



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



My All In Response to God's All!

TITHE AND OFFERINGS READINGS

2015

Passion, Purpose & Power
Stories of our Adventist Pioneers
by
Chantal Klingbeil

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

ATTENTION!

Dated material to be adapted,
translated and distributed to
Seventh-day Adventist Churches
before December 2014.

This resource is for use during the divine 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. Each week's reading will also be posted on www.facebook.com/Dynamicstewards by Thursday of each week for access by local elders, service leaders and interested members.

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

Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version*.

Foreword

By Penny Brink

Assistant Director, GC Stewardship Ministries

This year's "Tithe and Offerings Readings: Passion, Purpose & Power—Stories of our Adventist Pioneers," is written by Chantal Klingbeil. In her position as associate director for the White Estate in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA, she is charged with the development of resources for children and youth, with regards to the Spirit of Prophecy works. She is therefore uniquely positioned to extract stories of our Adventist pioneers for the purposes of these readings.

The General Conference Stewardship Ministries Department recently republished a book that previously went by the title, *The Spirit of Sacrifice & Commitment*, and is now known as *Passion, Purpose & Power*. The reader will find that many of the stories in the Readings for 2015 emanate from this book. This begs the question why the pioneer stories would be relevant to the "Tithe and Offerings Readings."

The answer is simple. In order to finish the work that God has given us to do on this earth, and to finish it quickly, we need more of what our pioneers had! We need their passion for the truth, their strong sense of purpose, and the power of the Holy Spirit, as was evident in the way they overcame disappointment and spread the end-time message far and wide.

Even with all the means at our disposal today, we would not make much progress if our hearts are not also "in the work." These stories are therefore more than an encouragement to remember our past history as a movement. They are here to urge us, not only to return God's tithe and bring our freewill offerings to the Lord, but also our hearts, in reconsecration to His service.

Biographical Sketch of Chantal Klingbeil

Chantal Klingbeil was born and raised in South Africa, and also completed her education there. She met her husband, Gerald Klingbeil, while he was studying there too. They have three delightful and talented daughters, and the family lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. Chantal currently works as an associate director for the White Estate, situated at the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist church.



Chantal holds a B.A. in English, Religion, and Communication from Andrews University, 1992, and an M.Phil, Philology, and Linguistics/English as a Second Language from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, 1999.

She has lectured at Adventist tertiary or graduate institutions in Argentina, Peru, and the Philippines, and founded an English language program on one of these campuses. She is well published, having co-authored several books and other academic works with her husband, as well as in her own right. She has had much experience copy editing for translated academic publications, and has, more recently, hosted a television series called Storyline for the Hope Channel.

Chantal has a remarkable gift for writing and storytelling. She loves the Lord and works for Him with all her heart wherever He leads. In her work, both at home and far from home, she has tasted at least some of the “sacrifice and commitment” of the pioneers that she writes about in the Readings for 2015.

**SABBATHS WITHOUT DESIGNATED OFFERINGS
(DIVISION).**

There are five Sabbaths in 2015 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	10
February	14
June	13
August	8
October	10

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS FOR 2015

North American Division	March 28
Northern Asia-Pacific Division	June 27
Southern Asia-Pacific Division	September 26
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.....	December 26

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

January

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

February

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

March

7.....Outreach/Church Budget
14^{*+}.....Adventist World Radio
21.....Church Budget
28.....Conference/Union

April

4.....Outreach/Church Budget
11^{*+}.....General Conference Session Offering
18.....Church Budget
25.....Conference/Union

May

2.....Outreach/Church Budget
9^{*+}.....(Program provided for NAD only) Disaster and Famine Relief
16.....Church Budget
23.....Conference/Union
30.....Church Budget

June

6.....Outreach/Church Budget
13.....Division
20.....Church Budget
27.....Conference/Union

July

4.....	Outreach/Church Budget
11 ^{*+}	General Conference Session Offering
18.....	Church Budget
25.....	Conference/Union

August

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

September

5.....	Outreach/Church Budget
12 ^{*+}	World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities)
19.....	Church Budget
26.....	Conference/Union

October

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

November

7.....	Outreach/Church Budget
14 ^{*+}	Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)
21.....	Church Budget
28.....	Conference/Union

December

5.....	Outreach/Church Budget
12.....	Division
19.....	Church Budget
26.....	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 14.....Adventist World Radio

April 11.....World Mission Budget

May 9Disaster and Famine Relief

July 11.....GC Session Offering

September 12.....World Mission Budget
(Unusual Opportunities)

November 7.....Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)

THE INFORMATION ON THESE INTRODUCTORY PAGES IS REPEATED AT THE END OF THE BOOKLET FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, AS THESE PAGES MAY DISAPPEAR AS THE READINGS ARE TORN OFF FOR USE EACH WEEK.

January 3, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

Retired sea captain Joseph Bates knew how to put first things first. He had been a wealthy man, but by 1846 he had used up his entire fortune spreading the news of Jesus' return. One morning his wife, Prudence, asked him to buy some flour so that she could finish her baking. Joseph Bates went out and spent his last bit of money on the flour. When Prudence found out she burst into tears sobbing: "What are we going to do?" "I'm going to write a book and spread the Sabbath truth," Bates replied. And then, responding to her startled expression, he reassured her that, "The Lord will provide."

And provide He did. That same day a letter containing a \$10 bill arrived from someone who felt impressed that Bates needed money. With this Joseph Bates was able to buy a barrel of flour, potatoes, and other needed items, and still have money left over to begin work on his book (Nix & Kline, *The Spirit of Sacrifice & Comittment*, pp. 65-68).

Appeal: At the beginning of this new year, let's put first things first. Let's put God first in every aspect of our lives—including our finances.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, at the beginning of this New Year please help us to put first things first. We know that as we entrust all that we have and all that we are to You—You *will* provide.

My all in response to God's all!

January 10, 2015
Offering: Division

Did you have a “treasure” as a child? For some it was perhaps a teddy bear or another soft toy. Whatever it was, it was the most important thing in the whole world and you would never be able to go to sleep without it. For one little 6-year old girl it was a pretty little parasol (umbrella). She went everywhere with it and even took it to bed with her. During a camp meeting sermon on what Jesus gave up to come to rescue us the little girl was deeply moved. After a tremendous struggle she made her decision and startled the listeners by calling out: “Dear Jesus, I love you. I want to go to heaven to be with You. You can have my umbrella. I give it to You.”

Jesus did not need a parasol, but He appreciated and used the little girl’s love gift. Many in the audience were moved to give their lives to Jesus. This experience, witnessed by young Ellen Harmon, who later became Ellen White, helped her choose to give her life to Jesus (Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches of James White and Ellen G. White*, p. 141).

Appeal: This morning, imagine what God can do with our gifts of love.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, we love you. We want to release our treasures to you, to be used by you, to touch the lives of others.

My all in response to God’s all!



January 17, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

What can you do with 10 cents? About the only thing I can think of is to use it to buy some minutes in the parking meter.

In the 1880s, 10 cents was worth a bit more than it is now. You could buy half a dozen eggs for it, or a small paper bag of candy. Still, it wasn't much. And yet, once upon a time, 10-cent coins built a large church. The Dime Tabernacle was built in Battle Creek in 1879. It could seat more than 3,200 people when it was finished.

Everyone liked the idea of a church, but no one had the money to build it. Then James White explained that while no one had lots of money, everyone could give a small amount each month. Little things have a way of adding up. The idea of being able to do something really big with so little, really caught on. Even the children seemed to have fun trying to outdo each other. After all, what is a bag of candy compared to being part of something big like that! (Chantal Klingbeil, *KidsView*, March 2014).

Appeal: We may not feel that we have a lot to give, but with God's blessing, even a little can go a long way.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we bring even our small gifts to You, we know that You look beyond size to bless our motivation.

My all in response to God's all!



January 24, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

Sixteen-year old John Loughborough knew that he had been called to travel and preach about the soon coming of Jesus, but he faced two big problems. He had nothing appropriate to wear and no money for travel expenses. A kind neighbor solved the nothing-to-wear problem by giving John his old used suit pants. John didn't seem to mind that they were a good few sizes too big. After some in-house tailoring he was ready to go, but he still had no money to travel. Then someone gave him \$3.00. Three dollars isn't a lot of money. But those three dollars must have been one of the best investments ever.

That first preaching tour cemented a lifelong passion for preaching in John's heart. Three years later, after accepting the Sabbath truth, John became one of the most well-traveled Seventh-day Adventist preachers, breaking new mission territory and introducing thousands to Jesus. Even as a senior, he continued preaching. At the age of 76 he made a 16-month trip around the world, preaching 352 times (*KidsView*, February 2010).

Appeal: You and I have no idea of how influential our practical help can be in shaping someone else's future. Let's give generously.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your generosity with us. Please bless our tithes and offerings that they may be a blessing to others.

My all in response to God's all!



January 31, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

In the early days of the Adventist movement, finance was a big problem for Adventist preachers. The support they received was entirely voluntary. So, ministers were obliged to work part-time—farming, or working at some trade, to support their families.

Well-known Adventist preacher James White worked in a hayfield or on the railroad to secure money to travel and preach. In 1856, after three months of full-time preaching and pastoring, all that another Adventist preacher, John Loughborough, had to show for his labors was a buffalo skin overcoat and \$10 in cash. Even though the buying power of this amount of cash is equivalent to about \$232 of today's money, it still isn't much for a family to survive on. In order to have something left for his family, John walked the last 26 miles back to his home. And yet these men, and many others, kept on preaching. They were so enthusiastic about sharing Jesus with others that they were even prepared to pay their own way (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, pp. 64-66).

Appeal: Today we can show our enthusiasm for sharing Jesus by being willing to give.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for the privilege of sharing in the spreading of the good news of Your soon coming by returning Your tithe and the giving of our offerings.

My all in response to God's all!



February 7, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

Anna Knight, pioneer educator and missionary, remembered when a location was found for a school for African Americans in Alabama. Suitable land had been found and a special offering was planned so the land could be bought. Anna wrote: "I was at Battle Creek attending the Industrial Preparatory School. Everyone was asked to give a dollar. Many did not have the dollar to give, and they sacrificed a meal a day, thereby saving the money for an offering on the following Sabbath, to help the colored work." With such a spirit of personal involvement, it is no wonder that the money was raised, and the land purchased, for what would become Oakwood University (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 197).

Appeal: As we return the Lord's tithe and give our offerings today, let's remember our proud heritage. Let's remember, and follow, the example of our pioneers who were willing to sacrifice for God's causes.

Prayer

Thank You, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of sacrificing for You. Thank you that we can have a part in reaching our world through our active involvements in our communities and through the giving of our resources.

My all in response to God's all!



February 14, 2015

Offering: Division

Not all preachers have to stand behind a pulpit. Back in 1844, Leonard Hastings' potato field preached a powerful sermon about Leonard's belief in Jesus' soon coming. Word got around that he wasn't digging up his potatoes because he believed that Jesus was coming, and everyone knew that if the potatoes were not harvested, they would rot in the ground.

When Jesus didn't come back on October 22, the neighbors had a good laugh at Leonard Hastings and wondered what his family would be eating.

Hastings' potatoes were left in the ground until November. When he finally did harvest them he found that they were some of the best that he had ever grown. A potato disease came to the area that year that affected nearly all the potatoes that had been dug at the proper time. So Leonard had a big supply of potatoes for his family, and he was able to share his potatoes as well as his love for Jesus (*KidsView*, April 2014).

Appeal: What we do or don't do is, in fact, a silent sermon to everyone around us, telling others what we believe. What silent sermons are we preaching by our giving or our withholding?

Prayer

Our great Heavenly Father, please bless these offerings, and may our giving be a powerful sermon to those who need to hear of Your great gift of eternal life.

My all in response to God's all!

February 21, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

Do you remember as a child dropping coins into a piggy bank, and then the excitement when the piggy bank was finally full and you could open it and be surprised by how much you had saved?

As a young mother, Ellen White didn't have a piggy bank, but she did find an old sock and began saving anything she could spare from the household budget. Many months later, her husband, James, came home discouraged. It was time for the next edition of the church paper to be printed, but they had run out of paper. The huge sum of \$64 was needed to buy the paper. Everyone at the office had been praying for a miracle. Ellen White remembered the sock. They emptied it onto the table and counted it out. As the piles of coins grew, so did their excitement. Twenty dollars, thirty dollars, forty, fifty, sixty dollars, and still there was more. They found that they had the exact amount needed to get the paper (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 155).

Appeal: Wouldn't we all like to be part of a miracle? We can be, by partnering with God this morning as we bring our offerings.

Prayer

Thank you, God, for the privilege of partnering with You through our gifts. Please make these offerings a part of Your miracle.

My all in response to God's all!

February 28, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

Richard Godsmark was a farmer near Battle Creek. He had no money to give, but was eager to have a part in spreading the good news about Jesus. He did have a pair of oxen, which he fondly named Buck and Bright. Realizing the great need, he sold Buck and Bright and gave the money to the printing press, but that was not the end of the matter. After his offering, he still felt involved in the work of the printing presses. Every time he walked into town he made sure to pass the printing office; there he would stop and listen to the roar and clack of the power press, and he would happily say to anyone within hearing distance, "Buck and Bright are pullin' away; there're pulling away!" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 81).

Appeal: Today, you and I can learn something from Richard Godsmark. Let's give more than an offering. Let's give our hearts, also, to sharing the good news about Jesus.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of being able to give, but more than simply giving and forgetting today, we want to become personally involved in your causes.

My all in response to God's all!



March 7, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

India experienced a severe famine in the late 1900s. Many of the missionary doctors and nurses were themselves facing food shortages as they worked with the starving population.

The situation was desperate, and so Dr. Kellogg, at the Battle Creek Sanitarium in the United States, decided to do something more than just ask for an offering. He asked the medical staff to sacrifice their food. He asked for volunteers to go on a restricted diet, and the saving on their food would be sent to India. Between 400 and 500 people volunteered, and by the end of the week, they had \$500 to send to India. Volunteers felt so connected to these suffering missionaries that they volunteered a second week for the famine-relief fund.

Sometimes giving is easy. Walking in someone else's shoes and looking at life from their perspective is not as easy (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 135).

Appeal: As we give today, let's do more than put our offerings into the offering plate. Let's put our hearts into God's cause.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for being willing to become one of us. As we give today, please bless these offerings and help us to identify with those in need.

My all in response to God's all!



March 14, 2015

Offering: Adventist World Radio

Written by Shelley Nolan, AWR

As Gustavo Rosario works alone on his farm in the green hills of the Dominican Republic, his radio is his constant companion. All day long, he toils among his fruit trees and vegetable plants to the sound of voices from *Radio Amanacer*, the Adventist World Radio affiliate station, in the capital city of Santo Domingo.

Around the world people are tuning in to AWR through a wide variety of ways. From Middle Eastern students in Internet cafés to villagers with small shortwave radios in Cambodia, people are hearing the voice of hope in their own languages, thanks to AWR's ministry.

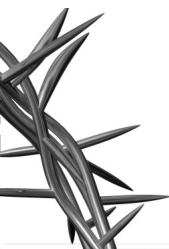
Many lives are transformed by these messages of God's love. One listener wrote: "Your radio station is an immense source of inspiration that keeps me going in spite of all the odds."

Appeal:

AWR's programs can be heard on shortwave, AM/FM, and online in nearly 100 languages. Your generous gift to the annual offering today will keep these programs traveling to the farthest corners of the globe. Thank you for your support!

Prayer:

My all in response to God's all!



March 21, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

Forks, knives, and spoons can do more than help to feed hungry mouths.

The morning after the great disappointment of 1844, Hiram Edson saw that Jesus, instead of returning to earth as the Millerites had expected, had gone into the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary in heaven, and that when He would be finished with His work of cleansing it, He would return to earth. After studying this and finding the evidence in the Bible, Edson and several others decided that this good news had to be given to the other disappointed Advent believers. But where would the money come from? Many Advent believers had already sold everything they had owned to promote the message of Jesus' soon return. Hiram Edson's wife came to the rescue. Why not sell the silverware that they had received as wedding gifts and help to feed, spiritually, people who were in desperate need of hope? (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, pp. 52, 53).

Appeal: Today as we give, we can also be expressing and giving hope. We can express our love for Jesus, and give hope to those who will benefit from these offerings.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for all the blessings we enjoy, and thank You for the hope of Your soon return.

My all in response to God's all!



March 28, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

Growth is a good thing. In the period from 1863 to 1900, the Seventh-day Adventist Church experienced dramatic growth. The year 1863 is the year when the church was officially organized into 6 conferences with 30 evangelistic staff, all of which were located in the northeastern quarter of the United States. By 1900 there were 45 local conferences and 42 missions, with 1,500 evangelistic staff spread around the world. The church had 24 medical institutions and 464 Adventist schools, with an enrollment of 11,145. In addition to the health and educational institutions, there were also many publishing houses that had begun operating around the world.

God was able to bless as people organized to work together for others (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, pp. 98-102).

Appeal: Today we have the privilege of supporting our conference and union with our offerings. Let's continue the tradition of organizing for service!

Prayer

Our Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of working together as a team. Thank You that we can work together as a united family, cooperating with the heavenly family, to prepare the world for Your coming kingdom.

My all in response to God's all!



April 4, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

Near the close of a long and fruitful life, Arthur G. Daniels wrote: “If I have accomplished anything worthwhile in the cause of God, it is because, in my youth, I set my eyes upon the goal, and, by the grace of God, I have never allowed anything to divert my mind, or take my eyes, from that goal.”

Daniels’ goal in life was to bring the good news of salvation through Jesus. Daniels wanted others to accept Jesus and be ready for His soon return. This goal motivated him to go as a missionary to New Zealand and Australia. In 1901, he was elected General Conference President. This gave Daniels a bigger platform from which to concentrate on his goal. He held the position of General Conference President for 21 years—longer than any other Seventh-day Adventist president. Under Daniels’ leadership, the church was reorganized for mission to “all the world” (George Knight, *Lest We Forget*, p. 337).

Appeal: As we give today, let’s say with Daniels, “I won’t allow anything to divert my mind from the goal of reaching others for God’s kingdom.”

Prayer

Dear Jesus, please protect us from distractions that make us focus on getting, instead of giving for Your kingdom.

My all in response to God's all!



April 11, 2015

Offering: General Conference Session Offering

Written by Verland Ernston, GC Treasury

For many decades, a special offering has been promoted in connection with the General Conference session, which is held every five years. These offerings are always evangelistic in nature, and in recent years have been for the “10-40 Window—Salvation on the Ancient Silk Road,” “Hands Across the World,” and “Hope for Big Cities.”

The offering for this year’s GC session is to be used by the young people of the church (age 25 and younger) for their outreach and evangelism. Imagine the effect this will have on our youth, as well as those to whom they minister! Everywhere, in every division around the world, 100 percent of the funds from the offering received today, and again on July 11, will be made available for this purpose.

Many of us are familiar with the statement in the March 3, 1908, *Youth’s Instructor*: “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the world!”

Appeal:

Today, each of us has an opportunity to take part in equipping our youth to finish the work!

Prayer:

My all in response to God’s all!



April 18, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

Young Anna Knight was crying. She was overwhelmed by the kindness of the gift. Anna had just received a new hat and dress from hardworking Mrs. Chambers. Anna knew there was no way to repay Mrs. Chambers. Mrs. Chambers hugged Anna warmly and said, “Dear child, we don’t expect any pay for what we are doing for you. We believe you will make a worker in God’s cause some day; and if we should sleep before Christ comes, our work will go on through you. We have helped many girls get started in the Lord’s work, and we are glad to be able to help you.” Anna Knight never forgot their faith in her. She went on to become a pioneer educator and the first African American woman sent by the church as a missionary to India (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 135).

Appeal: None of us can attempt to repay God for all of His blessings upon us. But as we return God’s tithe and give our offerings today, they can be a means of “paying God’s blessings forward,” and blessing someone else who, in turn, can continue the blessing.

Prayer

Thank You for Your gifts of love, Father. We want to practically show our love for You and others by returning Your tithe and giving offerings today.

My all in response to God’s all!



April 25, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

Today we expect availability to be instant. Especially when we have important decisions to make, we want all the information and feedback within minutes.

Back in 1913 things were very different. Communication was a real challenge as the church went global. The difficulty was that, at its best, the mail took four weeks to reach the General Conference office from the different world fields, and then the person who needed to answer a particular question may have been away from the office on an evangelistic tour—for weeks at a time.

Elder Daniels commented while working in Australia, “We had to wait three or four months before we could get any reply to our questions.” And that reply would often be: “Please send more information.” Often it would take from six to nine months to finally be able to make decisions and take action (George Knight, *Lest We Forget*, p. 338).

Appeal: Today we have so much that is instantly available. Let’s be as instantaneous with our giving, and by doing so help others to make decisions that will have eternal consequences.

Prayer

Our great Heavenly King, thank You for the privilege of instant communication with You. As we give today, may our offerings set in motion a chain of decisions for You.

My all in response to God’s all!

May 2, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

Dr. Magan was having a tough time. His wife had just died, and less than a week later, Dr. Magan, who was dean at Emmanuel Missionary College, was being pressured by the school board to resign because of curriculum reforms he was trying to institute. As Magan was trying to make sense of it all, along came W. Kellogg, who invited Magan to join him in the cornflakes company he was organizing. The offer was tempting. Kellogg was also offering Magan a block of stock, which would be worth four million dollars at that time.

Magan spent the night in prayer. In the morning he had his answer. Here's what he wrote: "I decided that in spite of all difficulties with brethren, I must stick to this Message and give whatever time and talent I have to the making of Adventists, rather than to the making of cornflakes" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 143).

Appeal: Are you more interested in "making cornflake cereal" or spreading Jesus' love? Let's recommit ourselves to seeking "first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33), as we give today.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for promising to meet our needs as we focus our lives and best energies on promoting Your kingdom.

My all in response to God's all!



May 9, 2015

**Offering: Disaster and Famine Relief
(Program provided for NAD only)**

When a large-scale emergency occurs, whether it's a natural disaster or humanitarian crisis, it can be overwhelming. We must remember that the people who are suffering and in need aren't just faces in the news—they are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

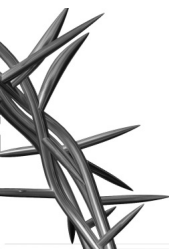
Today's offering helps support the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), a ministry of service that puts Christ's love into action through community development and emergency relief around the world. With a longstanding presence in more than 120 countries, ADRA's relief work doesn't end when the emergency is over; development work continues to help families rebuild their homes, their livelihoods, and their communities.

Appeal:

Your generous contribution this morning goes directly to ADRA's disaster and famine relief efforts. Every donation travels the world to provide impoverished families in crisis with food, shelter, clean water, and other desperately needed emergency resources. Your offering is an act of compassion that protects and uplifts families when they need it most.

Prayer:

My all in response to God's all!



May 16, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

It must have been hard to keep James White in a winter coat. In one winter, he went through at least three coats—and warm winter coats were not cheap. The problem was that James White kept on giving his coats away. Every time he met some struggling believer who was thinly clad, he gave his coat away. In Vermont, during a cold winter, James White met a brother who was extremely poor, and so from James White's own hard-earned money, he gave the man \$20 and the only overcoat he had. What is even more remarkable about this generous act, is that this man had been agitating against James White and spreading false rumors about his ministry (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 158).

Appeal: Perhaps as we give out of our abundance today, we won't have to give up our winter coats, but we can follow James White's example: Along with giving, we can be ready to forgive, and take the first step in reconciliation.

Prayer

Dear God, as we give our offerings this morning, we want to give not only money but also forgiveness. Please "forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." (Matt. 6:12).

My all in response to God's all!



May 23, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

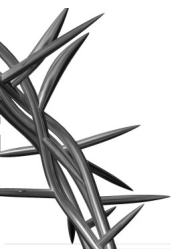
Your giving can have a snowball effect. Listen to Ellen White's experience: "I had about the time of Brother Ertzenberger's visit to America a present of a nice silk dress, which cost forty-five dollars. Brother Andrews (who was opening the work in Europe) had just sent word that there was a great need of money to carry forward the work; I thought it was my privilege to so use the gift I had received that those who generously presented it to me would receive a reward and lay up treasure in heaven. I went to a merchant and told him to sell it for me for all he could get. He sold it for fifty dollars, and I sent the money to this mission. When others knew what I had done, they donated much larger sums. Thus the act of my doing this little thing, brought in means from other individuals, so that Brother Andrews wrote us that the very sum needed came at the right time" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 162).

Appeal: Inspired by what God has done for us, why don't we start an avalanche of giving today?

Prayer

Dear God, motivated by Your great love for us, we want to start an avalanche of giving. Please bless and multiply these offerings for your service.

My all in response to God's all!



May 30, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

What does your bank account look like? Are you getting good interest on your money? Listen to Ellen White's take on personal investment, written in 1885: "We are establishing missions and building churches all through America. Already we have \$23,000 laid up in the bank of heaven. As I could not sell property that I wished to sell, I have hired money and paying eight percent interest, invested it in the cause. Our foreign mission treasury is now empty. In many places in America they have been having very close times. A night before last, I dreamed that I was pleading with God and presenting to Him our empty treasury.... The Lord has money that He has entrusted to His stewards for to do this needed work. Are these men, are these women where God can impress them with His Spirit?" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 163).

Appeal: What do our heavenly bank accounts look like today? Let's make investments that will count for eternity?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we want to "lay up for [y]ourselves treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:20), because we know that where our treasure is, our hearts will be also. We want our hearts to be set on heavenly realities today.

My all in response to God's all!



June 6, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

In 1890, \$12,000 was more than it is now, and there were far fewer Seventh-day Adventist believers then than now. But children, not really understanding the value of money and the immense difficulty of raising so much money, set to work to raise it. They made their money by running errands, working in the garden, picking potato bugs off the plants, or making and selling pin-cushions. And as they brought their pennies along to Sabbath School, they were inspirational.

When the adults saw the enthusiasm of the children, they began to also believe that with God, all things are possible, and shared in the fund-raising. And soon a ship was built in the shipyards of Vallejo, California. Named the *Pitcairn*, it became a mission ship that traveled to distant lands with the good news of Jesus' soon return (Chantal Klingbeil, *KidsView*, June 2011).

Appeal: There is still a big world out there, and many who need to hear of Jesus' return. Let's catch some child-like faith today. Let's give with enthusiasm.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, today we thank You for the privilege of working with You in reaching our world with hope. Please make us enthusiastic givers.

My all in response to God's all!



June 13, 2015
Offering: Division

When the offering call is made many reach into their purses or wallets and as a 'reflex reaction' look to see what can be found.

If you had lived in Adventist circles in the 1860s, this 'reflex' would have been challenged by "Sister Betsy." Believers had their giving habits challenged by the "Systematic Benevolence" plan, or "Sister Betsy," as it was soon nicknamed.

The Battle Creek congregation came up with the idea after studying Paul's advice in 1 Corinthians 16:2. The plan was to encourage every believer to set aside a particular sum on the very "first day" of the week. This involved more than a reflex as people thought about how they had been blessed and then decided what they, in turn, could give back to God in gratitude.

Appeal: Perhaps for some of us a visit by "Sister Betsy" may still be in order. After all, we all want to show our gratefulness to God by more than just a 'reflex,' or with what is left over in our wallets at the end of the week!

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for the costly gift of Jesus' death for us. We want to show our gratefulness with more than just an afterthought.

My all in response to God's all!



June 20, 2015

Offering: Church Budget

Offering doesn't always have to come in the form of a one-time financial contribution. Offering should be an attitude. It means looking for creative ways to forward God's work, with or without money. Soon after the founding of South Lancaster school (later Atlantic Union College), a group of young women attending the school held a meeting, and this is what they resolved: "We, the young ladies of the South Lancaster school, feeling anxious to do our part in sustaining the same, will be responsible for the laundry work, and for all necessary repairs, in the clothing of the young men who donate their time in cultivating land for the benefit of the school; and that we will be glad to help in any other way whenever opportunities present themselves" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 199).

Appeal: Right now we have an opportunity to return God's tithe and give our freewill offerings. And we will have the opportunity this coming week to look for creative ways in which we can make our lives an offering.

Prayer

Today we want to thank You, our Creator God, for the creative expressions of life that we see all around us. Please help us to creatively look for ways to pass on our blessings.

My all in response to God's all!



June 27, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

Are you happy with your wages? Are you enjoying job satisfaction? I suppose that all depends on how you view your work. James White, although struggling with a limp from an old injury, had taken the job of mowing hay. In a letter dated July 2, 1848, writing to a friend, he describes his work: "It is rainy today so that I do not mow or I should not write. I mow five days for unbelievers and Sunday for believers and rest on the Seventh day, therefore I have but very little time to write. My health is good, God gives me strength to labor hard all day. I have mowed eight days right off and felt hardly a pain. Brother Holt, Brother John Belden, and I have taken 100 acres of grass to mow, at 87 cents per acre and board ourselves. Praise the Lord. I hope to get a few dollars here to use in the cause of God."

For James White, a job was always more than just something to do to make money. It was a way to further God's kingdom (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 157).

Appeal: Today, let's thank God for our jobs and let's see them as more than just a way to "make a living." Let's see them as blessings, which we can use to further God's kingdom.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the privilege of work. We thank You and pray for those who do not currently have a job.

My all in response to God's all!

July 4, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

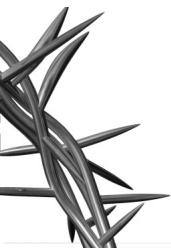
On July 4, 1899, the church paper, *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, published an article by Ellen White. In this article Ellen White uses a common carpet design as an object lesson. She says: “Look at the flowers in a carpet, and notice the different colored threads. All are not pink, all are not green, all are not blue. A variety of colors are woven together to perfect the pattern. So it is in the design of God. He has a purpose in placing us where we must learn to live as individuals. We are not all fitted to do the same kind of work, but each man’s work is designed by God to help make up His plan” (Ellen G. White, *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*).

Appeal: Isn’t it good to know that you and I are not here by chance or accident? We are part of God’s plan. Part of today’s offering will go to outreach. Let’s give with outreach plans in mind today.

Prayer

Thank You, Father, for the great plan of salvation. Thank You that we are part of Your plan to reach the world. Please bless this tithe and these offerings and use them to fulfill part of Your great plan.

My all in response to God’s all!



July 11, 2015

Offering: General Conference Session Offering

Written by Verland Ernston, GC Treasury

Today is the second Sabbath that we are receiving a special offering called the General Conference Session Offering. The first was just three months ago on April 12. For many, many years a world-wide offering has been promoted in connection with the General Conference session, which is held every five years. These offerings are always evangelistic in nature, and in recent years, have been for the “10-40 Window—Salvation on the Ancient Silk Road,” “Hands Across the World,” and “Hope for Big Cities.” Approximately three million US dollars were received for each of these offerings! The offering for this year’s session is to be used by the young people of the church (ages 25 and younger) for their outreach and evangelism. Not only will the funds be used for initiatives involving the youth, but at the planning stage at least 75 percent of the planning committees will consist of individuals aged 25 years or younger. What a marvelous way to empower our young people and direct their enthusiasm and energy in service for Jesus! Perhaps more than ever before we will witness the truth of the statement printed in the March 3, 1908, *Youth’s Instructor*: “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the world!”

Appeal:

What a marvelous opportunity we have, today, to support our young people and promote evangelism!

Prayer:

My all in response to God’s all!

July 18, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

William A. Spicer had already served as secretary of the General Conference from 1903 to 1922. He was hoping to retire as General Conference Secretary in 1922, but in spite of trying his best to get out of it, he found himself elected as the new General Conference president. Here is a very personal extract of a letter he wrote to his wife, Georgie, right after his election: “I begged all to try to think of some other way, but after a season of prayer no way seemed open and I could not refuse. I am sorry for you dear Georgie. You would not wish it for me. It is so different from the work I longed to do. But I just couldn’t get out of it without selfishness. Don’t worry. It does not call for a superman but just for a consecrated man doing his best, and that I will be, Georgie dear, by God’s help. So dear sweet wife I am just your husband that loves you and would rather have the kingdom of your heart than any office honors. There are no posts of honor but only of service” (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 147).

Appeal: Elder Spicer had a Christ-centered philosophy of service. Today as we give our offerings let’s be willing to rededicate ourselves to Christ’s service.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, please help us to see our lives as stewards of service for Your kingdom, and to remember that all the honor is due You.

My all in response to God’s all!



July 25, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

In the church paper *The Advent Review and Herald of the Sabbath* of July 25, 1871, Ellen White wrote an article. Here's an abstract from her article:

“Where does the artist obtain his design? From nature. But the great Master Artist has painted upon heaven's shifting, changing canvas the glories of the setting sun. He has tinted and gilded the heavens with gold, silver, and crimson, as though the portals of high heaven were thrown open, that we might view its gleamings, and our imagination take hold of the glory within. Many turn carelessly from this heavenly wrought picture. They fail to trace the infinite love and power of God in the surpassing beauties seen in the heavens, but are almost entranced as they view and worship the imperfect paintings, in imitation of the Master Artist” (Ellen G. White, *The Advent Review and Herald of the Sabbath*, July 25, 1871).

Appeal: Let's not be entranced by imitations or enveloped in pursuing success or wealth. As we give, let us remember where all our blessings come from.

Prayer

Our Great God, thank You for being the Original and the Originator of every blessing we enjoy.

My all in response to God's all!



August 1, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

For many of our pioneers, giving was not something they did only at church during an offering appeal. Giving was a way of life. Elder Stephen Haskell and his wife, Mary, had worked for 20 years to own a little home of their own. Finally, after all those years of hard work and careful saving, they were able to secure a clear title to their house in South Lancaster. They were still rejoicing that they were mortgage free when they received word of a financial crisis in Battle Creek. Three thousand dollars was needed immediately. Quietly the Haskells went and had their property remortgaged and sent the money to the church headquarters to help relieve the financial crisis. Stephen and Mary felt it a privilege to partner with God in helping others. Years later, Stephen Haskell insisted that God had rewarded him 10 times over in every sense of the word (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 132).

Appeal: How about us? Are we ready to partner with God in helping others and forwarding God's work?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting us to partner with You through our giving.

My all in response to God's all!



August 8, 2015
Offering: Division

What do you see when you come to church? I suppose that it all depends on where you are looking. Ellen White, while living in Australia, would make a point of looking out for any sister at church who was poorly dressed. After the services, she would speak to the woman and invite her to her home during the week. Ellen White was a great bargain hunter, and when she found a good woolen fabric at wholesale prices she would bring it home and lay it away in a drawer in her room. Then when the poor sister came to visit, she would tactfully say to her: "I have a nice piece of material that I think would be very becoming to you. If you have no objections, I should like to have my seamstress make it up for you." Many a sister went away from Ellen's home surprised and happy to have been noticed (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 164).

Appeal: Today let's become aware of the needs that surround us and be motivated to give generously.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, today we ask for open eyes. We want to see and feel the needs of those around us and cooperate with You in bringing relief to others.

My all in response to God's all!



August 15, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

Where would be the safest place for your savings and treasures? One sister found an unusual place that wasn't a security box in a bank. The school at Healdsburg in California was desperately in need of money. Let's listen to Ellen White tell the story in her own words: "Our supplication went up to heaven with many tears for the Lord to send us means. In about three hours' time, I heard a knock at my door. Upon opening it, I found a sister there. Said she, I do not wish to disturb you while writing, but I have some money that I want to invest in the cause. She gave to the college \$5,000.... And tears ran down her face to think that she had now found a safe deposit for what had so long been only a source of care and anxiety (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 163).

Appeal: Today let's think of investing in God's kingdom, which will pay dividends into eternity.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the privilege of being the answer to someone's prayer. As we give generously, please help our gifts to be a blessing to someone else.

My all in response to God's all!



August 22, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

Has your purse or wallet been converted? In the book *Councils on Stewardship*, on page 205, Ellen White writes about the strange case of a man with an unconverted purse.

She explains that “he may have been moved upon by listening to stirring truth, which for the time being loosed his purse strings; yet, after all, his liberality has no deeper motive. He gives by spasms; his purse opens spasmodically, and closes just as securely, spasmodically. He deserves no commendation, for he is in every sense of the word a stingy man; and unless thoroughly converted, purse and all, will hear the withering denunciation, ‘Go to, now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten’” (E. G. White, *Councils on Stewardship*, p. 205).

Appeal: Perhaps it would do us all well to do a purse check. As we give today let us make sure that we are thoroughly converted, purse and all.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, as we give today, we want to be reconverted and rededicated to Your service—purse and all.

My all in response to God's all!



August 29, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

You can tell a lot about a person's character by the way they handle their money. In 1852 Joseph Bates, an evangelist and church planter, traveled across Michigan by train. One evening he dreamed about a place called Battle Creek. Taking his dream as divine leading, Bates got off the train at the village of Battle Creek. Who would be open to hearing God's voice in this little town? Joseph Bates inquired about "the most honest man in town." And he was quickly referred to David Hewitt. David Hewitt supported his family by door-to-door sales work, and here he had earned a solid reputation for absolute honesty. Joseph Bates knocked on the Hewitt door and told them that he had "important truth" for them. After an all-day Bible study the Hewitts became the first Sabbath-keeping Adventists in Battle Creek (*The Ellen G. White Encyclopedia*, p. 409).

If others had just your financial records to go by, what would they say of your character?

Appeal: As we give today, let's take a moment to think about whether or not our giving is reflecting our beliefs.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the opportunity to practice honesty and generosity as we use the resources You have entrusted to us.

My all in response to God's all!



September 5, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

Ellen White's granddaughter, Ethel, recalls that Grandma was always very generous. She remembered one occasion when a woman named Mrs. Starr visited Ellen White at Sunnyside in Australia—it happened to be washday. Mrs. Starr noticed an unusually patched piece of underwear hanging on the line and she said, "Oh, Sister White, you ought not to have to wear such things. Put it in the Dorcas barrel, and I'll get you some new ones." "No," replied Grandma, "I never give my old things to poor folks. It might discourage them. I know how to mend and patch. I prefer giving them the new things" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 161).

Perhaps Ellen White was motivated by Matthew 25:40, which says, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Appeal: As we give today, let's remember that we are ultimately giving to Jesus. So let's give of our best!

Prayer

Dear Jesus, please forgive us. We so often forget that when we give, or are reluctant to give, that we are ultimately giving, or not giving, to You.

My all in response to God's all!

September 12, 2015

Offering: World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities)

Written by Verland Ernston, GC Treasury

From time to time situations develop that 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 such situations.

Many of you may remember when the “Iron Curtain” fell. Shortly after that time, many properties in the former USSR became temporarily available for very low prices. Although a few were purchased at the time for church buildings, funds were very limited, so for the most part this was a missed opportunity. More recently a similar situation has developed in another country. Because of the existence of the Unusual Opportunity Fund, we have been able to provide US\$700,000 for the purchase of prime properties at very low prices to locate future churches. These are the kinds of things this offering is for, whether for properties, evangelism opportunities, or other “open doors” that may quickly close at any time. We want to be ready to respond.

Appeal:

You can help us respond to these opportunities by participating in our offering today.

Prayer:

My all in response to God's all!



September 19, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

The Australasian Missionary College had begun in 1897. Two years later, in the middle of a building project, help from America was cut off because of a financial crisis. Further, to make things worse, someone who had loaned the college money wanted the loan back by the next day. With no cash on hand, three of the leaders set off to try to get a loan to pay the debtor back. It was already 4 p.m. and the bank was closed. As they passed the side door of the bank, they noticed that it was open about the width of a man. They walked in. The banker and his assistant were busy counting the contents of the vault and were shocked to see them and wanted to know how they had gotten in. “We walked in through the door,” they replied. “Yes, I know,” replied the banker, “but how did you get the door open? I shut, bolted, locked, and chained that door myself. How did you get it open?” All realized that an angel had gone before them. The college got their loan (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 194).

Appeal: God is still in the business of doing the impossible. He wants to open opportunities that you haven’t even dreamed of as you cooperate with Him.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the privilege of cooperating with You through tithe and offerings.

My all in response to God’s all!



September 26, 2015
Offering: Conference/Union

Many early Adventist pioneers were happy to sacrifice for God's work, and even thought of it as a privilege. Annie Smith, a highly talented poet and writer, was offered a high paying teaching position in a new, exclusive academy in Mt. Vernon. She passed up the academy position to go and help with the fledgling publishing work, where she would board with the White family and work without a salary. She wrote about her motivation for this decision: "Earth has entirely lost its attractions. My hopes, joys, affections, are now all centered in things above and divine. I want no other place than to sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn of him, —no other occupation than to be in the service of my Heavenly Father,—no other delight than the peace of God which passeth all understanding" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 67).

Appeal: How do we view giving today? Are our hopes, joys, and affections also centered on Jesus? Have we discovered the peace of God, which passeth all understanding?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we give today please help us to redirect our focus from the things of the here and now to the permanence of eternity with You.

My all in response to God's all!



October 3, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

Edson White, a son of Ellen White, was pioneering the work in the South of the United States among the newly freed slaves. These were hard times for this community, and if anyone could have legitimately been excused from contributing financially it might have been them. Edson wrote that: “Some of them hardly see 50 cents a week, and some have been kept from the meetings on account of being absolutely without shoes to wear ... and yet they all wanted an interest in their church.” Individuals kept coming to Edson and would say, “I want a part in this work, and will do all I can, but cannot say now what it will be.”

Much to Edson’s surprise, by pinching here and cutting there, people were able to give—some 25 cents, some 50 cents, and in rare cases even \$1.

Edson wrote, “I want to say that I never saw a firmer body of Seventh-day Adventists than the little colored company in Vicksburg” (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 172).

Appeal: One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving. Today is our opportunity to say, “I want a part in this work of bringing Jesus to the world.” Let’s say it through our offerings.

Prayer

Dear God, as we say that we love You through our offerings, please bless our gifts of love.

My all in response to God’s all!



October 10, 2015
Offering: Division

In October of 1844 many people believed that Jesus would soon be coming. Many of these early Adventists showed by what they did that they believed. Some decided to play it safe. They professed to believe, but did not really, and they also showed this by what they did.

One man, who claimed to believe that Jesus was coming in October, had some hogs that were the right age and could be kept over for the market in the spring of the next year. A stockman went to this Adventist and offered to buy his hogs. “No, thank you,” said the Adventist. “I think I’ll just hang on to them until next year.” The stockman went away and told everyone he met that “the Adventist doesn’t believe what he says he does.” “How can you say that,” others asked, “he seems very sincere?” “Because he says he believes the world is coming to an end this fall, and yet he doesn’t want to sell his hogs until spring. He needn’t talk to me: he doesn’t believe a word of what he preaches.”

Appeal: As we return Your tithe and give our offerings today, let’s “put our money where our mouth is.” Let our giving “shout out” our belief in Jesus’ soon return.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, please bless our offerings, and may they speak volumes of our hope in You.

My all in response to God’s all!



October 17, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

Ellen White's books sold well during her lifetime, and people were often curious about what she did with all that money. Ellen had always been a sacrificial giver. Even as a teen in poor health, she sat propped up in bed to knit stockings at 25 cents a day so that pamphlets could be made to tell others of Jesus' soon return. Later, when profits began coming in from her books, she used the money to donate to almost every needy cause in Adventism. Take for example the book *Christ's Object Lessons*, which was printed in 1900. In three years it had yielded more than \$300,000 in profit, all of which went into clearing debt on Adventist educational institutions. In a letter she summed up her general philosophy towards money. She says, "I do not profess to be the owner of any money that comes into my hands. I regard it as the Lord's money for which I must render an account" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, pp. 159-163, 165).

Appeal: How do we regard our money? As we give today, let's remember that we are just investing what is already God's.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, today we recognize that we are simply giving back a portion of what is already Yours. Thank You for entrusting us with your blessings.

My all in response to God's all!



October 24, 2015

Offering: Conference/Union

Just imagine waking up on Tuesday, October 22, 1844. If you saw a faint glow in the east just behind the barn, you would have been very excited and started shouting for everyone to wake up. Like many Advent believers you would have been living in anticipation of the greatest event—Jesus' second coming. I wonder if you would have even felt like eating breakfast that morning. Maybe you would have been wondering what angel food tasted like. You would have been expecting to see Jesus and all the angels with Him, and to feel the ground shaking as His voice calls up the dead. Perhaps you would have made a checklist of the first of your Bible heroes whom you wanted to meet in heaven. This event would have given you a very different perspective on what is really important in life (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 45).

Appeal: Today we still have the privilege of living in anticipation of that great event. Let's reprioritize our lives as we give.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank You for the hope that Your coming gives us. Thank you for the opportunity to center our lives around this hope.

My all in response to God's all!



October 31, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

How much time would you need in order to move all your possessions? And how much space would it fill? Many of us would need weeks if not months to sort through all the things we have worked for and acquired over the years before we would be ready to move.

Possessions have a way of tying us down. For many of the early Advent believers, spreading God's message was what their lives were all about. Making a living was not their main objective in life.

In April 1848, James White wrote of himself and Ellen that "all we have including clothes, bedding, and household furniture we have with us in a three-foot trunk, and that is but half full. We have nothing else to do but to serve God and go where God opens the way for us" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 65).

Appeal: Do our lives revolve around acquiring "stuff"? As we return God's tithe and our offerings today, it is a good moment to identify what may be holding us back spiritually.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we don't want to be caught in the web of just trying to get more things. We want to dedicate all we have, and are, to You.

My all in response to God's all!



November 7, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

In 1852, James and Ellen White moved to Rochester, New York. The couple's rented home was shared with several other young Adventists and housed the printing press. In a letter, Ellen White describes their living arrangements. She says: "You would smile, could you look in upon us and see our furniture. We have bought two old bedsteads for twenty-five cents each. My husband brought me home six old chairs, no two of them alike, for which he paid one dollar, and soon he presented me with four more old chairs without any seating, for which he paid sixty-two cents.... Butter is so high that we do not purchase it, neither can we afford potatoes. We use sauce in the place of butter, and turnips for potatoes. Our first meals were taken on a fireboard placed upon two empty flour barrels. But," the young Ellen White added, "we are willing to endure privations if the work of God can be advanced" (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 72).

Appeal: Today let's be willing to follow the examples of all those who were willing to sacrifice their comfort and even their lives to advance the work of God.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, for being willing to endure even the shame of the cross. Make us as willing to endure for Your kingdom.

My all in response to God's all!

November 14, 2015

Offering: Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)

Written by Nancy Kyte, Adventist Mission

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

Global Mission, the frontline mission arm of the church, uses a wholistic approach to reach people. Global Mission pioneers work within their own culture, where they understand the community and speak the local language. They help with people's basic needs, such as food, water, and shelter, or healthcare and education. They share lessons from the Bible whenever they can.

Your financial support makes it possible for Adventist workers on the "frontlines" to offer hope and assurance to those who live in fear and despair. Every bit will make a big difference to someone who is still waiting to hear about Jesus.

Appeal:

Give as generously as you can to the Annual Sacrifice Offering, and you will become a partner in the frontline mission work of God's church.

Prayer:

My all in response to God's all!



November 21, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

In many countries of the Northern Hemisphere there are celebrations to mark the end of harvest time. In the United States, Thanksgiving is one of the most important celebrations. For many, Thanksgiving Day is all about eating far too much. This seemed to have already been the pattern of things even back in 1884, when Ellen White wrote about the Thanksgiving holiday. She challenged the Battle Creek church members to do something different that year. She wrote: “Now a season is coming when we shall have our principles tested. Let us begin to think what we can do for God’s needy ones. We can make them through ourselves the recipients of God’s blessings. Think what widow, what orphan, what poor family you can relieve, not in a way to make a great parade about the matter, but be as a channel through which the Lord’s substance shall flow as a blessing to His poor” (E. G. White, *Adventist Home*, pp. 474, 475).

Appeal: We have so much to be thankful for. Let’s show our thanks by being a channel of blessings, even on holidays, when some may feel especially neglected.

Prayer

As we give our offerings today, Heavenly Father, please give us one more thing—thankful hearts that will be ready to spread Your blessings.

My all in response to God’s all!



November 28, 2015
Offering: Conference/Union

And now it is time for each of us to preach a sermon! Ellen White explains how. She says:
“On the Sabbath we have thought upon [God’s] goodness. We have beheld His work in creation as an evidence of His power in redemption. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness for His great love. And now, before the toil of a week begins, we return to Him His own, and with it an offering to testify our gratitude. Thus our practice will be a weekly sermon, declaring that God is the possessor of all our property, and that He has made us stewards to use it to His glory. Every acknowledgment of our obligation to God will strengthen the sense of obligation. Gratitude deepens as we give it expression, and the joy it brings is life to soul and body” (*The Review and Herald*, February 4, 1902).

Appeal: By faithfully returning God’s tithe and giving generous freewill offerings, each of us can joyfully preach our weekly sermon. Let’s testify to our gratitude to God.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of participation. Thank You that we can testify of Your great love through the gifts we bring.

My all in response to God’s all!



December 5, 2015

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

On December 5, 1901, Ellen White wrote the following in the magazine *Youth's Instructor*: "Remember, dear young friends, that each day, each hour, each moment, you are weaving the web of your own destiny. Each time the shuttle is thrown, there is drawn into the web a thread, which either mars or beautifies the pattern. If you are careless and indolent, you spoil the life which God designed should be bright and beautiful. If you choose to follow your own inclinations, unchristlike habits will bind you with bands of steel. And as you walk away from Christ, your example will be followed by many who, because of your wrong course, will never enjoy the glories of heaven. But if you make brave efforts to overcome selfishness, allowing no opportunity to pass for helping those around you, the light of your example will guide others to the cross" (E. G. White, *Youth's Instructor*, December 5, 1901).

Appeal: This December, let's not pass up the opportunity of giving. Let's weave bright threads of generosity into our lives to lead others to Christ.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, please weave into the pattern of our lives bright threads of generosity that reflect You.

My all in response to God's all!



December 12, 2015
Offering: Division

For early Adventists, December wasn't the only month to be thinking about giving. They took Paul's call in Romans 12:1 to be "living sacrifices" seriously. Take 17-year-old John Loughborough, for instance. After recovering from malaria he set off to preach of Jesus' soon return—in secondhand clothes that were far too big for his small build. Later, after John had embraced the Sabbath truth, he went on traveling and preaching.

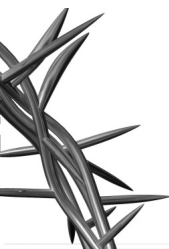
He made many converts, but was frequently threatened, and once even narrowly escaped death from an angry knife-wielding man. But for John, all of this didn't matter. He was preaching about his Jesus. Not winter blizzards, trackless prairies, baffling forest trails, long boat trips on stormy seas, or old age could hold him back. When he died in 1924 at the age of 92, he knew the privilege of having spent his life in giving to others (Nix, *Passion, Purpose & Power*, p. 73).

Appeal: Let's not let giving be something seasonal. Let's determine, as we give our offerings today, to make our lives living sacrifices to God.

Prayer

Our great Lord and King, we don't want our giving to be seasonal. We want to give ourselves to You as living sacrifices.

My all in response to God's all!



December 19, 2015
Offering: Church Budget

James White was preaching at a camp meeting. While he was preaching someone announced that a man had just been pulled out of the nearby river and seemed to have drowned. Immediately, James White stopped preaching and rushed to the spot. Without any hesitation he rolled the man into the correct position and began artificial respiration on him. After several long minutes the man revived. James White went back to the tent and continued his sermon.

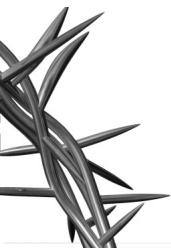
Whatever the sermon was about that day, the audience also had a practical lesson in the importance of not just passively listening to calls about people's greatest needs, but actually doing something about them. There is a time for listening and a time for action (Gordon and Nix, *Laughter and Tears of the Pioneers*, p. 20).

Appeal: At this time each of us gets an opportunity to actively participate in meeting the needs of others by returning God's tithe and giving generous freewill offerings.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank You for actively being involved in our lives. Thank You for sending Jesus—the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

My all in response to God's all!



December 26, 2015
Offering: Conference/Union

In 1889, Ellen White's 7-year old granddaughter, Ella, was looking forward to Christmas. Perhaps she was expecting some gifts, but what she was really looking forward to was the event at church. At Christmastime there was always a big fir tree that would be put up in the church. It made the church smell lovely. The decorations on the church tree were extra special. And that year Ella had decided to join in with decorating the big church tree. Ella had two whole dollars that she had been saving, and she was going to put them in a little cloth bag and hang them on the tree. Other people would be putting their money in little bags or boxes too and hanging them on the tree. All the money collected would be used to support missionaries (*KidsView*, December 2013).

Appeal: Even a seven-year-old knew that the only way to really celebrate God's gift of sending Jesus to earth was to do as much giving as possible.

Prayer

Our great Heavenly Father, thank You for the greatest of all gifts—Jesus. We want to celebrate this gift today by joining in giving.

My all in response to God's all!

