

## TITHE AND OFFERING READINGS



### **ATTENTION!**

Dated material to be adapted,  
translated and distributed to  
Seventh-day Adventist churches  
**before** December 2003.

**2004**

(For your convenience, pages i-v are repeated at the end of the readings.)

## LifeGiving Principles

By James A. Cress

James A. Cress serves the Seventh-day Adventist Church as Ministerial Association Secretary for the General Conference. He has previously served as an evangelist, conference departmental director in Stewardship and Communication, teacher of homiletics and evangelism, and as Ministerial Secretary in conferences and unions. His previous assignment before coming to the General Conference was pastor of the Marietta, Georgia church, where his members generously explored God's dynamic blessings for their spiritual growth. He writes a monthly column, "The Pastor's Pastor," for *Ministry Magazine*.

Edited and prepared by the Stewardship Department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, USA. ©2003

This material may be translated, printed or photocopied by Seventh-day Adventist entities without securing further permission. Republished documents should include the credit line: *Stewardship Department, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*.

Unless otherwise specified, the New International Version is used for all scriptural references.

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

## SABBATHS WITHOUT DESIGNATED OFFERINGS

There are **six Sabbaths** in 2004 that do not have designated offerings. Each Division Committee is to designate these offerings for use in their Division, Conference or Union. The Sabbaths are: January 10, February 14, June 12, August 14, October 9, and December 11.

The titles of the readings of these non-designated offerings are noted as "**Scheduled Offering: Division.**"

## THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS FOR 2004

Trans-European Division .....	March 27
Western Africa Division .....	June 26
Southern Asia Division .....	September 25
Euro-Asia Division .....	December 25

### Special Offerings

RECOMMENDED, To adopt the Calendar of Special Offerings—World 2004, as follows:

#### 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

- 6 ..... Outreach/Church Budget
- 13\*+ ..... Adventist World Radio\* +
- 20 ..... Church Budget
- 27 ..... Conference/Union

#### APRIL

- 3 ..... Outreach/Church Budget
- 10+ ..... World Mission Budget+
- 17 ..... Church Budget
- 24 ..... Conference/Union

#### MAY

- 1 ..... Outreach/Church Budget
- 8\*+ ..... Disaster and Famine Relief\* +
- 15 ..... Church Budget

- 22 ..... Conference/Union
- 29 ..... Church Budget

#### JUNE

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

#### JULY

- 3 ..... Outreach/Church Budget
- 10+ ..... World Mission+
- 17 ..... Church Budget
- 24 ..... Conference/Union
- 31 ..... Church Budget

#### AUGUST

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

#### SEPTEMBER

- 4 ..... Outreach/Church Budget
- 11+ ..... World Mission Budget+  
(Go One Million)
- 18 ..... Church Budget
- 25 ..... Conference/Union

#### OCTOBER

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

#### NOVEMBER

- 6 ..... Outreach/Church Budget
- 13\* + ..... Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)\*+
- 20 ..... Church Budget
- 27 ..... Conference/Union

#### DECEMBER

4 .....Outreach/Church Budget  
 11 .....Division  
 18 ..... Church Budget  
 25 ..... Conference/Union

\*Reading provided by corresponding entity  
 +Worldwide Offering

## SCHEDULED SPECIAL OFFERINGS

SABBATH	TITLE	DATE
11 <sup>th</sup>	Adventist World Radio	March 13
15 <sup>th</sup>	World Mission Budget	April 10
19 <sup>th</sup>	Disaster and Famine Relief	May 8
28 <sup>th</sup>	World Mission	July 10
37 <sup>th</sup>	World Mission (Go One Million)	September 11
46 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)	November 13

## **Sabbath 1**

**January 3, 2004**

**Offering: Outreach/Church**

### **LifeGiving Principle: *God's Plan is Abundant Living***

*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10*

God's plan involves your future—He guarantees eternity. God's plan also involves the best of life for you here and now—in the present. He wants you to enjoy the most abundant life possible today.

### **Appeal:**

During this year, will you open your heart and mind to understand God's LifeGiving Principles for the most abundant life possible—now, as you anticipate eternal life with Jesus in His kingdom?

### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 2**

**January 10, 2004**

**Offering: Division**

### **LifeGiving Principle: *God Placed Humans in Charge of His Creation***

*Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Genesis 1:28*

When Jesus made everything, He designed that humanity should manage His creation. You were in His mind when He spoke the world into existence. His plan is to give you dominion over every good thing He has made.

Just think! God's creation is designed for *you* to manage. Your Creator trusts you to wisely utilize those things He has given you.

Loma Linda University Professor of Ethics, Mark F. Carr, says, "In reversal of the notion that all the rest of creation exists to serve us, this text points us toward the notion that humans have a God-given responsibility to serve the rest of God's creation."

### **Appeal:**

Seek God's plan and His will in relating your control to His creation!

### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 3**  
**January 17, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God plans for us to receive in order to give***

*He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. John 7:38*

You can only give that which you have already received. When Jesus invites thirsty people to come to Him and drink deeply of His love and saving grace, His intention is that what is received will be distributed freely to others.

Jesus provides blessings to thirsty people so that great quantities of blessings—"rivers of living water"—will flow on to others.

**Appeal:**

If you feel you need more to give to others, look to Jesus and receive more and more of His blessings into your experience.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 4**  
**January 24, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God's Plan of Salvation is based on giving***

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

God's love motivated His gift of Jesus. God does not just love the church—His redeemed people. God loves the world—His lost people.

Jesus especially targeted lost people.

**Appeal:**

When God gave Jesus to "seek and save" the lost, He was giving Himself to save His own creation. As we comprehend His love and interest in the lost, we can unite our own gifts and energies with Jesus' plan to save whosoever will believe in Him.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 5**  
**January 31, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God multiplies little into much***

*And he said unto them, "You give them something to eat."  
And they said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we go and buy food for all these people."  
Luke 9:13*

When Jesus wanted to feed five thousand people, he took the small amount of resources the disciples had in their possession—five loaves of bread and two fish—and multiplied this simple food into a banquet menu.

The disciples believed they didn't have sufficient resources and would need to go grocery shopping. Instead, Jesus simply used what they had in their possession to expand His blessings to thousands.

**Appeal:**

Even if your resources are meager, they still can bless thousands when Jesus adds His creative energy to your generosity.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 6**  
**February 7, 2004**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God can only use that which is cheerfully given***

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

Keep your money if you are giving grudgingly. God cannot even use that which is not given cheerfully.

Once when a group was certain that the youth were wasting church funds, a helpful quotation eased their minds. If the money had indeed been wasted, perhaps it had been given grudgingly and could not be used by God.

*Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 5, p. 285:* "The Lord will not accept an offering that is made unwillingly, grudgingly. With your present feelings there would be no virtue in making more pledges. When you recover from this snare of the enemy, when you heal the breach that you have made, and realize that the wants of God's cause are as continual as are His gifts to the children of men, your works will correspond with your faith, and you will receive a rich blessing from the Lord."

**Appeal:**

Determine that you will allow God to bless your offering.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 7**  
**February 14, 2004**  
**Offering: Division**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God doesn't need your money; He needs your heart***

*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*  
*Matthew 6:21*

Note the principle. Your heart follows your funds; it's not the other way around.

What you invest in and where you place your money will ultimately gain the allegiance of your heart.

The Creator of all things is not sitting around waiting for your offering to keep the universe operating.

Jesus does need your heart, and He understands the principle that our hearts' allegiance follows the trail of our giving.

**Appeal:**

If your treasure is in heaven, your heart will be there too. If your treasure is only on this earth, you won't have to search too far to find your heart.

Your choice for your giving determines your heart's home.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 8**  
**February 21, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God empowers your abilities***

*You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant.... Deuteronomy 8:18*

Reject the false concept that you are a "self-made" success. When Nebuchadnezzar credited his own capabilities and skills with his success, he became an utter failure. When He recognized God's sovereignty, He was restored to success.

Even the skills you possess to make a living and to establish your dreams are a gift given to you by your all-loving Heavenly Father who desires your success and empowers your capabilities.

**Appeal:**

Your success depends on your acknowledgment of His rule in your life.

**Prayer**



**Sabbath 9**  
**February 28, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God remembers generosity forever***

*Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her. Matthew 26:13*

Some who observed Mary anoint Jesus feet were indignant at the waste of funds and the extravagance of her gift. They criticized her behavior and judged her motives.

But the Saviour put the matter in clear perspective when He commended her generosity as a direct response to the magnitude of forgiveness she had received.

Then, as a memorial to her, Jesus promised that Mary's gift will be remembered and that her generosity will be told as long as the gospel is preached and wherever the church is established.

**Appeal:**

Today, may God remember your generosity as you hold His forgiving love in your heart.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 10**  
**March 6, 2004**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God respects the faithful offerings of His people***

*And the Lord respected Abel and his offering. Genesis 4:4*

*By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice . . . and God testified (spoke well) of his gifts. Hebrews 11:4*

After you have returned your tithes and offerings today, will God be able to speak well of your gifts? Can heaven testify of your faithfulness?

God isn't measuring the size of your offering as much as He is seeking your faithfulness in returning that which is His in tithes and that which you choose for Him to have in your offerings.

**Appeal:**

Motivated by love, and giving by faith, you will discover God's testimony in favor of your faithful following of His will.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 11**

**March 13, 2004**

**Offering: Adventist World Radio**

What would you give up in order to share your love for Jesus with others? Saeed\* is the only known, baptized Arabic Seventh-day Adventist in North Africa. He worked as a computer engineer, but in his free time he built three computers to produce Adventist World Radio programs. He was also responsible for preparing the colloquial Arabic programs that are broadcast in this country and others.

Unfortunately, Saeed lost his job. His future had looked bright and promising. He was about to be married and had even paid the deposit for his apartment when he was fired. To his disgrace, Saeed and his wife now live with his wife's parents in a small room. Although his wife knows about his commitment to Christ, his in-laws are committed Muslims.

Saeed has given up so much, but his desire to share Jesus' love has not changed. AWR desires to sponsor Saeed's salary for one year. Just a hundred dollars a month would allow him to produce radio programs in Berber and colloquial Arabic full-time.

### **Appeal:**

In counties where our church cannot send workers—Adventist World Radio is broadcasting the message of hope in Jesus. Today alone, AWR will broadcast the good news in nearly 55 languages for more than 150 hours by shortwave radio, AM/FM networks, and satellite to hard-to-reach people all over the world. By supporting AWR today, you will give millions of people what could be their only chance to hear about Jesus.

\* Saeed is a pseudonym.

## **Sabbath 12**

**March 20, 2004**

**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God seeks faith more than a financial statement***

*Jesus said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" But this he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one may have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" John 6:5-9*

Jesus had a plan to feed the multitude, so he posed a test for his disciples. In response he received a financial statement and a market summary—"even if we spent everything in the treasury, it wouldn't be sufficient for the cost of bread."

Even Andrew's faith didn't grasp the significance of what heaven can do with a small gift generously shared. The little lad might have joined the crowds that day in hopes of seeing Jesus perform a miracle. But his own generous spirit and lunch became the miracle that fed so many people.

### **Appeal:**

What you share joyously will be multiplied beyond your greatest dreams.

### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 13**  
**March 27, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants you to gain real value on your investments***

*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Mark 8:36-37*

Don't settle for less than you should. Some people miss their most important asset—a vital, growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

We can become so busy doing good that we fail to do right. Seeking God's presence and His power for our lives will help our priorities match His priorities.

**Appeal:**

By partnering with God, you can be certain not to sell your soul too cheaply or exchange issues of eternal value for those of only temporary meaning.

Seeking God's will and guidance in your living and your giving guarantees that His values become your own.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 14**  
**April 3, 2004**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God's tithe and our offerings are a reflection of His holy covenant with His people***

*And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that you give me I will surely give a tenth to you. Genesis 28:22*

*Every devoted offering is most holy to the Lord ... All the tithe of the land ... is holy to the Lord ... The tenth shall be holy to the Lord. Leviticus 27:28-32.*

Jacob understood that God's blessings accompanied every aspect of his life and that his success depended upon God's continuing presence.

Jacob's vow of faithfulness was in direct response to experiencing God's continued blessings: "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God" (Genesis 28:20-21).

**Appeal:**

As you return your tithes and offerings today, remember that by taking part in the worship of giving you are reflecting your covenant with Him.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 15**

**April 10, 2004**

### **Offering: World Mission Budget— Church Buildings in Euro-Asia Division**

Many people have been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church in Russia, the Ukraine, and other countries that make up the Euro-Asia Division. But unfortunately a high percentage of these individuals have quit attending, resulting in a very high dropout rate. A major reason for this is the lack of church buildings in which they can worship and call their “spiritual” home.

To help retain new converts and encourage an environment that is conducive to spiritual growth, the Euro-Asia Division is encouraging the purchase of and building of churches to meet the needs of these congregations of new believers.

#### **Appeal:**

As you give to this offering today, you will have a significant part in providing places of worship for our Adventist brothers and sisters in these far-off lands.

#### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 16**

**April 17, 2004**

### **Offering: Church Budget**

#### **LifeGiving Principle: *God’s generosity awakens our generosity***

*Give and it will be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over ... For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38*

Make certain to be generous in your distribution of the blessings God gives, because that will be the measure of what comes back to you.

Jesus expresses the principle clearly. Our generosity to others motivates the generosity that returns to us from both heaven and our fellow humans.

#### **Appeal:**

May our gifts today, reflect the generosity of God to us today and every day.

#### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 17**  
**April 24, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God's promises are all conditional***

*Do not fear ... make me a small cake first ... and afterward make some for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord God of Israel: The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry. I Kings 17:13-14*

What are God's conditions?

God has a portion: It is small—only 10%  
God has a priority: He must come first.  
God has a promise: He will sustain you.

**Appeal:**

The only way to discover the faithfulness of God's promise is to return His portion according to His priority. When we submit to God's conditions, His promises are sure and our future, in Jesus, is secure.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 18**  
**May 1, 2004**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God purposes that His holy tithe will support the proclamation of His message***

*Even so, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14*

When we return God's holy tithe and generously share our offerings, we participate in the worldwide proclamation of God's good news of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus.

God's plan provides for the gospel message to go forward in economically challenged parts of the globe because the faithfulness of His people in economically advantaged areas join their generosity together for great blessings.

**Appeal:**

As you give from all that God has given you, remember that your generosity is multiplied by the Holy Spirit's blessings to accomplish heaven's plans.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 19**

**May 8, 2004**

### **Offering: Disaster and Famine Relief**

Famine is as much a reality today as it was when the Bible was written. God gave Joseph a plan to respond to the pending famine in Egypt (Gn 41). By faithfully carrying out that plan, Joseph was able to feed the people and those in nearby countries for seven years of extended famine.

Today, the Adventist church still responds to famine through the compassionate ministry of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Today's offering will go to ADRA's "Disaster and Famine Relief Fund."

After an earthquake turns homes to mere rubble, drought ruins a country's food source, or children watch their parents die in war and are forced to flee and live as refugees—your church can be there. Through ADRA, you can wrap your arms around these sufferers to extend hope and love.

The "Disaster and Famine Relief Fund" allows ADRA to quickly and efficiently respond to disasters and famine around the world. By providing bandages to the wounded, food, water, tents, blankets, and hygiene kits, ADRA can reach out and show Christ's unconditional love.

### **Appeal:**

To enable ADRA to continue being arms of aid, love, and hope to disaster survivors worldwide, please give generously to today's Disaster and Famine Relief Offering.

### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 20**

**May 15, 2004**

### **Offering: Church Budget**

### **LifeGiving Principle: *God's providences supply all that we need***

*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:3*

As the active Creator of heaven and earth, Jesus spoke everything into existence. Then he personally fashioned Adam and Eve and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life.

After we had abandoned God's first plan, because of His grace, He introduced His great plan of salvation, and He initiated our salvation through the gift of His dear Son.

With this great Gift, God also gives us the Holy Spirit to enable and transform us to accomplish His will.

Through God's loving initiative we were created and by his loving and perpetual care we are sustained. In Him we live and move and have our being.

### **Appeal:**

May God bless us as we return the gifts we have received from His bounteous supply.

### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 21**  
**May 22, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God's blessings flow in direct proportion to our capacity to receive them***

*Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased.*  
*2 Kings 4:6*

The only thing that limits heaven's blessings is our lack of preparation to receive God's benefits.

The oil to rescue the widow's family only stopped when she ran out of vessels to receive it.

God's prophet had commanded her, "Go borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors. Do not gather just a few."

**Appeal:**

God provided for her needs. If she had prepared to receive even more blessings, they would have come. God's power is limited only by our capacity and willingness to receive.

Today, as you share from your blessings, open your heart to the limitless blessings He is willing and able to share with you.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 22**  
**May 29, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants you to place first things first***

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33*

Your heavenly Father knows and understands your needs and wants the very best for you.

The way to experience His blessings in every aspect of life is to place His priorities first in your spiritual life, first in your time, first in your service, first in your planning, and first in your giving.

Everything you need will be added to your life as God comes first in your priorities.

**Appeal:**

Jesus prioritized you in His plan of Salvation. When you place Him first in your life, you permit His blessings to flood your life.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 23**

**June 5, 2004**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants you to love people and to use things***

*Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.  
Luke 12:15*

Some individuals have mixed up their priorities. They love things and use people.

Satan wants us to value things more than we value people.

God's way places things in their proper focus—items that are to be used to enhance our life and bless others.

People are most important and God loves people more than anything.

If you love people and use things rather than loving things and using people, your experience with Jesus will grow and develop abundantly.

### **Appeal:**

Let us participate in the worship of giving today, keeping this very principle in mind—what I share today, I share for the love of my heavenly Father and His children.

### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 24**

**June 12, 2004**

**Offering: Division**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God will take care of you ... if you allow Him to***

*That no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.  
Revelation 13:17*

Bible prophecy predicts an awesome time of tribulation in which no one will be able to sustain their own life or depend upon normal business processes such as buying or selling.

In that challenging time, only those who depend totally upon God will survive. However, for those who have never learned to rely on God in small things, the faith step to total reliance may seem far too risky.

### **Appeal:**

God plans for us to trust Him in small steps today—for example—trusting His blessings as we return a holy tithe and offerings to expand His kingdom. By taking these small steps, we will build our faith so that we can take large steps of faith when they are necessary.

Small faith steps build your faith toward total dependence on God for the future.

### **Prayer**



**Sabbath 25**  
**June 19, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God values you personally***

*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.*  
*1 Corinthians 6:20*

Jesus went shopping for lost souls and He spent everything to purchase you. Your personal salvation cost the blood of God's own dear Son.

Your response to God's love recognizes the marvelous gift of His life, the substitutionary sacrifice of His death, and the blessed assurance of His promised coming.

**Appeal:**

How does your participation in God's work glorify His plans and desires for your life?

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 26**  
**June 26, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God desires your prosperity***

*Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2*

Jesus' plan for abundant life *now*—includes spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, financial, and talent development.

It is the privilege of every believer to learn of God's desire for enhancing their life and then to personally experience this reality in their daily walk with the Saviour.

**Appeal:**

As you worship God by bringing your gifts to Him, remember that your heavenly Father is vitally interested in every aspect of your life, and He wants you to prosper in every way possible.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 27**

**July 3, 2004**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God desires His people to live free***

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

True freedom comes by knowing Jesus and experiencing His plan for your personal life. He declares that one of the purposes of the gospel is to liberate captives.

How do Christians experience this freedom?

God's love gives believers freedom from the guilt of their past and assurance of forgiveness for their sins.

The Holy Spirit's transformation gives victory over the controlling evil of Satan's power and enables believers to serve others in Christ's name.

### **Appeal:**

The soon return of our Saviour promises freedom, even from the presence of sin, as we live eternally in Jesus' kingdom.

Let us freely share our all with Him, reveling in the freedom He has given us in Christ.

### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 28**

**July 10, 2004**

**Offering: World Mission Budget**

Jesus commanded His followers to "Go...and teach all nations" (Matthew 28:19) and that is exactly what today's offering will be used for.

Today's "World Mission Budget" offering, along with the Sabbath School Mission offering, will provide funds for all of our Seventh-day Adventist divisions and world institutions to help support the on-going operations of our world-wide work in the broadest sense. Our contributions will support all kinds of work—educational, medical, evangelism, publishing, and others—for all age groups, all races and cultures, and all geographical areas.

### **Appeal:**

Truly, your participation will help spread the everlasting gospel to "Every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6).

### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 29**  
**July 17, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God honors spiritual experiments***

*Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Psalm 34:8*

Did you know that testing God's promises actually builds and strengthens the faith of His people?

Rather than dishonoring God, experiments of faith honor His word and His power.

Notice how spiritual experiments develop dynamic life. "Real experience is a variety of careful experiments made with the mind freed from previously-established habits and opinions." *Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, p. 69.*

**Appeal:**

When God asks us to prove His faithfulness, He is honored when we "try it out" in real-life experiments.

Let our gifts today be a demonstration that we have proved His faithfulness and blessings to us.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 30**  
**July 24, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God says your giving will drive your prosperity***

*There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. Proverbs 11:24*

A church board was confronted with mounting debts and missing resources. What was the solution? The pastor said, "We must spend our way into prosperity."

Do you understand this principle?

If we embrace the attitude and actions of a miser, we could conserve ourselves into poverty. Or, if we embrace the attitude and actions of a philanthropist, we can spend our way to prosperity.

By asking the question, "What does God want us to do?" rather than the question, "What can we afford?" that church family began to prioritize God's issues and became the most prosperous in their field. The more they gave away in service, time, energy, and money, the more they increased in numbers, talents, and prosperity.

**Appeal:**

Try generosity ... God's word promises that it works!

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 31**  
**July 31, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God doesn't want you to settle for less than the best***

*And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Acts 3:4-6*

The crippled beggar would gladly have settled for some silver as he gazed at Peter in anticipation of a large donation.

His disappointment must have been keen when he heard Peter say, "I have no silver."

But then he was offered something far more valuable than money and of greater value than any gold.

**Appeal:**

Make certain when you think of value, you don't settle for less than God's very best.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 32**  
**August 7, 2004**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God doesn't want you to lose your most valuable possession***

*And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" Luke 12:19-20*

When the foolish man was preparing to move all his crops and belongings into new warehouses, suddenly he discovered he was in grave danger of losing his most valuable possession.

Prior to that moment he had failed to recognize that some things are far more important than possessions. Now he was about to lose his soul and the things he owned became clearly less important than His relationship with eternity.

**Appeal:**

When evaluating your net worth, never forget to measure things by heaven's standard.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 33**  
**August 14, 2004**  
**Offering: Division**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God is the Originator of every good gift***

*If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Matthew 7:11*

Just as caring parents understand the needs and desires of their children, so our Heavenly Father knows and understands our needs.

He is eager to provide for our needs and is always ready to open heaven to our prayers. In fact, God promises, "Before you call, I will answer."

**Appeal:**

As you worship God today by bringing your gifts to Him, remember that you can trust your Heavenly Father to bestow blessings and provide sustenance for the good things you need.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 34**  
**August 21, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God will reward each faithful servant***

*May the Lord repay every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord delivered you into my hand today, but I would not stretch out my hand against the Lord's anointed. 1 Samuel 26:23*

When David had the opportunity to assassinate King Saul and open the direct path to his own coronation, he declined to move ahead of God's timing, and he refused to harm the individual who had been anointed as leader over Israel.

One of our most challenging life lessons is to remember that God repays faithfulness and that He will exact judgment upon those who rebel.

**Appeal:**

Our challenge is to live our lives in harmony with God's plan and His timing so that His blessing will come upon our faithfulness.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 35**

**August 28, 2004**

**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants our giving to be based upon our relationship with Him***

*“Return unto me and I will return to you,” says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 4:7*

God sets His commandment about faithfulness in tithes and offerings, within the framework of covenantal and relationship-based reasoning for His call.

Our relationship with Jesus is the basis for returning His tithes and giving our offerings of thanksgiving.

### **Appeal:**

When our spiritual life returns to proper relationship with God, our time, money, talents, and life priorities will follow that pattern and God’s blessings will return to us.

### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 36**

**September 4, 2004**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God’s requirements clearly express His priorities***

*He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 8:8*

Some people are scrupulous in calculating their tithe and severely honest in figuring the amount of their offerings, but fail to understand other important issues.

These things we ought to do and not leave other important things undone.

### **Appeal:**

Even as Jesus wants you to be faithful in giving, He also wants you to live in justice, to love mercy, and to walk in a humble relationship with Him and fellow humans.

### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 37**  
**September 11, 2004**  
**Offering: World Mission Budget (Go One Million)**

When we tithe, we acknowledge God as the Owner of everything. And when we worship Him by giving Him ten percent of our increase, we recognize that everything we have comes from God. The free-will offering is an expression of joy and thanksgiving for His matchless love.

The offering this Sabbath is for “Go One Million.” The object of “Go One Million” is to prepare one-million church members to study the Word of God with someone who has not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Your offering this Sabbath will provide Bibles and Bible study guides for Go One Million participants. These materials are vital for church members to be able to share the Word of God effectively with those who are waiting for the message of Christ.

**Appeal:**

Let us give generously this Sabbath for “Go One Million.”

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 38**  
**September 18, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants us to learn the blessings of giving***

*I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35*

Paul’s own example of unselfish ministry and charitable generosity demonstrates the importance of supporting those who are less fortunate.

Such a life style is so important to Jesus that He tells us that the great issue of the judgment will be based on how we treat Him in the lives of the least of His creatures—His sisters and brothers. (Matthew 25)

**Appeal:**

Do you long for blessing in your life? The secret is giving generously to a greater extent than you seek to receive.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 39**  
**September 25, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God encourages you to focus on eternal values***

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.*  
*Matthew 6:19-20*

Some people seem preoccupied with providing for their own security here on earth. They focus only on their savings, retirement, securities, and stocks.

Other, people—the wisest of individuals—plan adequately for this life, but place their primary focus on eternity.

While they make intelligent choices concerning their use of funds, time, energy, and talents, wise individuals will also prioritize issues of Christ's soon-coming kingdom.

**Appeal:**

Ask yourself the most challenging question: Where is the focus of my life—this present world or God's eternal kingdom?

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 40**  
**October 2, 2004**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God's plan for stewardship involves far more than money***

*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*  
*1 Peter 4:10*

Christian stewardship embraces a balance in every area of life and involves far more than calculating our financial gifts.

While giving money may be an important measure of our spiritual growth, our ministry to one another and sharing God's grace with those who have not known His love is also an important measure of our growing development in His plans for our life.

**Appeal:**

As we worship God today by bringing sharing from His financial gifts to us, let us remember that our most important stewardship choice will be how we serve as stewards of His grace.

**Prayer**



**Sabbath 41**  
**October 9, 2004**  
**Offering: Division**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants to provide your daily needs***

*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, even as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.*  
*Matthew 6:10-11*

Living within God's will on earth today is a reflection of our willingness to live in harmony with His will throughout eternity in His soon-coming kingdom.

Even as we live in keen anticipation of Jesus' return and the establishment of His kingdom, God knows our current needs and wants to supply our daily sustenance

**Appeal:**

We demonstrate our willingness to see God's will done here on earth in our own lives as we live in reliance upon Him and in generous and eager hope of His soon coming.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 42**  
**October 16, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God's first fruits yield abundance beyond their measure***

*Then a man came ... and brought the man of God bread of the firstfruits—twenty loaves of barley bread, and newly ripened grain in his knapsack. And he said, "Give it to the people that they may eat. But his servant said, "What? Shall I set this before one hundred men?" And he said again, "Give it to the people that they may eat; for thus says the Lord: They shall eat and have some left over."*  
*2 Kings 4:42-43*

When God's blessings are added to even meager amounts which are brought in response to placing Him first, the results are multiplied far beyond human reasoning could calculate.

**Appeal:**

Let us thank God that His blessings turn small amounts into multiplication tables of benefits for His people.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 43**  
**October 23, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God acts from generous motives***

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.*  
2 Corinthians 8:9

Jesus taught that the first shall be last and that he who wants to be the leader will become the servant of all. Then He demonstrated this principle by His own incarnation, life, and death on the cross.

And He did it all for our sakes!

For you and me He became poor.  
For you and me He emptied Himself.  
For you and me He chose to sacrifice Himself in death.

Why?

So that we could become rich!  
So that we could be filled!  
So that we could live eternally!

**Appeal:**

As we worship Him today, let us praise God for His matchless generosity to us.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 44**  
**October 30, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God will go with you through difficult times***

*When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you. Your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you.* Isaiah 43:2 (TEV)

Our Heavenly Father will walk with His people through any trial.

When Daniel's friends remained faithful to God's Word, Jesus joined them in the fire. When Esther faced the death of her people, God's provisions worked miraculously to preserve them.

**Appeal:**

Let us remember—whenever God's people choose faithfulness in the face of tribulation, He acts on their behalf to turn defeat into victory.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 45**

**November 06, 2004**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God declares that we reap what we sow***

*He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.  
2 Corinthians 9:6*

The law of cause and effect tells us that when the time of reaping comes, the size of our harvest will be in direct proportion to that which was sown.

If someone chooses to eat half the seed rather than plant it in the ground, then they should expect to harvest only half of what someone would harvest who invested the entire amount.

If we return sparingly to God's cause, we might well expect fewer blessings than if we return bountifully.

### **Appeal:**

As we worship God today, let us remember—God's grace, which provides salvation to all who believe, also provides abundant blessings on those who unstintingly invest in His cause.

### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 46**

**November 13, 2004**

**Offering: Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)**

What are Global Mission's biggest challenges?

First there's the 10/40 Window—where millions live in poverty and have never even heard the name of Jesus. Here thousands of Global Mission pioneers are bringing hope to people trapped in fear.

Then there's the secular/postmodern west—the richest parts of the world, where church growth is slow. This includes Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and increasingly, much of North America. These are the territories that are, like the church of Laodicea, rich and increased with goods having need of nothing.

### **Appeal:**

Global Mission faces huge challenges around the world. Every cent of the Annual Sacrifice offering goes directly to front line projects to reach the unreached with hope. Thank you for your support.

### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 47**  
**November 20, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God holds His stewards accountable for their management of His resources***

*After a long time the Lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Matthew 25:19*

Two clear principles relate to those who manage God's resources: faithfulness and accountability.

God values consistent faithfulness more than He measures the size of the gifts given. When heaven calls stewards to accountability, the question will not be "how much?" but rather "how faithfully were God's priorities and values followed?"

**Appeal:**

When seeking God's blessings, His servants will earnestly seek to implement His methods in all their ventures. Pray that heaven will help you to be faithful in all you undertake for Him.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 48**  
**November 27, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God honors the sacrifice of His people***

*Gather my saints together to me; those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. Let the heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is Judge. Psalm 50:5-6*

When God calls the nations before His judgment throne, He honors His saints who have made a covenant with Him by sacrifice. What does this mean?

First and primarily, it indicates those who have believed and accepted the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus' on the cross and who have walked in joyous confidence toward His coming.

Secondly, their response has involved a covenant of sacrifice in their own lives by deeds of loving kindness and merciful service to others, using their time and capabilities for ministry, and returning God's tithe and their offerings in faithfulness.

**Appeal:**

These saints are cooperating with heaven in expressing the joy of their salvation. As we worship God today, let us look forward in faith to that day.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 49**

**December 4, 2004**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants your giving to be informed by His methods***

*Jesus ... saw a great multitude; and he was moved with compassion for them.... Jesus said to (his disciples) ... "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to me".... And looking up into heaven he blessed and broke and gave the loaves.... So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained." Matthew 14:14-21*

Adventist pastor, Admiral Barry Black, who serves as Chief of Chaplains for the United States Navy, describes five principles for how God wants His people to give.

1. Give out of compassion for people
2. Give out of knowledge of available resources
3. Give in dependence and gratitude for God's blessings
4. Give in an orderly, systematic manner—Jesus asked the people to sit down in an organized way.
5. Give with respect to the fragments—avoid waste.

### **Appeal:**

As we worship God by bringing our gifts to Him today, let us give remembering these principles. Let us give as He would give.

### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 50**

**December 11, 2004**

**Offering: Division**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants you to begin your week by planning your next offering***

*On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. 1 Corinthians 16:2*

When the apostle Paul wanted an offering to be prepared for impoverished and persecuted believers in Jerusalem, he instructed that on the first day of the week—right at the beginning of doing the week's work and business—the believers in Corinth should set aside and store up the gift they anticipated giving at the appropriate time.

God blesses planned gifts, as well as your planning process, even more than emotionally spontaneous responses.

### **Appeal:**

Make it your week's first priority to plan and set aside what you intend to present to God's cause.

### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 51**  
**December 18, 2004**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God will bless your giving even if you cannot afford it***

*Out of extreme poverty welled up rich generosity. They gave as much as they were able; and even beyond their ability. 2 Corinthians 8:2-4*

When the apostle Paul commended the Macedonian churches for their generosity, he noted that they gave despite their own poverty and out of their own severe trials and afflictions. They implored the apostles to take their gifts to others who were even more needy than themselves.

**Appeal:**

God uses our finances as a test of our faith. The question is not, "What can I afford to give?" The question must always be, "What does God want me to give?"

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 52**  
**December 25, 2004**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

**LifeGiving Principle: *God wants our trust even when we don't see His immediate answers***

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1*

Sometimes it is easy to see God's hand at work on our behalf and in our midst. We rejoice in the good news of the Jesus' birth and life on earth.

Sometimes it is difficult to discern God's providences in the silence and loneliness of absent answers. Then we must hold on to what we hope for—the promise of Jesus soon coming.

Then we must be certain of what we do not see—the reality that God's Word stands sure and He is already working on our behalf! That is real faith! The evidence of what we do not see and the surety of what we hope for will be seen in our life with Jesus.

Blessed hope!  
Blessed assurance!  
Jesus is mine!

**Appeal:**

As we bring all that we are to Him today, let us hold firmly to the faith we have in our God—His promises are sure!

**Prayer**