



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



My All In Response to God's All!

TITHE AND OFFERINGS READINGS

2013

Our Generous God
by
Heather Tredoux

ATTENTION:

Dated material to be adapted,
translated and distributed to
Seventh-day Adventist churches
before December 2012.

This resource is for use during the worship service before the offering is taken up. It may be bound so that the page for the day can be easily torn off and taken onto the pulpit by the designated elder/offering facilitator. It may also be downloaded online from www.adventiststewardship.com on the resources page.

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We welcome your comments and suggestions for future authors and themes for the **Tithe and Offerings Readings**.

Our Generous God

By Heather Tredoux

Heather Tredoux and her late husband, Pastor Andries Tredoux, spent most of their lives as teachers and principals of Seventh-day Adventist schools in Southern Africa. Heather's last two assignments were as South African Union education director and then as Voice of Prophecy Bible School director, where she served for thirteen years. Her main passion at the VOP was to have the lessons translated into the un-entered indigenous languages of Southern Africa. Heather is one of the church elders at Claremont Adventist church. She has two grown children, Anton and Amanda, and two grandchildren.

After her initial qualifications in Education, Heather has pursued studies to suite the various fields in which she has served. She holds a BPhil in Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics) from the University of Stellenbosch, and an MPhil in Language Practice (Translation and Linguistics) from the University of the Free State. She is well known and respected for her fluency in several of the Southern African indigenous languages.

Following retirement in 2005, Heather did voluntary work assisting with the Bana Ba Rona (Our Children) Project of Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho for two years. After completing her Master's degree she has been engaged with assisting refugees and asylum seekers who have come to Cape Town from various countries of Africa. To raise funds for refugee needs (Relief Aid Project), Heather writes true stories about individual refugees and sends them out by bulk email. Heather's favourite psalm is Psalm 91 and she often ends her letters and emails with "Under His Wings."

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SABBATHS WITHOUT DESIGNATED OFFERINGS (DIVISION).

There are six Sabbaths in 2013 that do not have designated offerings. Each Division committee is to designate these offerings for use in their Division, Union or Conference. Hence they are labeled “Division” offerings in the calendar.

The Sabbaths are:

January	12
February	9
June	8
August	10
October	12
December	14

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS FOR 2013

South Pacific Division.....March 30

East Central Africa Division.....June 29

Euro-Africa Division.....September 28

Trans-European Division.....December 28

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

January

- 5.....Outreach/Church Budget
12.....Division
19.....Church Budget
26.....Conference/Union

February

- 2.....Outreach/Church Budget
9.....Division
16.....Church Budget
23.....Conference/Union

March

- 2.....Outreach/Church Budget
9⁺.....Adventist World Radio
16.....Church Budget
23.....Conference/Union
30.....Church Budget

April

- 6.....Outreach/Church Budget
13⁺.....World Mission Budget
20.....Church Budget
27.....Conference/Union

May

- 4.....Outreach/Church Budget
11⁺.....Disaster and Famine Relief
(Program provided for NAD only)
18.....Church Budget
25.....Conference/Union

June

- 1.....Outreach/Church Budget
8.....Division
15.....Church Budget
22.....Conference/Union
29.....Church Budget

July

6.....	Outreach/Church Budget
13*+	World Mission Budget
20.....	Church Budget
27.....	Conference/Union

August

3.....	Outreach/Church Budget
10.....	Division
17.....	Church Budget
24.....	Conference/Union
31.....	Church Budget

September

7.....	Outreach/Church Budget
14*+ ...	World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities)
21.....	Church Budget
28.....	Conference/Union

October

5	Outreach/Church Budget
12.....	Division
19.....	Church Budget
26.....	Conference/Union

November

2.....	Outreach/Church Budget
9*+	Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)
16.....	Church Budget
23.....	Conference/Union
30.....	Church Budget

December

7.....	Outreach/Church Budget
14.....	Division
17.....	Church Budget
28.....	Conference/Union

*Program provided by the General Conference

+Worldwide offering

Summary of Offerings

General Conference	6
Division	6
Conference/Union	12
Church	<u>28</u>
Total	<u>52</u>

SCHEDULED SPECIAL OFFERINGS

March 9.....Adventist World Radio

April 13.....World Mission Budget

May 11.....Disaster and Famine Relief

July 13.....World Mission Budget

September 14.....World Mission Budget
(Unusual Opportunities)

November 9.....Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)

January 5, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

“MY CUP RUNNETH OVER” (Psalm 23:5 KJV)

We worship a generous God. He pours out His blessings upon us in abundance. We read that He will “abundantly pardon” (Isa. 55:7) and that He came to this world so that we might have life “more abundantly” (Jn 10:10). How do we share this generosity?

The author writes: A few years ago while I was helping to raise funds for orphans in the Maluti Adventist Hospital health service area in Lesotho, those there were touched by the generosity of a certain small church in Crieff, Scotland. These church members worked hard at raising funds, even appealing to their neighbours and friends. They sent amazing donations on a regular basis enabling many orphans to receive food, school uniforms and books.

Appeal: As the cool water from our own cup splashes over, let us decide we will give as unstintingly to others as God has given to us today and throughout the coming year.

Prayer: And now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think...unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:20-21, KJV).

My all in response to God's all!

January 12, 2013
Offering: Division

THE GENEROSITY OF A YOUNG BOY

“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish” (John 6:9 NIV.)

Jesus looked up and saw the great crowd and said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” (John 6:5) and Philip answered “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” (John 6:7). It was then that Andrew told of the boy who was willing to give his lunch to Jesus.

From this lad’s generosity followed the generosity of God. After Jesus had given thanks, the simple meal was distributed and the five thousand men plus the women and children ate until they were satisfied. Then, the generosity of God continued – Jesus commanded that the leftovers be collected, nothing was to be wasted – and there were twelve baskets full of leftovers testifying to the abundance of God’s generosity.

Appeal: How thrilled the young boy must have been to see his lunch multiplying and multiplying in the hands of Jesus!

Prayer: Our generous and loving Heavenly Father, bless these gifts that we have given in love and may they be multiplied by You as You did with the loaves and fishes long ago.

My all in response to God’s all!

January 19, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

THE INNOCENCE AND OPEN-HEARTEDNESS OF LITTLE CHILDREN

Then Jesus called a little child to Him... and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:2, 3 NKJV).

It was the humility and innocence of little children that Jesus valued. A recent newspaper report in Cape Town, South Africa, told of a child-minder's terror and distress when a robber entered their home and demanded money. The young woman had no money with her and had no idea where her employers kept their money. The two little children were upstairs when the robber entered but had been listening to the trouble downstairs. The two of them then bravely came downstairs with their piggybanks and generously offered the entire contents to the robber. He was so ashamed that he left without a word.

Appeal: Jesus said clearly that unless we become innocent and as humble as little children, we will not enter the kingdom. Let us give with open hearts today.

Prayer: Lord God, our Father, we are indeed your children. Please bless these gifts which we have given.

My all in response to God's all!

January 26, 2013

Offering: Conference/Union

LOVE AND DEVOTION IN TWO TINY COINS

“Presently there came a poor widow who dropped in two tiny coins, together worth a farthing” (Mark 12:42 NEB).

Jesus was sitting opposite the contribution chests that stood in the spacious Court of the Women, observing the worshippers as they made their contributions. He saw the gifts deposited by the rich, one after another, and then He noticed a poor widow who, in contrast, timidly placed “two mites” (KJV) into the offering chest. The Greek word for “mite” is “lepton”, a coin worth a fraction of one cent. The lepton was the smallest Jewish copper coin in circulation. What had impressed Jesus was not the smallness of the contribution but the spirit in which it was given. She had given all she had – in love for God. In the sight of heaven it is not the size of a gift that counts, but the motive that prompts it. It is the amount of love and devotion behind the gift that counts (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol.5: 648).

Appeal: Giving is an act of worship; let us worship God now, with our tithes and offerings.

Prayer: Father, we give today because we love You. Please bless what we give.

My all in response to God's all!

February 2, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

“STOP GIVING!”

Then Moses said to the people, “This is what the LORD has commanded: all of you who wish to, all those with generous hearts, may bring these offerings to Jehovah...” (Exodus 35:4, 5 LB).

After Moses had listed what was to be brought, “the whole Israelite community withdrew from Moses’ presence and everyone whose heart moved him, came and brought an offering to the LORD...men and women alike” (Ex. 35:20, 21 NIV).

Can you imagine the throngs of men, women and children joyfully bringing gifts to the LORD “morning after morning”? (Ex. 36:3). There were well over a million people and eventually the workmen came to Moses and said that there was more than enough. So Moses sent out an order that the people should not give any more.

Appeal: Can you imagine our pastor coming to the pulpit and saying, “Please don’t give any more – we have more than enough for outreach, for the church budget, and for everything else”?

Prayer: Almighty God, we sometimes think negatively about the children of Israel, but help us always to give joyfully and generously as they did when the tabernacle was built.

My all in response to God’s all!

February 9, 2013
Offering: Division

SHE GAVE ALL

I have only “a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug” (1 Kings 17:12 NIV).

This nameless, destitute and desperate widow of the town of Zarephath on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea was not even an Israelite, yet when the prophet Elijah asked her to make a small cake of bread for him—even before she and her child could eat—she took that leap of faith and did what the prophet asked her to do.

Her jar and her jug were never empty for as long as she needed the oil and the flour. No wonder Jesus used her as an example (in Luke 4:25, 26) as someone who had an open, sincere and willing heart.

She gave all she had.

Appeal: May we all have the faith and willing heart of the widow of Zarephath.

Prayer: Father, God of the widows and the fatherless, thank you for the wonderful example of this widow. Help us all to follow her example.

My all in response to God's all!

February 16, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

TWO COATS

Whoever has two coats should share with someone who has none. Whoever has food should do the same (Luke 3:11 *The Bible as Poetry*).

The author writes: At the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School where I was the director, a Bible instructor named David loved telling his students about his loving and compassionate God, in person. David had an old, unreliable car but he had great confidence that God would care for him. His faith made one feel humble. One day his car came to a grinding halt somewhere in the rural area of his home province in South Africa where he was working. It was unfixable.

The nearest local pastor heard of the trouble and sent for David. When David arrived, the pastor came out holding a bunch of keys. "David", he said, "I felt impressed to give you one of my cars. I discussed this with my wife and we both agreed that this is what the Lord wants us to do. Here are the keys!" David said: "Am I dreaming? How can I accept this?" The pastor said: "Read your Bible and see what it says about two coats..."

Appeal: We may not be sharing cars or coats today, but let us give with our hearts, as David's pastor did.

Prayer: We are sad, Lord, that this generous pastor is resting until Jesus comes but we thank You that his wonderful generosity lives on as an example to all of us.

My all in response to God's all!

February 23, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

JESUS ASKS

Jesus said to her “Please* give me a drink” (John 4:7
The Bible as Poetry).

Jesus was tired. The KJV says, “being wearied” (John 4:6). Jesus and his disciples had walked about 15 miles (24 kilometers) on their way to Galilee from Judea and were passing through Samaria. Jesus was resting at Jacob’s well while the disciples went to find food at the town of Sychar. A Samaritan woman came along to draw water and Jesus simply asked her “Would you give me a drink?” (*The Message*, 225).

This was a shocking request. Jews and Samaritans did not even drink from the same vessels and had had almost nothing to do with each other for generations (2 Kings 17:24-33; Ezra 4:1-3). Although thirsty, Jesus used this encounter to tactfully win not only the Samaritan woman to Himself, but all of the people of Sychar who believed in Him and begged Him to stay with them for two days.

Appeal: Today Jesus also asks us to give Him, perhaps not a drink of water, but something that will enable entire villages to drink from the Water of Life.

Prayer: Please bless this offering, Heavenly Father, and enable it to refresh many souls with Living Water.

**The word “please” is supplied.*

My all in response to God’s all!

March 2, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

LIKE THE TIDE RETURNING

“Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days” (Ecclesiastes 11:1 KJV).

The author writes: As a previous director of the VOP Bible correspondence school in the Southern Africa Union, one of the most rewarding experiences for me was to see the Bible lessons translated and used in a number of different languages, in this region and beyond. The funding for these projects came about in this way: When my husband passed away, I requested that, instead of flowers, cards or gifts of sympathy, friends and relatives should rather make a contribution to a memorial fund in his name which would be used for the translation and printing of the lessons in these languages. It has been wonderful to see these people-groups studying the word of God in their own languages. Through the generosity of friends, like the tide returning, we receive back in abundance.

Appeal: We do not give or share with the motivation of reward but just as the tide comes in without fail, so we may be privileged to see the results of God’s generosity.

Prayer: Although we may not see the results of today’s gifts, Our Father, we know, by faith, that we will see them in the earth made new.

My all in response to God’s all!

March 9, 2013

Offering: Adventist World Radio

Written by Shelley Nolan, AWR, GC.

To get to one of his jobs, Nurpu Lama must travel for three days – one way. When the rains begin, the journey can stretch to six days.

Lama is one of Adventist World Radio's newest producers. He lives in Tibet, a mountainous province in China with no organized Seventh-day Adventist Church structure and very few church members. He receives radio scripts from the experienced AWR producers in neighboring Nepal, which he translates by hand and contextualizes for the Tibetan people. To record his programs, he must travel all the way to AWR Nepal, an exhausting trip that involves a long walk from his hillside home to a larger town, a bus ride, a full-day's walk to the Nepali border, and a day-long bus ride to Kathmandu.

Lama's voice can be heard across Tibet, as well as in nearby countries, through one of the best shortwave signals on AWR's entire schedule. Listeners worldwide can also access the programs online, through awr.org and iTunes – not only in Tibetan, but also in nearly all of AWR's many broadcast languages.

Appeal: Your offering today will help keep AWR on the air and bring hope to those who may otherwise never hear the name of Jesus. Thank you for your generous support!

My all in response to God's all!

March 16, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

THE KINDNESS OF BOAZ, THE KINSMAN-REDEEMER

At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here, have some bread...” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over (Ruth 2:14 NIV).

Furthermore, from Ruth 2:17 and the NLT footnote, we see that Boaz also instructed his men to pull out some stalks of barley for her so that she would have sufficient. After Ruth had threshed the barley she found that she had an ephah - which would be around 22 litres! That was quite a load to carry home to Naomi! We know how Boaz eventually married Ruth, redeeming not only the land of Naomi's late husband and sons but also the two widows themselves, Ruth and Naomi. Boaz represents Jesus in this story because Jesus has been generous to us, redeeming not only this earth but also us, His children.

Appeal: Let us also give with open and generous hearts as Boaz did.

Prayer: Father in heaven, You have redeemed us by the blood of the Lamb; may this offering also help in spreading the news of your redeeming love to others.

My all in response to God's all!

March 23, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

THE SONG OF THE THUNDERSTORM

Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty
 Give unto the LORD glory and strength.
Give unto the LORD the glory due unto
 His name;
 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness
(Psalm 29:1, 2 KJV).

Psalm 29 continues by comparing God's powerful voice to thunder. People sometimes called it "The Song of the Thunderstorm," but, in contrast, it concludes by saying that the Lord blesses His people with peace. In these two introductory verses, however, the word "give" is repeated three times. The psalmist is giving praise to the Creator, especially for the beauty of His holy character (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 3:699).

Appeal: Let us give glory to our powerful yet peace-giving God as we worship Him with our tithes and offerings today.

Prayer: Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth, we praise and glorify Your Name; we thank You for the privilege of worshipping You with these gifts.

My all in response to God's all!

March 30, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

GENEROSITY FROM MACEDONIA

This is what the Apostle Paul wrote about the generosity of the Macedonians: “We must tell you, friends, about the grace of generosity which God has imparted to our congregations in Macedonia. The troubles they have been through have tried them hard, yet in all this they have been so exuberantly happy that from the depth of their poverty they have shown themselves lavishly open-handed” (2 Corinthians 8:1, 2 NEB).

The author writes: I would like to draw attention to, and express my appreciation for, our Adventist church on the island of St Helena. St Helena Island is situated in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Without an airport it takes five days to reach the Island by ship from Cape Town, South Africa. Since my visit in 2006, the church members there have been sending large boxes of good quality clothing for me to distribute among the needy in Cape Town. It takes time and effort for them to collect, prepare, package, and dispatch the clothing.

What particularly impressed Paul in the verse we read was that the Macedonians gave with such willing and joyful hearts. I'm sure that he would have felt the same way about our brothers and sisters on St Helena.

Appeal: What would Paul have thought about us if he was able to observe our giving?

Prayer: These gifts, dear LORD, are given willingly and joyfully. Please bless the gifts and the givers.

My all in response to God's all!

April 6, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

BINDING UP THE BROKEN-HEARTED

“He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted” (Isaiah 61:1 KJV).

The author relates: There are some who have very little material gifts to offer the Lord but instead they offer their lives. One such person is Shona of Mitchell’s Plain, Cape Town. Shona’s calling is to visit prisoners across the length and breadth of South Africa and beyond. She is not too timid to ask shop owners for gifts of soap and other toiletries to give as gifts to prisoners or to ask for donations for bus fare to travel to distant prisons. One lady whose son was imprisoned on a different continent gave Shona a plane ticket so that she could visit him and try to procure her son’s release.

On one occasion, I was with Shona when she celebrated her birthday in the corridor of the female juvenile section of a local prison. How the girls relished the large cake with lots of icing as well as the cooldrink and oranges!

Appeal: We may not all be called to be a “mother to prisoners” but we can GIVE so that others may have the means to “bind up the brokenhearted”.

Prayer: Dear Lord, You were once a prisoner and You willingly took the blame for our sins so that we could be free. Please use our gifts for ministry to others.

My all in response to God’s all!

April 13, 2013

Offering: World Mission Budget

Written by Verland Ernston, GC Treasury Dept.

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

In addition to funding many frontline projects, it is your mission offerings that sustain the continuing mission work of the church. In 2011 over \$1,100,000 was received from this offering which was collected twice during the year. It provided a major boost to our mission work.

Appeal: The Seventh-day Adventist Church faces huge mission challenges around the world. Thank you for your generosity in bringing the life-changing good news about Jesus to a world in need.

My all in response to God's all!

April 20, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

THE COURAGE OF NEHEMIAH

Then the king said to me, “What do you request?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king...I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ tombs, that I may rebuild it” (Nehemiah 2:4, 5 NKJV).

Nehemiah asked God to help him but he did not just fold his hands and wait for God to take over the project of rebuilding Jerusalem. He planned carefully to ensure the success of his mission.

The example of Nehemiah is a lesson to all of us that we are not only to pray in faith but also to work hard ourselves (*The Southern Watchman*, March 15, 1904).

When Nehemiah needed help from King Artaxerxes, he approached the king tactfully and respectfully. He also waited until just the right time. Even more important, he “prayed to the God of heaven” (Nehemiah 2:4) before the actual request.

Appeal: When we need help in finishing the work of God, we should have the courage and conviction of Nehemiah to not only work hard ourselves but also realize that there are those who God has gifted with means to fund the work.

Prayer: Lord God of Israel, bless this offering and help us to have the courage of Nehemiah in doing great things to glorify Your name.

My all in response to God's all!

April 27, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

GUILTY YET PARDONED

“But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great...”
(Luke 6:35 NKJV).

Sam* and six others were on death row** for killing a policeman during the apartheid years in South Africa. Brother Joel, an Adventist Bible instructor, had enrolled Sam in the VOP Bible correspondence course and prayed with them. Joel said, “Don’t forget the power of God. He can free you from the gallows but especially from sin”. On the day that they drove off in the van towards Pretoria where they would be executed, Sam said: “Don’t worry Brother Joel—even if we die, it will be OK, we have Jesus.” Letters came later from Pretoria which said: “Brother Joel, a paper came and we are still alive!” Sam and the others were returned to prison in Cape Town to serve life sentences. Sam requested to speak at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission held to help heal the wounds of past injustices. There he met the family of the policeman he had killed. He asked their forgiveness and it was graciously granted.

Appeal: Brother Joel expected nothing in return for ministering to Sam, but what a reward he received!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we are all guilty of putting Jesus on the cross! We deserve death, but like Sam, we are grateful for the blessing of life, and the promise of life eternal.

* Not his real name. **This story took place before the death penalty was abolished in South Africa.

My all in response to God's all!

May 4, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

GOODBYE LAPTOP

“And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 13:16 NIV).

The author writes: At the end of the school year at Helderberg (Adventist) College, in South Africa, I gave a lift to a theology student from the College to the bus station in Cape Town where he would get on a bus and go home to be with his family for the summer. We will call him Pastor Tom. He had worked as an untrained pastor before coming to study. He came from a country far to the north. He had his laptop with him. It had been quite a struggle to find funds to get this laptop. He really needed it for his studies.

When he returned from his trip, I noticed that he did not have the laptop with him. I asked him about it and he was quiet for a while and then said: “I have four children at home and my wife and I did not have enough money for their school fees, so I sold the laptop.” Our verse tells us that God is pleased when we sacrifice something for others.

Appeal: When did we last really sacrifice something, or do we just give that which is easy to give?

Prayer: Omnipotent God, You were willing to offer Your only Son as a Sacrifice for us. We praise and glorify Your Name for that Gift.

My all in response to God's all!

May 11, 2013

Offering: Disaster and Famine Relief

Written by John Torres, ADRA

One does not need to look very far before being overwhelmed with images of misery or pain. Chances are, next time you read the news, the majority of headlines will have something to do with conflict, suffering, and death. Every year, millions of people around the world needlessly suffer from hunger, and in too many cases, starvation.

As a matter of fact, statistics show that every year hunger kills more people than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined. Millions more are suddenly finding themselves victims of disaster, and are left with nothing more than the clothes on their back. It's no wonder that so many people are living with a sense of hopelessness. However, it does not have to be this way. As Christians, we are called to be the light of the world, showing God's kindness to all of God's children, thereby casting rays of hope.

On this Sabbath, each of us can take part in making a meaningful difference in a life of one less fortunate than ourselves. Today, we collect the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering, a vital part of ADRA's Christ-motivated ministry to relieve suffering through showing compassion.

Each year, ADRA is able to help an estimated 20 million people, and your offering today will help replenish the fund that enables ADRA to respond immediately and effectively when disasters strike.

Appeal: Help ADRA change the world for Christ, one life at a time through your generosity today!

My all in response to God's all!

May 18, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

HONOR GOD

Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase (Proverbs 3:9 KJV).

The newer translations of the Bible read, “Honor the LORD with your wealth”. The amazing thing is that God promises a substantial reward to those who follow this advice. Verse 10 reads: “He will bless you, and soon your barns will overflow and your grape presses will be full” (*The Clear Word*).

The author writes: I have lifelong friends, a married couple, who have worked hard and, at the same time, managed their finances in a way that honors God. Very few know to what extent they have given: to church institutions, for books published in languages for un-entered groups, or television programs produced, or to students and others in need. Many have benefited from their quiet generosity. I believe that God has blessed them in many ways: they can see churches, schools, books, and even young people working in the field for God, because of their giving. It is our prayer that, as they get older, God will keep them “under His wings” (Ps. 91:4).

Appeal: Do we wish to have our barns overflowing? Let us manage our finances wisely and honor the Lord with what He has entrusted to us.

Prayer: We pray for a blessing on the offering, Lord, and for a blessing on those who have given and also on those who cannot give.

My all in response to God's all!

May 25, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

A DIAMOND IN DRIFTSANDS

“They shall be Mine,” says the LORD..., “on the day that I make them My jewels” (Malachi 3:17 NKJV).

In 2001, the informal settlement of Driftsands was a sandy wasteland filling up with people from rural areas looking for work in the city of Cape Town, South Africa. Zuko, a young man from a rural area, had found work as a security guard and was eager to witness for the Lord. He started distributing and collecting Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons among his neighbors – this was necessary since the people there had neither mailing addresses nor money for postage. When they had completed their courses Zuko came to my office, the VOP director at the time, to arrange for a “graduation”. As he left the Bible School, the cashier told the director that Zuko had also signed a debit order some months previously and was giving a generous donation every month.

Since then, God has blessed Zuko. Through the kindness of a donor, he completed his degree in theology and is today a pastor close to the rural area where he was born.

Appeal: May God help us to count our blessings and be aware of the needs – both spiritual and financial – of those around us, and may we give generously.

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, bless this offering that it may be used for the furtherance of your work in our Conference and in our Union.

My all in response to God's all!

June 1, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S

The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein (Psalm 24:1 KJV).

God has a right to the earth, to all that it contains, and to all its inhabitants, since He is the Creator and Lord of the whole earth (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 3:689). This church building, the pews, all of us sitting here, everything that is in our wallets, our cars – our city, our country – the entire world, belongs to God.

God has been generous to us, His children. We can enjoy the majestic mountains, the towering trees, the sparkling sea and the tiniest flower as well as the most miniscule shell on the shoreline. We can also enjoy the warmth of our homes, the love of family and the fellowship of friends. And when we lack these things, still, He has given us Hope through His Son, Jesus who came to be poor among us. Through His sacrifice, we have the Hope of an eternity with Jesus, where there will be no more tears!

Appeal: In gratitude to God, let us thank Him for His generosity to us.

Prayer: Generous God, we thank You for Your love and for your generosity. We thank you for the privilege of giving this offering to You.

My all in response to God's all!

June 8, 2013
Offering: Division

A CALL TO THE “HAVES” TO BE GENEROUS TOWARD THE “HAVE NOTS”.

Tell them (the rich) to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others (1 Timothy 6:18 NLT, *parentheses supplied*).

The author writes: Many people were streaming in from the rural areas looking for work in the city. They erected informal dwellings and soon the Adventists in the area were helping them to build their temporary homes and to find food. The newcomers asked them: “Where do you worship?” Eventually a church was needed. Funds from Adventist Mission were sufficient for the walls to be completed – but not the roof.

I put an appeal into our VOP Bible School newsletter. One day, a young lady came into my office and placed 10 000 Rand (about US\$1200) in cash on my desk. “God impressed me to donate this money for the roof of the church you mentioned in your newsletter”, she said. “I am giving it in memory of my mother.” I would not call this young lady “rich” but God continued to use her and her husband to do amazing things for God.

Appeal: Many people who give generously are not especially wealthy, but they have the spirit of giving! May the Lord open our hearts too!

Prayer: Dear Lord, please bless this young lady and her husband and the members of our congregation who give of their best.

My all in response to God's all!

June 15, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED

“Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8 NKJV).

When Prince Harry of the United Kingdom visited Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho on 25 April 2006, he was particularly interested in the Food Security program the hospital had started. This involved crop-sharing with the HIV/AIDS orphans in the villages surrounding the hospital. Hospital staff gave instruction on how to grow good crops, and provided implements, seeds and fertilizer. At the time of his visit, there were 33 villages participating in the program. Prince Harry visited the village of Phororong, high in the Maluti Mountains.

The prince enjoyed listening to the villagers dancing and singing, waving their rakes, hoes and spades in true, rhythmic, African fashion. The villagers were very happy for the visit, the interest, and the compassion shown by the prince. Hospital staff were grateful for the mountain motorbikes he kindly donated.

Appeal: Much good can come from these collaborative efforts to help communities in need. May God make us generous in spirit and open our eyes to such opportunities.

Prayer: Father, You have given us the Bread and the Water of Life which cannot be bought with money. May we also freely give, materially and spiritually.

My all in response to God's all!

June 22, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

COMPASSION

When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep” (Luke 7:13 NKJV).

The author writes: In 2007 there was a horrific bus accident near Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho. I wrote a newsletter article entitled “Healing Hands through the Night” which I sent out about the compassion of the doctor in charge and the staff at Maluti Hospital who cared for injured survivors. One reader in Australia had compassion when she read about the children who had lost parents in the accident and sent money to help.

Lesotho is sometimes called “The Mountain Kingdom” and has very cold winters. With winter approaching, the chief and the caregivers decided that the greatest need was shoes. So time was spent identifying the 46 orphans and getting their shoe sizes amid tears and sad faces. One lost-looking father was holding the youngest of his five children. Having lost his wife, he had to rely on the eldest daughter, Mabatsi, aged 13, to give the shoe sizes.

Appeal: Let us give with compassion today as we remember those who have lost much.

Prayer: Compassionate Heavenly Father, we pray for this offering, that it may bring comfort to any who need it.

My all in response to God's all!

June 29, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

A GENEROUS GRANDMOTHER

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7 NKJV).

The author writes: The HIV/AIDS epidemic has often left a grandparent as the sole caregiver of their grandchildren. When I met Lydia she was caring for her two granddaughters, aged 12 and 10, as well as a homeless little girl of 8. Also with Lydia is Ben, a mentally handicapped relative whom nobody wants to take care of. He is pleasant and helps in the garden. Down the hill from Lydia, two little girls 11 and 13 live with their sickly mother. When hungry, they climb the steep hill to Lydia's, have supper and breakfast and often spend the night. So Lydia has five little girls to feed, send to school and love, as well as Ben.

I asked Lydia, "How do you cope? Are the little girls good?"

"They are no trouble at all", she smiled. "They have pleaded with me: 'Grandma, please live a long time, please don't die,' and I say to them, 'When you are obedient little girls, life is easy for me—help me with all the chores and I will live a long time...'"

Appeal: Together with generous giving, let us also care.

Prayer: Loving Father, just as You care for us, help us also to care for others.

My all in response to God's all!

July 6, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

“CAN CHILDREN COME TOO?”

Ask, and it shall be given you... (Matthew 7:9 KJV).

While Seth was putting up a tent in the small town of Winburg in the Free State Province of South Africa, a little girl came and asked: “What are you doing?”

“I’m putting up a tent.”

“What for?”

“I would like to tell the people about God.”

“Can children come too or are only big people allowed?”

“We would love to have the children.”

Soon fifteen children came to watch the unusual sight of a tent going up in their town. The fifteen children attended every night, and listened to every word.

One day they came to Brother Seth and asked: “You promised that if people attend every night, they will get Bibles! Will we also get Bibles?” What excitement when the children received their Bibles! The father of one of the boys came to Brother Seth and said: “Thank you for the Bible for my son, we belong to another church but you folk can have him join yours. He wants to, and we will be happy for that.”

Appeal: If we know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will our Heavenly Father give good gifts to them that ask Him? (Matt. 7:11)

Prayer: We thank You, Heavenly Father, for the good gifts You give us every day. Accept these, our small gifts, in gratitude to You.

My all in response to God’s all!

July 13, 2013

Offering: World Mission Budget

Written by Verland Ernston, GC Treasury Dept.

Did you know that there are more than 6000 distinct people groups in the world that have few or no Christians living among them?

For more than 130 years, mission has been the heartbeat of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We've helped thousands come to know God and to experience His love. Yet, as you can see, huge challenges remain. We know that with God's help we can fulfill His commission to share the gospel with every kindred, tongue, and people. And today we have a special opportunity to support this work.

Throughout the year your generous Sabbath School offerings help fund the worldwide mission work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But today's offering, taken during our church service, provides crucial additional support for all aspects of world mission, including cross-cultural missionaries, building churches, operating schools and medical clinics, and large city evangelism. Thank you for your support.

Appeal: Let us continue to be faithful stewards in sustaining the Lord's work.

My all in response to God's all!

July 20, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

GENEROUS HOSPITALITY

“Come and stay at my home” (Acts 16:15 NLT).

Paul, Silas, Timothy and Luke were in a strange city in a strange land (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 6:238). Perhaps they had searched the city for a synagogue but found none. Then they went to the riverside where they thought people would be meeting for prayer and found a group of women. Lydia, a merchant of purple cloth, was one of them. God “opened her heart” (Acts 16:14) and she accepted the message presented by Paul. She was baptized together with other members of her household. Then she graciously invited the four missionaries to be her guests. “If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my home. And she urged us until we agreed” (Acts 16:15 NLT).

Appeal: Just as Lydia was generous in inviting the four missionaries to stay at her home, let us also be generous, not only in our tithes and offerings, but in all that we do.

Prayer: Dear God, we pray that You will help us to be generous in all that we do, as Lydia was.

My all in response to God's all!

July 27, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

CHEERFUL GIVERS AND RECEIVERS

God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV).

The author writes: At our Claremont church in Cape Town, South Africa, we have what is termed “the brown-money offering”. After the deacons take up the usual tithes and offerings, the very young children come around with little baskets to collect any copper coins that might be cluttering purses. The grown-ups love having the tiny ones come around, each with a grown-up walking with them, and members give with cheerful smiles and often with unexpected liberality. The children take this “duty” very seriously but, at the same time, wouldn’t miss it for anything. After this church “work”, they sit down in the front for their story.

This money is used for Cradle Roll and Kindergarten Sabbath School equipment as well as for giving play equipment to an orphanage.

Appeal: May we always give whatever offering is needed with cheerful and loving hearts. Today’s offering is going to our Conference or Union.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, help us to always give cheerfully and liberally – whether it be our tithe or freewill offering, or for our conference or union.

My all in response to God’s all!

August 3, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

GIVE GENEROUSLY

They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever (2 Corinthians 9:9 NLT).

The author writes: In recent years, I have committed to several fundraising projects. One had to do with orphans in Lesotho, and the other with refugees in the area where I live. During this time, a doctor who is a personal friend to me and to my daughter in Australia, wanted to help. One of the things she did to raise funds was to publicly have her beautiful hair shaved off in a shopping mall. She had large posters made explaining why she was doing this. Because she is well-known, there were liberal donations. Later she and my daughter and their children came personally to Lesotho to distribute clothing and food.

Currently, I raise funds for refugees in our city of Cape Town, South Africa, and this same doctor is supporting a needy refugee single-parent family of six, where the father's salary barely covers the rent, let alone food, school uniforms and books.

Appeal: Our offering today is going for outreach and also for our church budget. Let us do our part and receive a blessing by giving liberally.

Prayer: Father, please bless the people throughout the world who give with their hearts.

My all in response to God's all!

August 10, 2013
Offering: Division

GOD CARES

Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7 NKJV).

Lorraine is the matron of Sunnyside Home, in Cape Town, South Africa. Sunnyside is a home for forty-two mostly elderly people needing frail-care but who cannot pay enough to cover such expenses. Every month last year Lorraine had a shortfall of R60 000 (about US\$10 000). Every month a miracle happened and she was able to make it.

One of Lorraine's fundraising efforts was to produce a brochure explaining what the home was doing for the community. She enclosed a debit order form, explaining the urgent need for funds and personally walked up and down the streets delivering them, with a prayer, into the postboxes.

One of the few responses was from the president of a Trust Fund who, after a phone call, came to visit Sunnyside and eventually the Fund donated R200 000 to the Home (about US\$30 000). Truly, God cares!

Appeal: Today our offering is going to our Divisions. Let us remember the financial burdens that they carry, and give them our support.

Prayer: Lord we give thanks to You for caring so much for us, for our smallest needs, and for answering our prayers.

My all in response to God's all!

August 17, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

PERFUME WORTH A YEAR'S WAGES

Then Mary brought a pound of very costly perfume, oil of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair, till the house was filled with the fragrance (John 12:3 NEB).

This pound of perfume was worth about 300 pence or almost a years' wages (*SDA Bible Commentary*: Vol. 5:762).

In His mercy, Jesus had pardoned Mary's sins and had raised her beloved brother from the grave, and Mary's heart was filled with gratitude. She had heard Jesus speak of His approaching death, and in her deep love and sorrow she longed to show him honor. At great personal sacrifice she had purchased an alabaster box of ointment (*Desire of Ages*: 559).

As the alabaster box was broken, and filled the whole house with its fragrance, so Christ was to die, His body was to be broken; but He was to rise from the tomb, and the fragrance of His life was to fill the earth (*Desire of Ages*: 563).

Appeal: If Mary had saved the perfume to anoint the body of Jesus after His death, he would not have experienced its devotion. We have the special privilege of giving to our Living Jesus.

Prayer: Father, we too show our gratitude to You with our offerings, as Mary showed gratitude to You long ago.

My all in response to God's all!

August 24, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

HONEY WAFERS

The Israelites called the food manna. It was white like coriander seed, and it tasted like honey wafers (Exodus 16:31 NLT).

“What is it?” the people asked each other. They had no idea what it was. Then Moses told them, “It is the food the LORD has given you to eat.” Every day there was enough for all those thousands of people. It came every morning, except on Sabbath. As the sun became hot, the manna melted and disappeared. On the sixth day they gathered twice as much as usual. Moses explained that the Sabbath was to be “a day of complete rest, a holy day set apart for the LORD” (Ex.16:23 NLT).

It must have tasted delicious, like wafers made with honey. Our generous God provided this special gift, directly from God Himself, for forty years.

Appeal: God is a generous provider; may we also be generous with our gifts today.

Prayer: Dear God, just as you were generous with the Israelites in the desert, so You are with us – we have given generously, please bless our gifts of love to You.

My all in response to God's all!

August 31, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

“AND IF I PERISH, I PERISH”

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:15, 16 NIV).

The decree for the Jews in Persia to be exterminated had been issued. Their only hope was for the queen to intercede for them.

Queen Esther knew that anyone who appeared before the king in his inner court without being invited was doomed to die unless the king held out his golden scepter to them. So Queen Esther was risking her life by going in to the presence of King Xerxes without an invitation. The king had not called for Esther to come to him for thirty days, so she was taking a huge risk. But she was willing and said, “If I die, I die”, which meant that she was ready and willing to give her life for her people.

Appeal: Just as Queen Esther was willing to give her life for her people, let us be willing to give gifts to save a dying world.

Prayer: Lord, we remember Queen Esther and her willingness to give her life for her people, bless these gifts we have given. Use them to share the message of salvation.

My all in response to God's all!

September 7, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

THE SPIRIT OF OUTREACH

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

The author writes: A friend of mine is one of those people who simply 'can't help herself' when it comes to sharing the gospel. Apart from her own love of Jesus, her personal testimony, and her knowledge of the Scriptures, she also always keeps some Christian literature with her that she can share. Her prayer is, "Lord, may I be of use to you today!"

Recently, on a trip from one continent to another, she managed to reach a Japanese businessman who had never heard about Jesus; a flight attendant who had not long before lost a parent, her husband and son, and wondered why God was punishing her; and a fellow passenger who was needing encouragement and information about God. And that was just on the way there! What an inspiration.

Appeal: May the Lord help us to not only give of our means, but also of our time, even our whole lives, to reach others for Him.

Prayer: Dear Lord, you gave your life for us! The least we can do is to live for you. Help us to reach out with our offerings, our time and our gifts, so that your work may be finished soon and your kingdom come.

My all in response to God's all!

September 14, 2013

Offering: World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities)

Written by Verland Ernston, GC Treasury Dept.

From time to time situations develop which create mission opportunities to which we could respond quickly if funds were available. In these cases, if we had to wait for months or years to raise funds, these opportunities might disappear. The “Unusual Opportunities” offering, which we are receiving today, will be used for these situations.

For the past several years, this offering has averaged over \$600,000, and currently the fund contains over \$2,000,000. It has been used in places like Syria, Zanzibar, and Yemen.

Appeal: You can have a part in responding to these unusual opportunities by participating in our offering today.

My all in response to God's all!

September 21, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

ANGELO'S TEARS

...He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever (John 14:16 KJV).

What a generous God we have who has given us such a Comforter, His own Spirit!

The author writes: After the church service one Sabbath, our church choir was practicing and we noticed a stranger sitting, watching from a pew. He was listening intently with tears streaming down his face. We offered him food from the Women's Ministry luncheon and he accepted. He was still crying. We later found him facing the pulpit, on his knees, lips moving, and tears unchecked. The plate of food was empty, very clean. Angelo looked young, slender and sad. It was the first time he had been in a church since he was sent to prison twelve years previously. He said his mother had stabbed his father and he, Angelo, had confessed to the murder, wanting to save his mother from imprisonment. More tears. We comforted him.

We are not naïve. Some prisoners are brilliant actors, but Jesus, too, was accused of "acting cozy with crooks" (Matt. 9:11 *The Message*). We invited him to come again. We will be kind and vigilant.

Appeal: May the Spirit of God touch our hearts so that we may comfort those who are in need of comfort.

Prayer: Spirit of God, descend upon our hearts, come Holy Spirit, come.

My all in response to God's all!

September 28, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

A GIFT INSCRIBED BY GOD HIMSELF

The LORD gave me two stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God (Deuteronomy 9:10 NIV).

The Ten Commandments! What an awesome gift! God gave us the fundamental standard of conduct, the only set of laws which can effectively control the conscience (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol.1:600).

This gift is suited to everyone on earth and will last as long as the world shall last (*Ibid*). Jesus said “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets...until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter...will by any means disappear from the Law” (Matt. 5:17,18 NIV).

This gift is also holy, “And the commandment is holy, righteous and good” (Rom. 7:12 NIV). Do we realize that we have a holy gift from God in the Ten Commandments?

The commandments are also based on love; love to God and to our fellow human beings. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep my commandments” (Jn 14:15 NKJV).

Appeal: We are the children of an awesome God. He has given us everything – even our conscience.

Prayer: Almighty God, we admire the courage of your servant Moses, who heard your Voice through the smoke, fire and earthquake on Mt Sinai. Help us too, Lord, to listen to Your voice.

My all in response to God's all!

October 5, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

NO ORPHANS!

No, I will not abandon you as orphans – I will come to you (John 14:18 NLT).

The author writes: Every month the youth and health departments of our local church combine to visit a 'Place of Safety' where vulnerable children and babies are looked after until the age of six. It is amazing to witness the change that takes place in the children, even the babies, as we visit. The carers are kept so busy with the many babies, that there is little time to give individual attention or play with them. The first baby I noticed looked at us with big, round eyes. She was just three months old and, at first, she was unsure. We were strange and she began to cry. The carer took over, comforted her a little and handed her over to us again. Once she felt secure, she absorbed every moment of love and cuddling. She snuggled closer and closer. The young men in our youth group enjoyed time with the toddlers on the swings and kicked the ball to one another. The children changed from sober-faced, serious little ones, to happy-faced kids shrieking with joy.

Appeal: Dear friends, let us support the outreach work of our church. Let us see to it that there are sufficient funds in our church budget and sufficient love in our hearts to make a difference out there!

Prayer: You have promised us, Lord God, that You will not leave us as orphans. Help us also to remember the widows and the fatherless in our community and beyond.

My all in response to God's all!

October 12, 2013
Offering: Division

WHERE ARE THE NINE?

Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?
(Luke 17:17 NKJV)

Jesus noticed! He noticed that one of the ten lepers whom He had healed came back to say “thank you” to Him.

Jesus Himself did not neglect to give thanks. At the Last Supper, “He took some bread and gave thanks for it” (Lk. 22:19 NLT) as he had done for the wine (v.17).

Daniel, in spite of the law that would send him to the lion’s den if he prayed, “went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room. He prayed just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God” (Dan. 6:10 NLT).

Recently, someone gave a student the amount of money for a textbook urgently needed. Two weeks later the donor received the following mobile text message: “Hi Ma’am, just wrote 1st test 2day nd am grateful 4 d txtbk. I wudnt have managed without it. Many thanks. God bless.”

Appeal: How do we give thanks to God? We know that He notices. Today our offerings go to our Division.

Prayer: We give thanks to You, O LORD, for Your love and Your mercy endure forever.

My all in response to God’s all!

October 19, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

HAGGAI, THE FUND-RAISER

'The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine' says the LORD of hosts (Haggai 2:8, NKJV).

Haggai faced a huge obstacle. The Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from Babylonian exile had rebuilt the temple half way. Then trouble came from local enemies and the building was stopped. The temple stood half-way finished. Years went by. Finally Haggai and his prophet friend, Zechariah, urged the people to continue the work. They also urged the Governor Zerubbabel, and High Priest, Jeshua, to complete the building of the Temple. Through the support of the people and the strength of the Lord, the combined campaign of the two prophets was successful and the Temple was completed and rededicated in 516 BC (NLT:1484).

Appeal: The silver and the gold is available, let us give it to God to complete His work on earth.

Prayer: Lord God, our Father – everything in this world is Yours, help us not to hoard that which is needed for the finishing of Your work.

My all in response to God's all!

October 26, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

A SPECIAL GIFT FROM OUR CREATOR

On the seventh day God had finished the work of creation, so he rested...and God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy (Genesis 2:2, 3 NLT).

The Sabbath was given to us at Creation and God Himself rested on that day, not because He was tired, but because He knew we needed it. Later, when God gave us the Ten Commandments, he told us to “Remember” the Sabbath day (Ex. 20:8).

The prophet Isaiah reminded us that if we appreciated this gift of the Sabbath and called it “a delight”, God would cause us to “ride upon the heights of the earth” (Isa. 58:14 RSV).

Jesus personally set the example of keeping the Sabbath when “he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath” (Lk. 4:16 NLT).

Jesus said that He had given us the Sabbath for our benefit (Mk 2:27 LB).

Appeal: Let us show our appreciation for this great gift by giving liberally in return to our generous God on this Sabbath morning.

Prayer: Lord of the Sabbath, we are humbled by this great gift, please look upon our humble gifts with compassion.

My all in response to God's all!

November 2, 2013

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

GOD GAVE

For God loved the world so much that He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 NLT).

Here are six questions and answers:

Q: Who gave this awesome gift?

A: Our loving Heavenly Father.

Q: What was the Gift?

A: His only Son, His beloved Son.

Q: Why did He give this amazing gift?

A: Because He loved us so much.

Q: What was the price of the Gift?

A: The life of His Son.

Q: To whom was the Gift given?

A: To all of us.

Q: What do we have to do to receive the Gift?

A: Nothing, only believe in Him.

Appeal: Let us give our gifts lovingly and in gratitude this morning.

Prayer: We bow our heads in reverence before Thee, Father. Please bless this little offering which we have given in love.

My all in response to God's all!

November 9, 2013

Offering: Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)

Written by Nancy Kyte, GC, Adventist Mission

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

Global Mission, the frontline arm of the Church, uses a holistic approach to reaching people. Global mission pioneers work within their own culture where they understand the community and speak the local language. They often help with people's basic needs like food, water, shelter, health care, education, and sharing the Bible. By gaining people's trust, they can offer hope to those who often live in fear and despair.

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

Appeal: Please give as generously as you can to the Annual Sacrifice Offering. May God continue to bless His work through your generosity.

My all in response to God's all!

November 16, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

**GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER (SDA
Hymnal 572)**

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth
(Ecclesiastes 12:1 NIV).

After high school, a young man named Nate joined the Abundant Life Group, a dynamic evangelistic youth ministry where young people give up a year of their life for training and outreach. But Nate's real passion was to study filmmaking and to use this gift for the glory of God. Although he did not have parents who could help him, he took every opportunity to fulfill his dream.

Opportunity 1: A one-year Media Missionary training seminar in Malmo, Sweden.

Opportunity 2: A one-year course in New Media Evangelism at Helderberg College.

Opportunity 3: First year Film Studies at City Varsity in Cape Town. One more year will give him a diploma. Then Nate wants to serve God with this talent.

All these opportunities were made possible by others who were willing to give so that this young person could fulfill his dream!

Appeal: There are many young people who struggle to obtain special skills to use for God. Let us pray for them, encourage them and help them!

Prayer: May this offering, dear Lord, be a blessing to our church. We think of the elderly, the very young and especially our youth.

My all in response to God's all!

November 23, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

ASK FOR RAIN

Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to everyone grass in the field (Zechariah 10:1 KJV).

God has uniquely called our church to live and to proclaim His last-day message of love and truth to the world (Revelation 14:6-12).

The challenge of reaching more than six billion people on planet earth seems impossible. But Jesus said: “with God all things are possible” (Matt.19:26 KJV).

Christ’s Great Commission was accompanied by His promise: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will bear witness for me in Jerusalem... and away to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:9 NEB).

Appeal: We are asking, Lord, for that rain, and for willing hearts to give.

Prayer: Lord, we pray for revival and reformation in our hearts so that each time we give, it will be an act of worship.

My all in response to God’s all!

November 30, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

HAGAR'S INHERITANCE

Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude" (Genesis 16:10 NKJV).

God recognized the difficult circumstances in which Hagar found herself, and for which she was not primarily to blame. Hagar honored the true God, and He would not abandon her in her extremity. The promise He made to her, a female slave, is without parallel. This promise greatly comforted Hagar. Although her son was not to be the son of the divine plan, he would nevertheless share in the promise made to Abram (*SDA Bible Commentary* Vol. 1:318).

The name of the child, Ishmael, "God shall hear," was to remind her of God's merciful interposition, and to remind Ishmael that he was an object of God's gracious providence (*Ibid.*: 319).

Appeal: God gave Hagar an inheritance. When was the last time we showed an interest in and prayed for the descendants of Abraham's firstborn son?

Prayer: Lord God of Abraham, bless this offering, may it spread the message of your truth, mercy and love throughout the world, and where many have not heard it.

My all in response to God's all!

December 7, 2013
Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

BRING AN OFFERING

Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts (Psalm 96:8)

The author writes: At one o'clock, April 4, 2001, a baptism of four young men took place at Allandale Prison, South Africa. They had brought themselves as an offering to God. They had also made a beautifully framed and lettered "Appreciation Award" which they presented to me as the Director of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School. Some of the wording is as follows:

Appreciation Award

This Award is presented to the
Bible Correspondence School

As a symbol of earnest appreciation from the inmates who, through the study of the Bible via this institution, have come to find meaning in our lives that we never knew before. Your inspiration and guidance in our lives has touched us deeply.

This gift from the prisoners still hangs in the entrance hall of the Voice of Prophecy Bible School in Cape Town.

Appeal: As we give our offerings today let us remember the outreach work done by our church.

Prayer: Father, bless this offering as it reaches out to those in need of your Word.

My all in response to God's all!

December 14, 2013
Offering: Division

OUT OF FRIGHTENING DARKNESS

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,
but...against the rulers of the darkness of this world
(Ephesians 6:12 KJV).

The offerings in our Division go to varied and surprising needs.

The author writes: Viola* had completed her teacher training course and was a Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School student. At the same time her mother was a sangoma (a traditional healer using spiritualism) who was a powerful and wealthy woman and she wanted to pass on her “skills” to her daughter. Viola, however, wanted to be baptized. As she stepped into the water, the pastor could see that she was in trouble. She lost consciousness, yet at the same time, pushed away the hands that were laid on her in prayer as she lay on the floor of the vestry. After much earnest prayer, Viola was “with us” again.

With determination she went back into the pool, with one of us at her side, and has not been troubled again.

Appeal: Our offering as members of God’s church does indeed reach into the depths of human need. Let us give liberally.

Prayer: Lord God, You called Viola out of darkness into Your marvelous light. May this offering continue to bring light to those in darkness.

*Not her real name.

My all in response to God’s all!

December 21, 2013
Offering: Church Budget

GENEROSITY OF THE WISE MEN

Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11 NLT).

Before presenting their costly gifts, the wise men bowed down and worshipped the Christ child. They had probably traveled a long distance for many days carrying these precious gifts.

“The magi had been among the first to welcome the Redeemer. Their gift was the first that was laid at His feet. And through that gift, what privilege of ministry was theirs! The offering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor, giving it highest efficiency in service for Him. If we have given our hearts to Jesus, we shall also bring our gifts to Him. Our gold and silver, our most precious earthly possessions, our highest mental and spiritual endowments, will be freely devoted to Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us” (*Desire of Ages*: 65).

Appeal: At this season of giving, let us renew our consecration to Jesus. Freely we have received, freely let us give.

Prayer: O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty (Ps.104:1 NKJV). Bless the gifts we have given to You this day.

My all in response to God's all!

December 28, 2013
Offering: Conference/Union

GLITTERING MEDALS

I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you;
I will praise your name, O Lord, for it is good (Psalm
54:6 NIV).

The author writes: There they were, glittering in their shiny glass cases, a lifetime collection of medals. They were given for gallantry, bravery, distinguished service, and other noble actions of men and women. And they were worth a great deal of money.

“They are all yours,” the collector of the medals said to me, with a wide sweep of his arm, “my wife and I have decided that we wish to give these medals for the spreading of the Good News of Salvation”. I was touched, not only by the generosity of the collector, but also at the generosity of God. The Collector did not know, but God and I did know that the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School was in great financial need. The donation would help the Bible School to continue to collect living medals for God’s kingdom.

Appeal: Praise the Lord’s glorious name; bring an offering and come into his Temple (Ps. 96:8 T.E.V).

Prayer: Almighty God, may your blessing rest upon these offerings, the last we will give for our Conference in 2013.

My all in response to God’s all!

Information pages repeated:

ATTENTION!

Dated material to be adapted,
translated and distributed to
Seventh-day Adventist Churches
before December 2012.

This resource is for use during the worship service before the offering is taken up. It may be bound so that the page for the day can be easily torn off and taken onto the pulpit by the designated elder/offering facilitator. It may also be loaded online from www.adventiststewardship.com on the resources page.

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We welcome your comments and suggestions for future authors and themes for the **Tithe and Offerings Readings**.

Our Generous God

By Heather Tredoux

Heather Tredoux and her late husband, Pastor Andries Tredoux, spent most of their lives as teachers and principals of Seventh-day Adventist schools in Southern Africa. Heather's last two assignments were as South African Union education director and then as Voice of Prophecy Bible School director, where she served for thirteen years. Her main passion at the VOP was to have the lessons translated into the un-entered indigenous languages of Southern Africa. Heather is one of the church elders at Claremont Adventist church. She has two grown children, Anton and Amanda, and two grandchildren.

After her initial qualifications in Education, Heather has pursued studies to suite the various fields in which she has served. She holds a BPhil in Biblical Interpretation (Hermeneutics) from the University of Stellenbosch, and an MPhil in Language Practice (Translation and Linguistics) from the University of the Free State. She is well known and respected for her fluency in several of the Southern African indigenous languages.

Following retirement in 2005, Heather did voluntary work assisting with the Bana Ba Rona (Our Children) Project of Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho for two years. After completing her Master's degree she has been engaged with assisting refugees and asylum seekers who have come to Cape Town from various countries of Africa. To raise funds for refugee needs (Relief Aid Project), Heather writes true stories about individual refugees and sends them out by bulk email. Heather's favourite psalm is Psalm 91 and she often ends her letters and emails with "Under His Wings."

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SABBATHS WITHOUT DESIGNATED OFFERINGS (DIVISION).

There are six Sabbaths in 2013 that do not have designated offerings. Each Division committee is to designate these offerings for use in their Division, Union or Conference. Hence they are labeled “Division” offerings in the calendar.

The Sabbaths are:

January	12
February	9
June	8
August	10
October	12
December	14

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS FOR 2013

South Pacific Division.....March 30

East Central Africa Division.....June 29

Euro-Africa Division.....September 28

Trans-European Division.....December 28

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

January

5.....Outreach/Church Budget
12.....Division
19.....Church Budget
26.....Conference/Union

February

2.....Outreach/Church Budget
9.....Division
16.....Church Budget
23.....Conference/Union

March

2.....Outreach/Church Budget
9⁺.....Adventist World Radio
16.....Church Budget
23.....Conference/Union
30.....Church Budget

April

6.....Outreach/Church Budget
13⁺.....World Mission Budget
20.....Church Budget
27.....Conference/Union

May

4.....Outreach/Church Budget
11⁺.....Disaster and Famine Relief
(Program provided for NAD only)
18.....Church Budget
25.....Conference/Union

June

1.....Outreach/Church Budget
8.....Division
15.....Church Budget
22.....Conference/Union
29.....Church Budget

July

6.....Outreach/Church Budget
13⁺.....World Mission Budget
20.....Church Budget
27.....Conference/Union

August

3.....Outreach/Church Budget
10.....Division
17.....Church Budget
24.....Conference/Union
31.....Church Budget

September

7.....Outreach/Church Budget
14⁺...World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities)
21.....Church Budget
28.....Conference/Union

October

5.....Outreach/Church Budget
12.....Division
19.....Church Budget
26.....Conference/Union

November

2.....Outreach/Church Budget
9⁺.....Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)
16.....Church Budget
23.....Conference/Union
30.....Church Budget

December

7.....Outreach/Church Budget
14.....Division
17.....Church Budget
28.....Conference/Union

*Program provided by the General Conference

*Worldwide offering

Summary of Offerings

General Conference	6
Division	6
Conference/Union	12
Church	<u>28</u>
Total	<u>52</u>

SCHEDULED SPECIAL OFFERINGS

March 9.....Adventist World Radio

April 13.....World Mission Budget

May 11.....Disaster and Famine Relief

July 13.....World Mission Budget

September 14.....World Mission Budget
(Unusual Opportunities)

November 9.....Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)