a language format that will reach people in their native tongue.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 24
June 16, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.”
Ephesians 3:10–13 (NIV)

The local church has a special place in God's Kingdom, listen to this:

“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, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ...” AA9

Appeal: The offering today is for our church. The church is given, in Scripture and in this book *Acts of the Apostles*, a high and holy place. The church, our church, has a special purpose in God's plan for humanity. Our offerings today will help us fulfill those plans.

PRAY

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June 16, 2012

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PRAY

Sabbath 25
June 23, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

“Honor the Lord from your wealth
And from the first of all your produce;
So your barns will be filled with plenty
And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

Proverbs 3:9-10 NASB95

Our definition of stewardship being, *God-centered living*, is especially appropriate here. This Scripture introduces us to the principle of the “first.” It is telling us that we always give God first place, that he is first in every activity of life. Peter said that God was first in his life. He swore that he would die for him then we find him swearing that he didn't know Him.

The Jews said God was first, but they were more interested in pleasing the Romans when the test came. Many Christians talk and sing about God being first, but when His work needs some effort or money, it's a different story. The question that each of us must ask is this: “Does God really come first in my life or after I get everything I want for myself, He can have what remains, just the left-overs?”

All the teaching of the Bible is that God must come first, God must be supreme. Jesus said if we would seek the kingdom of heaven first, then all the necessary things of life, such as food, clothing, and shelter would be given us by a loving heavenly father knows our needs.

Appeal: Our offering today is for some of the special needs of our Conference.

PRAY

Sabbath 25
June 23, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

“Honor the Lord from your wealth
And from the first of all your produce;
So your barns will be filled with plenty
And your vats will overflow with new wine.”

Proverbs 3:9-10 NASB95

Our definition of stewardship being, *God-centered living*, is especially appropriate here. This Scripture introduces us to the principle of the “first.” It is telling us that we always give God first place, that he is first in every activity of life. Peter said that God was first in his life. He swore that he would die for him then we find him swearing that he didn't know Him.

The Jews said God was first, but they were more interested in pleasing the Romans when the test came. Many Christians talk and sing about God being first, but when His work needs some effort or money, it's a different story. The question that each of us must ask is this: “Does God really come first in my life or after I get everything I want for myself, He can have what remains, just the left-overs?”

All the teaching of the Bible is that God must come first, God must be supreme. Jesus said if we would seek the kingdom of heaven first, then all the necessary things of life, such as food, clothing, and shelter would be given us by a loving heavenly father knows our needs.

Appeal: Our offering today is for some of the special needs of our Conference.

PRAY

Sabbath 26
June 30, 2012

Today's offering: NAD – Outreach Project

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, ‘Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.’ For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” Romans 10:9–13 (NIV)

The North American Division has a huge responsibility to provide funding for special projects in Canada and the United States. These are often large projects that are critical to the plans to reach large population or special population groups. The North American Division would appreciate your prayers as it makes decisions as to the most effective strategies in carrying out God's plans to the huge populations of both countries.

The one who is “Lord of All” has great plans for our future and we want to carry out his will in all things.

Appeal: The offering today will go to support these special projects. Please be as generous as possible. Funds are needed to help with these critical opportunities for the proclamation of the good news!

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Sabbath 27
July 7, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:36 NKJV

In North America there are two birthdays...country birthdays. In Canada there is Canada Day, formerly Dominion Day that celebrates the founding of Canada. In the United States there is Independence Day, sometimes referred to as the Fourth of July, which celebrates the founding of the United States of America. Both events are in early July.

Each of us has two birthdays as well, we have our natural birth date and our spiritual birthday, the date we were “born again.” In a sense it was a day of freedom for us as well, as our scripture says. Jesus makes us truly free. What a gift to sinners, what gratitude should well up in our hearts. Canada and the US are great countries, but the Kingdom of God is the greatest of all.

So with all the memorial celebrations, in these two countries over these important dates, it produces a question: How much more do we have to be thankful for each Sabbath as we come to worship the King of Kings?

Appeal: Our offering today is for our Church to provide resources to cover the needs necessary to proclaim the Good News to our community and bring the freedom of Christ to any who will listen.

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PRAY

Sabbath 28
July 14, 2012

Today's offering: NAD – Women's Ministries

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the *mother* of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him. Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.”
Mark 16:1-2 NASB95

The first persons to visit the tomb of Christ after his burial and after the Sabbath were women. The mention of the names of the women emphasizes the importance of them as witnesses. Mark showed that identifiable persons witnessed the crucifixion, the burial, and the empty tomb.

They had been interrupted from completing the burial process because of the Sabbath. The spices probably were bought shortly after sunset on Saturday when the shops reopened briefly after the conclusion of the Sabbath. It was too late, however, to go to the tomb then. The great devotion of the women is seen in two particulars: the expensiveness of the spices and their desire to anoint a body that had been dead for a day and a half. But love for Christ drives these ladies to care for Him properly.

Appeal: Today's offering is for the Women's Ministries work of the North American Division. Our text shows the great devotion of women to Christ. As we give today let us remember how the church benefits from the service and devotion that our ladies make to the work and ministries of the church.

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PRAY

Sabbath 29
July 21, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:14-17 NKJV

In giving motive is everything. Systematically giving with the right motive and attitude is called disinterested benevolence. That is giving without “strings attached.” Motive involves the condition of the heart and the attitude of the mind.

The only true motive for giving his love. In our text we see God's love revealed in giving His Son for us. This love is a principle, not an emotion. It is the foundation of character.

“Love must be the principle of action. Love is the underlying principle of God's government in heaven and earth, and it must be the foundation of the Christian's character. This alone can make and keep him steadfast. This alone can enable him to withstand trial and temptation.” COL 49

Appeal: In our giving today we must remember God's love revealed in sacrifice. The plan of salvation was grounded in immeasurable sacrifice. Our offering today is for Church Budget.

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PRAY

Sabbath 30
July 28, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

“But this / say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 NKJV

What a wonderful lesson from the Bible. We reap what we sow. Each person is to give as they purpose in their heart. Each must decide individually whether or not to give of our offerings and ourselves to Christ. God wants us to give our life back to him because we love Him. He doesn't want us to do it grudgingly or of necessity, that is because we think we have to. We don't have to. God is able to supply all our spiritual and material needs as we follow Him.

The Evil one will use any method he can to: (1) Keep us from beginning to give; and (2) To stop our present giving. He doesn't care how he prevents giving as long as the seeds he sows take root, flourish and bear fruit of disunity, bitterness, and self-interest.

The motive for giving is love. Love alone will recognize the need. Love cannot pass by a need. Love then, is demonstrated by a tangible response.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the special needs of our Conference. As we give let's entertain the question: Do we really, honestly love? Ye may not know until tested by sacrifice.

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PRAY

Sabbath 31

August 4, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.” 2 Corinthians 8:1–5 (NIV)

The church is not a country club, a fraternal organization, a service club, or a charity. It is founded by the Lord Jesus Christ for the purpose of communicating the everlasting gospel to the world. Our congregation has the responsibility to reach our area. Being a member of the church brings with it this responsibility to be shared with our brothers and sisters. We are stewards of the people who live in and around our church.

“Christ is the fountain; the church is the channel of communication.” Acts of the Apostles page 122

Appeal: Our offering today is for our precious church, its needs and its ministries. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the same thing said about us that Paul said about the Macedonians' generosity?

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Sabbath 32
August 11, 2012

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

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
'Honor your father and mother'—which is the first
commandment with a promise— 'so that it may go well with
you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.’”
Ephesians 6:1–3 (NIV)

Here we see children are commanded to obey their parents,
but this is also something that parents are to teach their
children. Parents are to train their children to respect
authority. This is foundational to our society. Parents are
responsible for the training of their children but not
responsible for their choices. Parents are stewards of their
children.

Parenting can be an extremely challenging aspect of life.
The Seventh-day Adventist church was guided long ago, by
God, to establish an education system that would help godly
parents in the training of their children. This training is
intended to augment the work of the home. It is also
designed to help the children learn to make responsible
decisions and choices in their life's journey.

Appeal: The offering today is for World Budget and several
of our higher educational institutions received funds from the
World Budget. Loma Linda and Andrews University along
with Oakwood University are among those who benefit from
your offerings today.

PRAY

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Sabbath 33

August 18, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.’ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” 1 Peter 3:13–17 (NIV)

In numerous places in the Bible we are told not to fear or be afraid. There are really only three classes of people in the world today: (1) Those that are afraid; (2) Those that are not aware enough to be afraid, and; (3) Those that know and believe their Bibles.

In many cases, we have adopted the convenient theory that the Bible is a book to be explained, but first and foremost it is a book to be believed and after it is believed it is to be obeyed. In this difficult time in earth’s history we ought to be weary of talk about the power of God and yet continually observe the spiritual poverty of “unbelieving believers.” We must know and experience His power.

Appeal: Our church is a place where believers are taught Bible truth and Bible living and most importantly the benefits of faith and belief. Our offering today is for funding the needs of our church in its mission to reach our area for Christ.

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PRAY

Sabbath 34

August 25, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

"He told them, 'This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'" Luke 24:46–49 (NIV)

Among the great and many needs of the church, two things qualify as outstanding: (1) More workers; and (2) More funds.

In our scripture we see something very curious. You would think after setting before the disciples the worldwide mission and tremendous needs of the new church that Christ would have immediately set up a fund-raising committee. And throw in a recruiting group as well. Instead, He tells them to wait until the Father's gift is received. That of course, was the Holy Spirit.

The most important need for the church today is not more committees, program or research, but rather the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Christ was teaching the disciples to depend on Heaven for the resources that really matter.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the special work and needs or our Conference. These funds are secondary to the need for our prayers and requests for God's special blessing upon the work needed on our area.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 35

September 1, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

Faith is a critical component in our life's journey. The idea of faith in the Old Testament is expressed primarily by a Hebrew word meaning “to be certain about” or “to be assured.” The word carries the ideas of relying on someone, giving credence to a message, or trusting in someone. These same meanings are carried over to the New Testament concept of faith with the expression “believing in” that focuses faith upon Christ.

God honors not just wisdom to explain the Bible, but He honors faith and belief in the Bible. Faith honors God and God honors faith. God goes wherever faith calls Him when honoring the promises of His Word. Faith links our impotence to His omnipotence.

Humans have broken the sound barrier. Jesus' death upon the cross broke the sin barrier. Faith will break the doubt barrier. Doubt delays and often destroys faith. But faith destroys doubt. Therefore, have faith!

Appeal: Our offering today is for our Church, to fund the needs of our many programs and ministries. Our church is the House of God and the place where faith and belief are strengthened.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 36

September 8, 2012

Today's offering: World Budget / Fall Mission Appeal

“For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 25:29-30 NASB95

You know the story in Matthew 25:14-30. Talents were given to three individuals by their Master. The Master left and then returned. One servant was given 5 talents and gained 5. Another was given 2 talents and gained 2. The last one was given 1 and buried it and then returned it to the Master.

The Master told the first two, “Well done! Enter into joy...” But the focus of the story goes to the last one. The 1 talent servant said - "I WAS AFRAID." (Matt. 25:25) Afraid of what? (1) Afraid to act. (2) Afraid to invest. (3) Afraid to trust. (4) Afraid to accept Christ and be a solid Christian. The Master said to the 1 talent servant - "Wicked, slothful servant. Be cast into outer darkness." Now he had cause to be afraid.

The story shows that we each have different talents, but all have talents. God expects a return on that which belongs to Him. Stewardship teaches us that everything belongs to Him. He requires us to cultivate our powers and attain the highest possible capacity for usefulness in His Kingdom.

Appeal: Our offering today is for World Budget with a special focus on the Fall Mission Offering to provide funding for important outreach programs.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 37

September 15, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." Ephesians 4:14–15 (NIV)

Paul seems to imply in this text that some remain infants or children as it relates to their faith in God. This is especially true in the study and practice of stewardship.

A man once visited a home and saw a child riding a rocking horse. After watching the little boy for some time he wittingly remarked, "He reminds me of some Christians. There is plenty of motion, but no progress."

The church can never complete her task if we only remain in the "kindergarten of stewardship." Not only our tithe and our offerings, but our total life must be surrendered and consecrated for service.

What should be done:

"If you have robbed the Lord, make restitution. As far as possible, make the past right, and then ask the Savior to pardon you." CS98

He is quick to forgive. Then, determine by the grace of God to be faithful from this day forward.

Appeal: Our offering today is for our Church and its service to the gracious Lord, Jesus Christ.

PRAY

Sabbath 37

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Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." Ephesians 4:14–15 (NIV)

Paul seems to imply in this text that some remain infants or children as it relates to their faith in God. This is especially true in the study and practice of stewardship.

A man once visited a home and saw a child riding a rocking horse. After watching the little boy for some time he wittingly remarked, "He reminds me of some Christians. There is plenty of motion, but no progress."

The church can never complete her task if we only remain in the "kindergarten of stewardship." Not only our tithe and our offerings, but our total life must be surrendered and consecrated for service.

What should be done:

"If you have robbed the Lord, make restitution. As far as possible, make the past right, and then ask the Savior to pardon you." CS98

He is quick to forgive. Then, determine by the grace of God to be faithful from this day forward.

Appeal: Our offering today is for our Church and its service to the gracious Lord, Jesus Christ.

PRAY

Sabbath 38

September 22, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1–2 (NIV)

The call of God upon faithful stewards is a call to 100% service. The problem with many Christians today is that they think they can give God part of their life and that will be sufficient. Our Scripture text calls us to offer our entire bodies, that is mind, body, and spirit to the service of Christ. That is all that is acceptable. To hold back any corner of your life is to have a separation between you and Christ.

"The principle laid down by Christ is that our offerings to God should be in proportion to the light and privileges enjoyed." PP528. Let's consider our privileges: (1) Our light and privileges are greater than any other people that have ever lived on earth. (2) We have the last message of warning to the world. Rev. 14:6; (3) There is no other message to follow. Matt. 24:14; (4) If we cannot be faithful in the small things, how shall we assume greater responsibilities? How shall we finish the work?

Our only need is the fullness of Christ in our lives.

Appeal: Our offering today is for our Conference and their work to call people everywhere to faithfulness.

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PRAY

Sabbath 39

September 29, 2012

Today's offering: Our Union Special Offering

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

Tithing is the foundation, —the first principle of Christian Stewardship. The Tithe is a commencement in Christian Stewardship. It is elementary. If we are unfaithful in tithing, it shows that we are adults still in the “kindergarten of Christian Stewardship.”

It shows there is something missing in our Christian mentality, and our Christian experience. If we remain in the kindergarten, we will never graduate. If we do not graduate we will never wear the robe, and the crown, symbols of honor and achievement, and we will never receive the diplomas of everlasting life. See Rev. 3:5

If we do not leave the kindergarten of the tithe, we can never attend the university of offerings and a totally committed life. Let us be faithful in our tithe—the kindergarten of Christian Stewardship, that we might move on to the next two stages of Christian progress: (1) The surrender of our lives to God for service, and (2) The surrender of our resources for the advancement of His cause.

This will finish the work, and qualify us for the final graduation where we will receive the gift of eternal life.

Appeal: Our offering today is for special projects taking place in our Union.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 40

October 6, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 10:32-33 NKJV

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been given a most precious message for our times. Other churches call people to a saving relationship in Jesus but they lack the call to repentance and preparation for the second coming of Jesus. We have that message, we don't need to add any glitz or show business techniques to the message, and we can proclaim it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, all that is needed is that each of us commits our lives to God; prays for the indwelling Christ; learns the message so we can rightly represent it; and then asks for wisdom and opportunities to share.

God could have written it in neon lights in the heavens; He could have proclaimed it with lightning and thunder; He could have had his angels present it in every corner of the earth at the same time; but instead he put it into the hands of mortal humans....you and me.

Appeal: Our offering today is for our church and its many ministries that work together to proclaim the Three Angels Messages to a world in turmoil.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 41

October 13, 2012

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

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” John 14:1-4 NKJV

Many Seventh-day Adventists upon hearing the words: “Lift of the trumpets and loud let them ring, Jesus is coming again...” almost immediately think of the Voice of Prophecy. This has been the theme song for many years but it is also the message being proclaimed from this vital radio ministry.

The founder, H.M.S. Richards served as an evangelist in various places in the United States and Canada. In the 1920s in California he began experimenting with radio announcements for his meetings. He began regular radio broadcasts on October 19, 1929 on KNX (AM) in Los Angeles. (Next Friday will be the 83rd anniversary) As they say, “the rest is history.”

Appeal: Today's offering is for the World Budget, one recipient of World Budget funds is the Voice of Prophecy's radio and Bible School ministries.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 42

October 20, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“For every beast of the forest is Mine,
And the cattle on a thousand hills.
I know all the birds of the mountains,
And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.
'If I were hungry, I would not tell you;
For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.’”

Psalm 50:10-12 NKJV

One of the most basic of all stewardship principles is that God owns everything and that humanity owns nothing. This idea is often given lip service but it is essential to becoming a faithful steward.

After God had created the earth and all that was in it He gave Adam dominion over everything. He was placed in this paradise as God's representative - His steward. Human beings were not given ownership of the world or anything in it - only stewardship. All things were created for human use and enjoyment (with the exception of one tree), and they were made responsible for these things.

When Adam and Eve took of the fruit of the forbidden tree, they assumed the right of ownership, and denied that God's authority over the earth had restrictions as well as opportunities. From this heritage humanity throughout all ages has denied God's ownership of the world and the things which He created - and as a result have found themselves in continual trouble.

Appeal: Our offering today is for our church but in reality it is for our loving God and His incredible trust in us.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 43
October 27, 2012
Today's offering: Our Conference

“The silver *is* Mine, and the gold *is* Mine,’ says the Lord of hosts.” Haggai 2:8

What is a steward? A steward is one who has been entrusted with certain things by a superior - is responsible for these things, and will be held accountable for them. A simplified definition is: *God-centered living*.

That is to say every corner of life is committed to the service and ministry on behalf of Jesus Christ, the Master. Listen to this:

"A steward identifies himself with his master. His master's interests become his. He has accepted the responsibilities of a steward and he must act in the master's stead, doing as the master would do if he were presiding over his own goods. The position is one of dignity, in that his master trusts him. . . . Every Christian is a steward of God, entrusted with His goods ..." That I May Know Him, p. 220.

Christian stewardship is not limited, it includes everything in life: your body, your mind, your eyes (the things you read and see); your beating heart; your spouse; your children; your abilities, talents, and spiritual gifts; your time; the people in your life; your money and possessions; the Bible; the Holy Spirit; our church; Prayer and the list goes on to include every gift of God.

Appeal: Today the offering is for some selective ministries of our Conference another entity of which we are stewards.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 44

November 3, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

NKJV

All people are called to be faithful stewards; in fact this is the highest position to which a human being may attain. Never an owner just a steward, but the position of a steward is one of dignity because the steward is trusted by the Master.

The problem arises when a person steps from their role as steward and assumes that of proprietor, or owner. God has said that the tenth of the increase belongs to Him, but few recognize His claim by returning His share. He asks for gifts of love in first fruits and freewill offerings, but many of these, if given at all, are given grudgingly. The world is in trouble today and seeks an answer to these problems - but rejects the only solution to them, which is based on the eternal truth – *"the earth is the Lord's."* (Psalm 24:1)

It is possible for every Christian to prosper, if they faithfully carry out their duties as a steward. If they remember that all they possess is lent to them by God. Then they can rest assured that God will abundantly bless the labor of their hands and allow them to manage as many goods as they are capable of handling wisely.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the needs of our church. Please give liberally and also remember to pray daily for our work in this area.

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PRAY

Sabbath 45

November 10, 2012

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

“Gather My saints together to Me,
Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.”

Psalm 50:5 NKJV

The popular thought is that this text refers to material things, and those who sacrifice money, or its equivalent, for God's cause, will be among the throng who await their Lord's return. If this were correct, then a total sacrifice would be the giving of everything a person had, and he would be left destitute. In this condition he would not be able to support himself, his family, nor his church.

It should be carefully noted in the text that the key word is not sacrifice, but covenant. Those will be gathered in that great day who have made a covenant with God--in this instance, by sacrifice. By sacrificing what?

God isn't interested in our money (He could speak and create mountains of gold); He is interested in us--our hearts--our choice to obey Him. This is true stewardship.

And this willingness to place our hearts on the altar is the supreme sacrifice which He desires. Once we do this, we will have made a covenant with Him by sacrifice (the only thing over which we have control) ~then we can hear the "well done"- given to those who recognize their stewardship relation to Him and be a part of that vast throng who await His return.

Appeal: Our offering today is for World Budget and one recipient is the Annual Sacrifice Offering which supports Global Mission.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 46

November 17, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

“Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest—*when* you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell *in them*; and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;... then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’”

Deuteronomy 8:11-13, 17 NKJV

The ills of the world, the church, and the individual, have one common denominator - selfishness. People say, MY house, MY property, MY money. But by this attitude they usurp the place of God and forget it is God that gives the ability to produce wealth.

When a person recognizes that all they have - even their very life - belongs to God - when they recognize that they are a steward, and are willing to make the Master's interests theirs – their Master's plans their plans - then they can have peace of mind and complete confidence in God's promises. They will then take this position of dignity in the Master's plan for the universe, filling the place for which they were created.

But, if they persist in assuming the position of owner, their place in the eternal plan will be no greater than that of an anonymous ant, scurrying about among billions of other ants, whose only purpose in life is to store up enough food to last through a hard winter!

Appeal: Our offering today is for the support of our Church and its ministries to our area.

PRAY

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Appeal: Our offering today is for the support of our Church and its ministries to our area.

PRAY

Sabbath 47

November 24, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

“For I will cast out the nations before you and enlarge your borders; neither will any man covet your land when you go up to appear before the Lord your God three times in the year.” Exodus 34:24NKJV

To safeguard Israel, God gave yearly feasts which were designed to keep them mindful of their stewardship relation with Him. Three times each year the males and all who were able were to come up before the Lord, to thank Him for the bountiful provisions he had made for their every need.

They were surrounded by fierce, war-like tribes who had been the former owners of these lands; and from the human point of view it would appear with all the able-bodied men gone, these heathen would descend on the unprotected farms and homes of the people to pillage and destroy. But God had made provision for this, His protection.

These feasts were to be a continual reminder that God was the proprietor and they were His stewards. As long as they observed these feasts in harmony with their true purpose, they prospered.

As stewards, they had God's assurance that the rains would come in their proper seasons to water their fields - that pests would not spoil their crops. But when they assumed the position of owner - they relieved God of this responsibility. If these were their lands - they could look after them - and furnish their own rain! This didn't work out very well, for because of their disobedience, God withheld His mercies and didn't send rain for three and one half years!

Appeal: Our offering today is for some of the special ministries of our Conference.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 48

December 1, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." Psalm 24:1 NKJV

"We should never forget that God has placed us on trial in this world, to determine our fitness for the future life. None can enter heaven whose characters are defiled by the foul blot of selfishness. Therefore God tests us here by committing to us temporal possessions that our use of these may show whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches. It is only as the self-sacrificing life of Christ is reflected in our life that we can be in harmony with heaven, and be fitted to enter there."

2 Selected Messages, 134

Did you know there is freedom in dependence? Sounds like a crazy idea doesn't it? But in God's Kingdom to depend on Him relieves us of all kinds of stress. Ownership has incredible stress. If you are the owner then the "buck stops" with you! You have to be sure everything is provided, working, and organized. You are the planner for every detail.

To place dependence on the perishable things of the earth is the purest folly. Fortunes have been lost at the stroke of a pen; disasters have swept away the mansion with the hovel; wars know no boundaries of affluence. Floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, and fire take their fearful toll. Inflation and market manipulation, in a matter of hours, can erase fortunes that took lifetimes to build.

Our only safety and source of peace for our minds is a total dependence on God.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the support of our Church needs.

PRAY

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PRAY

Sabbath 49

December 8, 2012

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

"For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
broken and a contrite heart—

These, O God, You will not despise." Psalm 51:16-17 NKJV

What is a broken spirit? It is the positive response of the human heart to God's instruction and direction. Wild animals have uncontrolled spirits. Only when this spirit is "broken", can they be made to do the will of their owner, to be obedient to his direction and command. But, God doesn't "break" our spirits; He pleads, "*My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.*" (Proverbs 23:26 NKJV)

The human heart is like that of the untamed beasts; it is selfish, and self-willed. If left to itself, it will only grow more determined to have its own way.

Consider sacrifice, not as giving, nor trading, but rather as using. This would harmonize with God's plan in the beginning. As agents of heaven, we would be continually receiving God's blessings, and distributing these to others.

This knowledge and awareness of our relationship to God would prevent us from having pride of ownership. It would also be a great wall against selfishness. We would never substitute giving for personal service. We would never feel guilty about our possessions, for we would be earning, saving, using, and giving under God's direction.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the World Budget and one recipient is the NAD Adventist Community Services fund.

PRAY

Sabbath 49

December 8, 2012

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

"For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*;
You do not delight in burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit,
broken and a contrite heart—

These, O God, You will not despise." Psalm 51:16-17 NKJV

What is a broken spirit? It is the positive response of the human heart to God's instruction and direction. Wild animals have uncontrolled spirits. Only when this spirit is "broken", can they be made to do the will of their owner, to be obedient to his direction and command. But, God doesn't "break" our spirits; He pleads, "*My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.*" (Proverbs 23:26 NKJV)

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Appeal: Our offering today is for the World Budget and one recipient is the NAD Adventist Community Services fund.

PRAY

Sabbath 50

December 15, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

"Give me neither poverty nor riches—
Feed me with the food allotted to me;
Lest I be full and deny *You*,
And say, 'Who *is* the Lord?'" Proverbs 30:8-9 NKJV

There is nothing wrong in prosperity, but it has some very definite dangers. We have the faithful witness of Abraham, Joseph, and Daniel--all men of great wealth. But we also have the sad example of Solomon, who because of his possessions became dissolute, effeminate, and weak. Realizing the inherent danger in prosperity he wrote our scripture.

Since the beginning of time, God has attempted to teach humanity that genuine happiness comes only from total dependence upon Him. He could have given the Israelites an abundance of "natural" food, enough so they could have stored it for months to come, but He chose to rain manna from heaven each night to teach them this lesson of total dependence.

Every night, with the exception of the sacred Sabbath evening, each family went to sleep with absolutely nothing on the shelf for the next morning's meal! Not one box of food or one drop of milk! Every parent, for forty long years, had to depend on God to furnish food for themselves and their children.

The lofty pinnacle, the full cup, can bring dependence upon self. This is the danger of prosperity.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the ministries and other needs of our Church.

PRAY

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December 15, 2012

Today's offering: Our Church Budget

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The lofty pinnacle, the full cup, can bring dependence upon self. This is the danger of prosperity.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the ministries and other needs of our Church.

PRAY

Sabbath 51

December 22, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:15-18 NKJV

Pastor Dick Hanson, a stewardship educator, has said:

"Stewardship is the most important aspect of the Christian's life. It specifies what a relationship with Christ is like. Without it every spiritual discipline is worthless and meaningless. It is foundational to living life on this earth and will be the model for life in eternity."

God-centered living is a way of life it goes way beyond money, tithes, or offerings. It permeates every activity, thought, and becomes a principle for making life choices. Jesus becomes the central theme of the faithful steward's life and living becomes a quest with one purpose, one goal: To please Him and represent Him in every setting and circumstance. This is accomplished through daily dependence on Him and the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit in the life.

The faithful steward's life seeks to give Him "preeminence" in all things.

Appeal: Our offering today is for the special programs of our Conference.

PRAY

Sabbath 51

December 22, 2012

Today's offering: Our Conference

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Appeal: Our offering today is for the special programs of our Conference.

PRAY

Sabbath 52

December 29, 2012

Today's offering: NAD Evangelism

"Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:8 NKJV

There is a gospel song that says, "Where Jesus is will be heaven for me." This is the ultimate attitude of the faithful steward. Stewardship is God-centered living and this should be the goal of every believer, but it will be the inherent focus of the inhabitants of Heaven. The streets of gold, the beauty of the environment, the jeweled walls of the City, even the reunion of family and friends or the golden crowns placed upon our heads will pale in comparison to our desire to be with God. That is why stewardship is so important in this life.

"Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.'" Revelation 5:12. Desire of Ages 131

This act of casting our crowns at his feet proclaim that He is the only One worthy of any victories we have had, that He is the only One worthy of our praise and worship.

Appeal: The offering today is for North American Division evangelism, to fund the proclamation of the good news about Jesus Christ and God's love for humanity.

PRAY

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PRAY

JANUARY

- 07 Our Church Budget
- 14 Our Conference
- 21 Our Church Budget
- 28 NAD/Religious Liberty

FEBRUARY

- 04 Our Church Budget
- 11 NAD/World Budget/ATM Emphasis
- 18 Our Church Budget
- 25 Our Conference

MARCH

- 03 Our Church Budget
- 10 World Budget/AWR
- 17 Our Church Budget
- 24 Our Conference
- 31 Our Union–Special Offering

APRIL

- 07 Our Church Budget
- 14 World Budget/Christian Record
- 21 Our Church Budget
- 28 Our Conference

MAY

- 05 Our Church Budget
- 12 WB / Disaster & Famine Relief Emphasis
- 19 Our Church Budget
- 26 Our Conference

JUNE

- 02 Our Church Budget
- 09 NAD/WB/Multilingual/Chaplaincy Ministries
- 16 Our Church Budget
- 23 Our Conference
- 30 NAD – Outreach Project

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- 16 Our Church Budget
- 23 Our Conference
- 30 NAD – Outreach Project

JULY

- 07 Our Church Budget
- 14 NAD – Women’s Ministries
- 21 Our Church Budget
- 28 Our Conference

AUGUST

- 04 Our Church Budget
- 11 WB/Oakwood Univ/Andrews Univ/Loma Linda Univ
- 18 Our Church Budget
- 25 Our Conference

SEPTEMBER

- 01 Our Church Budget
- 08 WB/Fall Mission Appeal
- 15 Our Church Budget
- 22 Our Conference
- 29 Our Union Special Offering

OCTOBER

- 06 Our Church Budget
- 13 NAD/WB/Voice of Prophecy
- 20 Our Church Budget
- 27 Our Conference

NOVEMBER

- 03 Our Church Budget
- 10 WB/Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission Emphasis)
- 17 Our Church Budget
- 24 Our Conference

DECEMBER

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- 08 NAD/WB/Adventist Community Services
- 15 Our Church Budget
- 22 Our Conference
- 29 NAD Evangelism

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