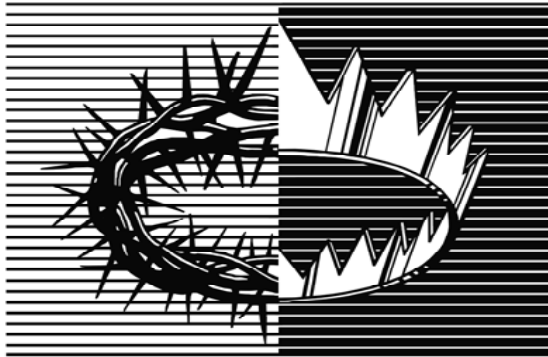


## TITHE AND OFFERING READINGS



### **ATTENTION!**

Dated material to be adapted,  
translated and distributed to  
Seventh-day Adventist churches  
**before** December 2008.

**2009**

# God—Creator of Everything

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God is the Creator of everything. We are privileged as stewards to partner with Him in the management of what He has entrusted to us. When we recognize His sovereignty and accept that He is the Giver of every blessing, our attitude toward possessions will change. We will become less selfish and truly enter into the joy of giving.

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

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

## SABBATHS WITHOUT DESIGNATED OFFERINGS

There are **six Sabbaths** in 2009 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 13, August 8, October 10, and December 12.

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

## THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS FOR 2009

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

## Special Offerings

RECOMMENDED, To adopt the Calendar of Special Offerings—World 2009, 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

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

### APRIL

4 ..... Outreach/Church Budget  
 11 ..... World Mission Budget\*+  
 18 ..... Church Budget  
 25 ..... Conference/Union

### MAY

2 ..... Outreach/Church Budget  
 9 ..... Disaster and Famine Relief\*+  
 (Program provided for NAD only)  
 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 ..... World Mission Budget\*+  
 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

\*Reading provided by corresponding entity  
 +Worldwide Offering

## SCHEDULED SPECIAL OFFERINGS

SABBATH	TITLE	DATE
11 <sup>th</sup>	Adventist World Radio	March 14
15 <sup>th</sup>	World Mission Budget	April 11
19 <sup>th</sup>	Disaster and Famine Relief	May 9
28 <sup>th</sup>	World Mission Budget	July 11
37 <sup>th</sup>	World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities)	September 12
46 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)	November 14

### Sabbath 1 January 3, 2009 Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

The Holy Scriptures begin with the familiar words found in Genesis 1:1. “In the beginning God *created* the heaven and the earth.” Only ten words—yet so profound. God’s creatorship automatically makes Him the Owner of *everything*, including each of us. He is, therefore, worthy of our worship and praise.

Awestruck by God’s greatness, John the Revelator penned these words, “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11).

Does the knowledge of God as your Creator influence your daily living? Is He first in your life or just an afterthought? When you awake in the morning, do you thank the One who sustained you through the night or do you go about your daily business with no thought of Him. God longs to commune with us and it is our privilege to enter into a covenant relationship with Him.

**Appeal:** On this first Sabbath of 2009, let us vow to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit not only in our giving but in the management of all that our benevolent Maker has entrusted to us. “Bring all the tithes into His storehouse....”

### Prayer

**Sabbath 2**  
**January 10, 2009**  
**Offering: Division**

We have come here on this special day to praise our Creator for His matchless love and blessings. Genesis 2:2-3 records the origin of the Sabbath in this way, “And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.”

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we believe that Sabbath observance is directly linked to God’s creatorship and ownership of humanity. We are delighted to leave the cares of the work week behind and enter into the joy of worshiping the Lord with fellow believers on His holy day. This weekly time of renewal was given by the Creator Himself! The Sabbath is not only a day of worship; it is also a time of fellowship with family and friends. It is a time for ministering to the sick and less fortunate. It is also a time to explore the wonders of nature.

**Appeal:** As we worship the Lord of the Sabbath and are reminded of His sovereignty, let us give generously to the One who has given so much to us.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 3**  
**January 17, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

Many of us learned as children the Bible truths that are at the heart of our faith. One such truth is God’s creatorship. We all know the creation story recorded in Genesis, but what does it really mean to be the Creator of all things—to have absolute power and authority.

The psalmist declared, “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou *art* God” (Psalm 90:2). Another psalm says, “For every beast of the forest *is* mine, *and* the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field *are* mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world *is* mine, and the fullness thereof” (Psalm 50:10-12).

God did not need our help to lay the foundations of the world and He does not need our help now. Nevertheless, He invites us to partner with Him in the business of living so that we can learn to trust Him more. He wants to do marvelous deeds for each of us.

**Appeal:** As we think about our relationship with the Creator of all things, let us honor Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 4**  
**January 24, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

Our world is a fascinating place. Though plagued by environmental challenges and the wickedness of fallen humanity, nature continues to testify of God's magnificent creative power. One of the great pleasures of being an inhabitant of planet earth is to explore its natural wonders. People who don't even acknowledge God's sovereignty can appreciate His handiwork.

Every year tourists from all parts of the world travel many miles to be refreshed by the turquoise waters of the Caribbean. And others travel to behold the majesty of mountains such as Everest, Kilimanjaro, and the Swiss Alps. Then there is the grandeur of southern Africa's Victoria Falls. All who see them are filled with awe. Just as impressive are the Grand Canyon and Australia's Great Barrier Reef which are home to diverse species of plants and animals. These are just a few of the countless natural wonders on our planet.

While contemplating God's creation, the psalmist could no longer restrain his praise, "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches" (Psalm 104:24).

**Appeal:** Let us continue our worship of the Almighty Creator with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 5**  
**January 31, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

It is easy to become discouraged while living in this sinful world. The cost of housing, food, and clothing is steadily rising. When our financial obligations are greater than our income, Satan tempts us to doubt the God's promises by worrying about the things we need for survival.

However, in Matthew 6:25-30 Jesus assures us of our heavenly Father's provision, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith?"

**Appeal:** As we live each day, let us trust our loving Creator to meet our needs. He is able to help us through the most difficult situations. Let us honor Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

## Sabbath 6

February 7, 2009

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

In 1858 William Walsham, an Anglican minister, penned the words of this familiar offertory hymn:

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

It is evident from these words that the writer understood that whatever we give to God belongs to Him anyway for He is the Creator of all things. William Walsham also realized that we are merely managers of what our Maker has entrusted to us. Each of us is responsible to our Master for the way we handle His possessions.

Another inspired writer gave us these words:

Money is not ours; houses and grounds, pictures and furniture, garments and luxuries, do not belong to us. We are pilgrims, we are strangers. We have only a grant of those things that are necessary for health and life. . . . Our temporal blessings are given us in trust, to prove whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches (*Adventist Home*, p 367).

**Appeal:** As we contemplate our own stewardship and God's many blessings, let us worship Him now in giving our tithe and offerings.

## Sabbath 7

February 14, 2009

Offering: Division

Someone once said, "When we give to God, we are just taking our hands off what already belongs to Him" (Anonymous). This statement is so true. God is the Owner of *everything*. Yet many Christians do not understand this concept. They see *themselves* as the owners of their possessions rather than managers. This is especially true in the area of finances. When it is time to return tithes and offerings, many give from what is left of their means only after they have satisfied their selfish desires. Sadly, there are still others who give nothing at all.

Proverbs 3:9 says, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase." It is followed by a promise found in Verse 10, "So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

In other words, when we commit to putting God first in the management of all that He has entrusted to us, He will bless us even more because of our faithfulness.

**Appeal:** As we worship our Creator today, let us commit to being faithful stewards—to return to the Master that which is rightfully His.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 8**  
**February 21, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

George Washington Carver was an award-winning African-American scientist and inventor. One day while reflecting on the Creator and His handiwork, Dr. Carver commented, “I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.”

Dr. Carver understood that nature’s splendor is more than just something to delight our senses. He knew that by exploring the wonders of the natural world, people are able to learn the great spiritual lessons of the Almighty.

One the greatest lessons we can learn from studying the natural world is our total dependence on God. Just as the intricacies of nature could not exist without the Creator, we too, would be nothing without Him.

**Appeal:** As we prepare to worship the Lord with our tithes and offerings, let us thank Him for the way He speaks to us through all that He has created.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 9**  
**February 28, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has grown tremendously since it was first organized in 1863 in North America. Missionaries have taken the gospel around the world in response to the Great Commission of Jesus.

A key factor in the growth of the church is the sacrificial spirit of its members. J. N. Andrews, an early Adventist pioneer and the church’s first official overseas missionary, made many sacrifices to advance the cause of God.

“On January 13, 1877, John Andrews was struck down with pneumonia. He would shake with cold chills, then he would perspire with burning fever. After this had continued for a week, a doctor was called. He gave the minister a thorough examination.

When finished, the physician pointed to the minister’s gaunt face and exclaimed, ‘This man is almost starved to death!’ It was all too true. In order to have money to use for the work, Andrews had often gone without necessary food. His temperature continued to rise, and he lost consciousness. For many days he was very sick. Then gradually he began to recover” (Robinson, *Flame for the Lord*, pp 101-103).

**Appeal:** Let us worship the Creator now with our tithes and offerings in the spirit of sacrifice and commitment.

**Prayer**



## **Sabbath 10**

**March 7, 2009**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

If you have ever flown above the clouds on a large jet while seated by a window, you know what it is like to look out at the beauty of the vast sky. The sky extends as far as the eye can see and beyond. It is almost like being in another world. As you sit relaxed listening to the low hum of the powerful engines, in the distance you can see the sun shining on the puffy white clouds. It creates the appearance of a silver lining. The fact that you serve an awesome God could not be more real at that moment.

A great truth is recorded in Isaiah 44:24, “Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself.”

Who but God could make the vast sky. And who but God could endow humans with the intellect to build great planes to soar across the heavens.

**Appeal:** Let us worship now the Creator of Heaven and earth with our tithes and offerings.

## **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 11**

**March 14, 2009**

**Offering: Adventist World Radio**

Adventist World Radio’s mission is to carry the Adventist hope in Christ to the hardest-to-reach people groups of the world in their own languages. Here is a testimony from a young listener in Somalia, a Muslim country that has no official Adventist outreach:

“Before becoming a Christian, life was meaningless. I was tired of religion and all the holy people. I didn’t believe that God cared for me. I came across Adventist World Radio and heard the living words of Jesus Christ. The more I listened, the more I wanted to learn. I gave my heart to Him, and He changed my life. He gave me comfort and hope. I began to tell my friends and some of my family about Christ and Christianity. They told me I was wrong. They laughed at me and punished me with their words. Since I didn’t have anybody to support me, I decided to keep my faith a secret. All I had in the world was God and Jesus. In my first year of high school, I got to know two girls who were in the same situation I had been before I became a Christian. I shared my faith in Christ with them. They opened the door of their hearts and invited Jesus in. Together we listen to Adventist World Radio. Every day we are growing in our faith.”

**Appeal:** Adventist World Radio broadcasts programs in 70 languages. These broadcasts bypass geographic barriers and government restrictions, bringing hope directly into people’s homes and hearts. We invite you today to join AWR in this vital outreach.

**Sabbath 12**  
**March 21, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve enjoyed face to face communion with their Creator. They had no doubt that God was the Maker of everything and that their very existence was a result of His love and creative power. Sadly, when sin entered the world, their descendants began to adopt false ideas about God.

As time passed and humans became more wicked, Satan influenced people to worship idols and imaginary gods. Even today the enemy draws humans into his snare by raising up false gods. Yet none of these gods have creative power. In fact, they have no power at all!

We who have been saved by grace through faith know from Whom we came. We do not serve a god who was made by men's hands from wood or stone. The psalmist declared, "O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the Lord made the heavens" (Psalm 96:1-5).

**Appeal:** With thankful hearts, let us worship the One True God with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 13**  
**March 28, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." The apostle Paul also taught these words of our Savior to the church at Ephesus. He said that we are God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

Paul is referring here to the spiritual re-creation of man. We are remade by our Savior for the purpose of "good works." We know that of ourselves we cannot do good works. That is why we must be spiritually re-created in Christ so we can do His good pleasure. "By a change of the will, affections, and purposes, the privilege and duty of witnessing by good works become possible" (*Adventist Bible Commentary*, p 1008).

There are many ways we can share the love of God through good works. Each of us has a special way of touching other people's lives.

**Appeal:** As new creatures in Christ ready to be active in His service, let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 14**

**April 4, 2009**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

Recorded in 1 Kings 10 is the story of the Queen of Sheba's visit to King Solomon. Reports of Solomon's wisdom and the splendor of his kingdom had reached the queen's land. She wanted to see for herself if the reports she had heard about him were true.

“And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not *any* thing hid from the king, which he told her not” (verses 2, 3).

After seeing the king's immense wealth and hearing his wisdom, the queen told Solomon, “thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard” (verse 7).

Having gained an understanding that the source of Solomon's greatness was the Creator of heaven and earth, she praised God saying, “Blessed be the Lord thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the Lord loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice” (verse 9).

**Appeal:** Just as the Creator used Solomon to make His name known throughout the earth, He uses each of us to witness for Him. Let us joyfully worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

## **Sabbath 15**

**April 11, 2009**

**Offering: World Mission Budget**

Historically in the Seventh-day Adventist Church missions have been promoted in the Sabbath School where the Weekly Sabbath School, Thirteenth Sabbath, Investment, and Birthday/Thank Offerings are received. But today is one of the few times that mission offerings are promoted during the church service.

Just as the Sabbath School offerings from Sabbath School members support our worldwide mission, the World Mission Budget offering is a significant additional source of funds provided from our church members. It is used for all aspects of our mission work, everywhere.

**Appeal:** The Bible says the everlasting Gospel is to be preached “to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people” (Rev 14:6). Let us accept this challenge by our contributions today.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 16**  
**April 18, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

In chapter 1 of the book of Job we find a powerful stewardship lesson. God had blessed His servant Job with great wealth. He had a large family and many servants and animals. Of Job's character the Bible says that he was perfect and upright. He revered God and shunned evil. We are all acquainted with his story and how calamity fell upon him. However, it is Job's attitude toward his riches that we want to consider now. There is an important lesson for all of us.

After learning of the deaths of his children and servants, Job was utterly distraught. In spite of his overwhelming grief he did not forget his Creator—the One who had given him all that he had. His great faith is seen in verse 21 where he says, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

How many of us would have that kind of faith? Most of us would probably moan and complain and forget God. Yet Job worshipped Him.

**Appeal:** As we remember Job's faithfulness, let us worship the Creator with our tithes and offering.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 17**  
**April 25, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

Our loving Creator cannot be matched in His giving. He provides for those who love and serve Him as well as for those who do not. He allows both believers and unbelievers to prosper.

Many in our world have amassed great wealth. While some are benevolent and enjoy charitable endeavors, others hoard their riches. They live in opulence, giving little or no thought to the needs of the poor. They are ignorant of the truth found in Deuteronomy 8:18 which says, "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth." A large number of wealthy people mistakenly believe that the money they handle is theirs and theirs alone.

Our heavenly Father blesses us with means so that our needs can be met as well as the needs of others. To some He gives much and to others He gives only a little. However, the amount of money we have is not as important as our willingness to share it with those who are less fortunate.

**Appeal:** As we think about the resources our Maker has entrusted to us, let us pray for a spirit of selflessness, remembering those around us who need our help. Let us worship the Creator with our tithes and offering.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 18**

**May 2, 2009**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

The Bible contains many references to the idea that our help comes from our Creator. One such reference is found in Psalm 121:2 in which the psalmist declares, “My help *cometh* from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.” It is reassuring to know that the One who created the universe is interested in our well-being. As mere mortals, we have a special place in the heart of our omnipotent Father.

He who spoke the world into existence “neither slumbers nor sleeps.” He reveals Himself in the affairs of our daily living. Our Creator sees the weary mother struggling alone to pay her bills, and with tender compassion, He comes to her aid just when her money is about to run out. He keeps in view the father and child who are heading into the path of a reckless driver. He dispatches one of His mighty angels who with lightning speed comes to intervene before disaster strikes. There is never a time when our heavenly Father loses sight of us. He is always there to help.

**Appeal:** Let us show our Maker our gratitude for His loving kindness by worshiping Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 19**

**May 9, 2009**

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

Because every life matters, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is working to improve the lives of millions of God’s children around the world, regardless of age, religion, ethnicity, or political affiliation. Thanks to ADRA’s commitment to saving lives, many communities who have been affected by armed conflicts, droughts, diseases, and natural disasters are finding hope for the future.

ADRA invites you to be a partner for change by giving to the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering. This is an excellent opportunity to extend a helping hand to someone who is struggling to make ends meet after a disaster. By giving to this vital fund, we present God’s loving character to those who are in need of medical care, shelter, and nourishment. The Bible reminds us to care for the weak and suffering, because “More blessings come from giving than from receiving.”

**Appeal:** Today we have the opportunity to change a life. Jesus said, “And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward” (Matthew 10:42 NIV). Your special gift will allow ADRA to save lives and bring relief when people need it most. It will also give each of us the opportunity to wrap our arms tightly around the world’s most vulnerable, sharing our blessings with them and showing them the love of God.

**Sabbath 20**  
**May 16, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

The beauty of nature has delighted human beings from the time Adam first opened his eyes. Throughout the ages, nature's splendor has served as a reminder to God's people that we are dependent on Him and without His love and provision we could not exist.

Maltbie D. Babcock, an American Presbyterian minister, was an avid nature lover. In the early 1880's he began his first pastorate in Lockport, New York. Rustic farms, impressive orchards, and dense wooded areas were all part of the landscape. When starting his walks Babcock would often say, "I'm going out into my Father's world." It is believed that those walks inspired the lyrics to the beloved hymn, "This Is My Father's World."

Though Babcock published nothing during his life, his wife Catherine collected and published many of his writings after his death in 1901. A volume of his poems contained "This Is My Father's World." Babcock, of course, never heard his famous hymn sung.

**Appeal:** As we consider God's awesome creative power, let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 21**  
**May 23, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

One day while at the temple, Jesus observed worshipers making their contributions. Among them were rich people throwing large amounts of money into the treasury. Then came a poor widow who cast in two mites.

Upon witnessing the woman's deed, Jesus said to His disciples, "this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all *they* did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living" (Mark 12:43, 44).

In the sight of God, the size of the gift is not as important as the motive. The widow was devoted to her Creator. By faith she cast into the treasury all that she had while the others gave from their surplus showing no self-denial.

**Appeal:** Let us remember the widow's example of self-denial as we worship our Creator with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 22**  
**May 30, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

How often do you think about heaven—the place where the Creator dwells? Can you see yourself living there? Or is heaven merely an imaginary place that Christians believe in to bring themselves comfort?

In Matthew 6:9 Christ identifies God's dwelling place as heaven. He taught His disciples to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven." Solomon also believed this truth. During his prayer of dedication of the temple he entreated the Creator, "Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy dwelling place" (2 Chronicles 6:33).

Heaven is indeed a real place where our Maker resides. The good news is that He wants us to be there too. Jesus gave us the blessed assurance in John 14:1-3 that He was going to prepare a place for us in His Father's house. Then He would come back to get us so we could occupy our heavenly home. After Christ's ascension, the disciples continued to encourage believers with this promise. 1 Peter 1:4 tells us that our inheritance is reserved in heaven.

**Appeal:** With grateful hearts let us return our tithes and offerings to our Creator—the one who is preparing a place for us in heaven.

**Prayer**

## Sabbath 23

June 6, 2009

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

It is customary among Christians to say a short prayer before a meal asking God's blessing on our food. The practice has become so routine that we rarely think about all of the divine activity that is associated with the food we eat.

Let us consider briefly some inspired words. The writer speaks about the grain that grows for our bread. "The material world is under God's control. The laws of nature are obeyed by nature. Everything speaks and acts the will of the Creator. Cloud and sunshine, dew and rain, wind and storm, all are under the supervision of God, and yield implicit obedience to His command. It is in obedience to the law of God that the spire of grain bursts through the ground, "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear" (Mark 4:28; *Christ's Object Lessons*, p 81).

All of our favorite foods that come from the earth—even the grain to make bread—would not exist without God's wisdom and foresight.

**Appeal:** As we honor the Creator with our tithes and offerings, let us remember His faithfulness in supplying our daily needs.

**Prayer**

## Sabbath 24

June 13, 2009

Offering: Division

The natural world was not created merely for our enjoyment. There are many spiritual lessons we can learn from nature. With that thought in mind, the Lord's servant wrote, "God has surrounded us with nature's beautiful scenery to attract and interest the mind. It is His design that we should associate the glories of nature with His character. If we faithfully study the book of nature, we shall find it a fruitful source for contemplating the infinite love and power of God" (*Adventist Home*, p 144).

Consider for a moment the glorious sunrise. It represents the One who is the life and light of all that He has created. The rolling hills carpeted with green grass and colorful flowers speak of their Creator who not only loves beautiful things but also possesses beauty of character. We are reminded of His tenderness toward us when we study the way in which many birds and animals care for their young.

**Appeal:** With a desire to learn more about our Creator through nature, let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**



**Sabbath 25**  
**June 20, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

John W. Peterson was one of the world's most well-known composers of Christian music with more than 1000 hymns and gospel songs to his credit.

In 1942 he joined the army and served as an Air Force pilot flying cargo over the Himalaya Mountains. Later, he attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago.

In his autobiography, he tells about the writing of his beautiful song, *It Took A Miracle*, which is included in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*. He wrote the song while sitting in class one day. He said, "My thoughts raced on to the flights over the Himalayas, the spectacular power of God revealed in those electrical storms, the majesty of the mountains themselves, the incredible variety of the jungle, and the star-filled nights of dazzling beauty high in the air.

"As the scenes flashed through my memory, I began to focus on the element of the miraculous in all of God's work, creation, and redemption. The words of a song were forming in my mind, and before the class period was over, the chorus was all thought out."

**Appeal:** John W. Peterson loved God and served Him until his death in 2006. As we contemplate our Creator's magnificence on His Holy Sabbath, let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 26**  
**June 27, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

Hear the words of the psalmist (Psalm 8:3-9). "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all *things* under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, *and whatsoever* passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth!"

We, who were made a little lower than the angels, are stewards of the Creator. Our heavenly Father thought enough of humankind to entrust us with the responsibility of being caretakers of all that He has made. How faithful are we in our stewardship? Are we ever mindful of the trust we have been given?

**Appeal:** Let us commit to being faithful stewards so our Master will be able to say to each of us, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." Let us worship the Lord with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 27**

**July 4, 2009**

### **Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

Genesis 1:16 says that God created the stars. The prophet Isaiah tells us, “Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth” (Isaiah 40:26).

One of the most awesome experiences is to go outdoors on a warm evening and look up at the stars. They shimmer like diamonds adorning the heavens.

Not only is stargazing a feast for the eyes, but there are beautiful spiritual lessons of obedience and trust we can learn. The Lord’s servant wrote, “From the stars that in their trackless course through space, follow from age to age their appointed path, down to the minutest atom, the things of nature obey the Creator’s will. And God cares for everything and sustains everything that he has created” (*Christian Education*, p 54).

**Appeal:** Let us remember to take time to enjoy the beauty of nature and learn its important spiritual lessons. “Bring all the tithes into the Lord’s storehouse....”

### **Prayer**

## **Sabbath 28**

**July 11, 2009**

### **Offering: World Mission Budget**

In recent years, “project giving” has become increasingly popular among Seventh-day Adventists and has resulted in mission work that may otherwise not have been possible. However, once completed, successful projects generally become part of the ongoing work of the church and must be sustained. This work cannot continue without regular “non-project” giving from our faithful members.

Today’s offering for the “World Mission Budget” is added to other “non-project giving” such as our Sabbath School Mission offerings. The members in many of these locations around the world cannot afford the continuing, day-to-day operating expenses of this mission work. Therefore “non-project giving” is essential to sustain the work of the long-term success of “project giving.”

“In His providence, the Lord has ordained that the work in His vineyard should be sustained by the means entrusted to the hands of His stewards” (3T, p 117).

**Appeal:** May we be faithful stewards today, in sustaining the Lord’s work.

### **Prayer**

**Sabbath 29**  
**July 18, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

John D. Rockefeller, Sr., founder of Standard Oil Co., gave away more than \$500 million during his lifetime, the equivalent of \$45 billion today.

John's mother taught him as a small boy to tithe. His first wages amounted to \$1.50 per week. Upon presenting the money to his mother, she told him that she would be pleased if he would give a tenth of it to the Lord. He followed His mother's counsel and from that day on tithed every dollar God had entrusted to Him.

After amassing great wealth as an adult, he once commented, "If I had not tithed the first dollar I made, I would not have tithed the first million dollars I made." He stated further, "Train the children to tithe and they will grow up to be faithful stewards of the Lord."

**Appeal:** It is amazing to know that one of the world's most successful businessmen never forgot the One who gave Him his wealth but faithfully returned his tithe. Let us worship our Creator now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 30**  
**July 25, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

The story is told of a poor congregation in a developing country that struggled to complete their church building project. The modest structure was built on the donations of its members.

When the time came to put on the roof, the members realized they had no money for the much needed iron sheets. They agreed that they would use grass even though they knew it was not ideal. Meanwhile, the Lord had impressed a fellow-believer that he should assist the congregation in completing the project. The man was retired and had built the best house in their village.

On the day the roof was to be made, the man met with the church and told them that the Holy Spirit had moved on his heart and that iron sheets had been provided. The people shouted, "Amen! Where are they?" The man said, "Come." So they followed him to his house. He instructed the other men to help him remove the iron sheets from his house. The elder asked why they should do this. The man replied, "It's not good for me to dwell in a much better house while the Lord dwells in a house roofed with grass." The iron sheets would be used at the church and he would make a grass roof for his house. The members very reluctantly began pulling the nails out and taking the iron sheets down.

**Appeal:** This story is a beautiful example of sacrifice. Let us worship our Creator now by giving our tithes and offerings with a spirit of sacrifice and commitment.

## **Sabbath 31**

**August 1, 2009**

**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

Johannes Kepler was born in Germany in 1571. He was a brilliant mathematician and astronomer who established the three laws of planetary motion about the sun.

Kepler was an extremely pious Lutheran who studied in a seminary. He loved God and acknowledged Him as the Creator of heaven and earth. Kepler once said, "Since we astronomers are priests of the highest God in regard to the book of nature, it befits us to be thoughtful, not of the glory of our minds but rather, above all else, of the glory of God."

Throughout history, scientists have made significant discoveries and have given us a clearer understanding of our world. While many scientists deny God's existence, there are those like Johannes Kepler who study the natural world fully aware that God is the Creator of all things. They delight in the splendor of His handiwork and are not ashamed to give Him the glory.

**Appeal:** Let us worship our Creator now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

## **Sabbath 32**

**August 8, 2009**

**Offering: Division**

"The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). God's glory is the manifestation of how great He is. This includes His power, His riches, His majesty, His importance, His beauty and something of His nature.

The firmament shows his handiwork. Creation, especially space, shows God to be the most intelligent, wise and knowledgeable Being. It is amazing to think that as old as the universe is, its Creator is even older.

Creation reveals God's goodness. In spite of human being's abuse of the natural world, life continues as a result of God's wisdom and foresight. Creation reveals God to be an artistic and scientific master who is mindful of every detail and creates countless things for his people to enjoy.

**Appeal:** As we seek to become closer to our Creator, let us be intentional about spending time with Him in nature. "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...."

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 33**  
**August 15, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452 in Italy. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time and perhaps the most diversely talented person ever to have lived. Not only was he a master painter, but also a scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, sculptor, architect, botanist, musician and writer. Two of his most famous paintings are the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*.

It's amazing that one man could excel in so many different areas. However, when we consider Leonardo's extraordinary gifts, it's only natural that, as Christians, our thoughts are turned to the One Who is the Source of every good thing. James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

Our Creator has gifted each of us with something special that we can do in a way no one else can. And it is our privilege to develop our God-given talents to His honor and glory.

**Appeal:** The next time we see a gorgeous painting, hear a masterful musical work, or enjoy anything that would cause us to praise the artist, let us remember to thank the Creator for such wonderful gifts. "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...."

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 34**  
**August 22, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

The tremendous amount of order in nature and the evidence of design suggest that there must have been a Designer. The Bible identifies that Master Designer as God.

If you were to see some books scattered on the floor it probably wouldn't mean much to you. However, if you were to see some books neatly arranged on a large bookshelf with plants and other decorative items strategically placed, you would more than likely be impressed by the creativity of the person who made the display. Books just don't arrange themselves. Someone has to do that.

The same is true of all that God created. The intricacies of the brain, the human eye, the wing of a bird, the symmetry of a leopard all testify of a Master Designer.

**Appeal:** Take some time to observe the petals of a flower, a leaf or an animal, perhaps your own pet. You will see the beauty of God's design in each of them. Let us worship our Creator now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 35**  
**August 29, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

Nature is obedient to its Creator. Take, for example, how Jesus calmed the storm as He and His disciples were crossing to the other side of the lake. Luke 8:24 says, “Then He arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was calm.”

Another example of nature’s obedience is found in Matthew 21:18, 19. Christ and His disciples saw a fig tree with no fruit on it, only leaves. In an effort to teach the disciples a spiritual lesson, Christ cursed the tree and it withered immediately.

The Creator is so powerful that He had only to speak and it was so. Psalm 104:14, 19 says, “He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.... He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.” All of these examples testify of God’s greatness.

**Appeal:** If nature obeys its Creator at His command, how much more should we, who were created in His image, obey Him! Let us thank God for His lesson of obedience in nature and worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 36**  
**September 5, 2009**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

Try to imagine how beautiful nature was when God created it. The most glorious scene in nature today can’t compare with creation in its original state. Yet we can still delight in its splendor and see God’s goodness in its majestic mountains, vast oceans, lush meadows, and flowing streams. We can still sense God’s power in nature. If nature with all of its imperfections can inspire us to glorify God, just think how thrilling it will be when it is restored to its original beauty.

The prophet Isaiah gives us a glimpse of what God is preparing for us. Isaiah 65:17 says, “For behold I create new heavens and a new earth.” Verse 25 is especially comforting. “The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust *shall be* the serpent’s meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.”

All creatures in the new earth will live in harmony. The flowers and trees will bloom forever. Nothing will hurt or destroy.

**Appeal:** Our Creator has promised us many wonderful things. With thankful hearts, let us bring all the tithes into His storehouse.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 37**  
**September 12, 2009**  
**Offering: World Mission Budget**  
**(Unusual Opportunities)**

More than 130 years ago, J.N. Andrews was sent to Europe as the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary. Since that time, we Seventh-day Adventists have generously supported mission work through our tithes and mission offerings. Jesus called on us to carry the gospel to the whole world, to every kindred, tongue and people. We still believe that's our mission.

Yet, over the years, mission giving has effectively declined. Today we are giving less than our parents and grandparents did. These offerings are vital for starting new work in new areas, nurturing and establishing new believers in the faith, placing missionaries around the world, and advancing God's kingdom here on earth. These offerings provide the foundation for many of the other projects we choose to support.

**Appeal:** Thank you for your generous support of Adventist mission work around the world. Thank you for helping carry a message of hope in Jesus to a hurting world.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 38**  
**September 19, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

The Fall of Adam and Eve brought sin and misery into the world. Not only was nature adversely impacted, but humans, who were created in God's own image, now bear the curse of sickness and suffering. The ground from which the Creator formed man now receives him in death.

This is a painful thought, but it is not the end of the story. We, Christians, have great hope of both physical restoration and immortality. Hear the words of the apostle Paul, "Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality" (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).

John the Revelator also gives us comforting assurance. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev 21:4).

**Appeal:** Our Creator has not forsaken us. Be encouraged. He will come again and make all things new. Let us joyfully honor Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 39**  
**September 26, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

When God created human beings, He did not intend for them to spend their days being idle and unproductive. He had a special plan for them.

God commanded Adam and Eve to “be fruitful and multiply”—to populate the earth. But that was not God’s only plan for them. Genesis 2:15 says, “And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.” In other words, God assigned Adam his work. His daily occupation was to be the caretaker or steward of his Eden home.

The Lord’s servant wrote about the blessing of work, “God appointed labor as a blessing to man, to occupy his mind, to strengthen his body, and to develop his faculties. In mental and physical activity, Adam found one of the highest pleasures of his holy existence. And when, as a result of his disobedience, he was driven from his beautiful home, and forced to struggle with a stubborn soil to gain his daily bread, that very labor, although widely different from his pleasant occupation in the garden, was a safeguard against temptation and a source of happiness” (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p 50).

**Appeal:** Whatever our work may be, let us be diligent and do our best that our Creator may be glorified. “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse....”

**Prayer:**

**Sabbath 40**  
**October 3, 2009**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

Sometimes when things are not going very well in our lives we become discouraged. Our troubles seem too much to bear. We are sometimes even tempted to wonder if God notices and cares enough to help.

When we are burdened and our faith begins to falter, we must remember the words of the prophet Isaiah, “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary?” Isaiah continues with a wonderful promise, “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength” (Isaiah 40:28, 29).

We don’t have to feel overwhelmed by our problems. Our eternal Father, who laid the foundations of the earth, has promised to renew our strength. He has not forgotten us and He knows each of us by name.

**Appeal:** Our loving Creator sees all and knows all. We can trust Him. Let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**



**Sabbath 41**  
**October 10, 2009**  
**Offering: Division**

Recorded in Exodus 14 is the story of the parting of the Red Sea. It is a favorite among Christians everywhere. The Bible says that “Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry *land*: and the waters *were* a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left” (vs. 21, 22).

When Israel crossed safely to the other side and saw that the Egyptians who pursued them were swallowed up by the water, they broke into song, “Who *is* like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? who *is* like thee, glorious *in* holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?” (Ex. 15:11)

We never tire of hearing about this mighty act of God for it serves as another reminder that our Creator is all powerful. He who delivered Israel from Pharaoh’s army can also deliver us from the temptations of the enemy of souls. He who made us can also save us.

**Appeal:** We should regularly take time to read the marvelous stories of the Bible. They strengthen our faith and remind us that our God can do anything! Let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 42**  
**October 17, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

Psalm 148 invites every living creature and poetically speaking, everything in nature, to praise the Lord. Hear the words of the psalmist.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens:  
praise him in the heights.  
Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts.  
Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light.  
Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that *be*  
above the heavens.  
Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and  
they were created.  
He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made  
a decree which shall not pass.  
Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps:  
Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling his  
word:  
Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars:  
Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:  
Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of  
the earth:  
Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children:  
Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is  
excellent; his glory *is* above the earth and heaven.  
He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his  
saints; *even* of the children of Israel, a people near unto him.  
Praise ye the Lord.

**Appeal:** Let us worship our Creator, with our tithes and offerings.

**Sabbath 43**  
**October 24, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

Spending time in nature is one of life's great pleasures. Not only is it enjoyable but it also promotes good health. As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe that one of the eight natural remedies is fresh air. For whatever reasons, many today do not take time to be rejuvenated in the outdoors. Yet fresh air is beneficial to our well-being.

Listen for a moment to the words of the Lord's servant regarding our need of fresh air. "The influence of pure, fresh air is to cause the blood to circulate healthfully through the system. It refreshes the body and tends to render it strong and healthy, while at the same time its influence is decidedly felt upon the mind, imparting a degree of composure and serenity. It excites the appetite, and renders the digestion of food more perfect, and induces sound and sweet sleep" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol 1, p 702).

**Appeal:** Does your sedentary life indoors prevent you from experiencing the blessings found in nature? Let us make an effort to spend some time outside filling our lungs with fresh air and enjoying communion with our Creator. "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...."

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 44**  
**October 31, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

In their book, *God's Wonderful World*, George Vandeman and Asa Thoresen discuss the miracle of bird flight. Because the bones of birds are hollow, the wing bones of the man-o'-war, with a wingspan of about seven feet, weigh only four or five ounces. The breast muscles that operate the wings represent up to 30 percent of body weight. Rapid energy can be delivered to the breast muscles of birds because they have a higher blood pressure than humans, and their blood sugar concentration is about twice that of mammals.

Golden plovers are such efficient fliers that they can migrate thousands of miles across the ocean from Labrador to the midpoint of South America, and lose only about two ounces of body weight. Under a microscope, a flight feather is extremely complex. There are veins, barbs barbules, flanges, and tiny hooks. These remarkable natural realities indicate that God's designs outshine anything humans can invent (Randall W. Yonker, *Adult Sabbath School Lesson, "God the Creator,"* Thursday, September 2, 1999).

**Appeal:** Take the time to look up and watch the birds fly through the sky. Observe how they glide on the air currents. Each movement testifies of the Creator. He has blessed us with so much to enjoy in nature. Let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

## Sabbath 45

November 7, 2009

Offering: Outreach/Church Budget

The psalmist declared, I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). We have all probably had a simple cut at one time or another. We usually clean it and forget about it. However, a miraculous healing process occurs that we do not see.

After getting a cut, scratch, or abrasion, our skin may start bleeding. This happens because the injury breaks or tears the tiny blood vessels that live right under the skin's surface. Our body wants to stop the bleeding so the *platelets* in our blood come to the rescue.

At the site of a wound, platelets stick together, like glue. This is called clotting, which works like a plug to keep blood and other fluids from leaking out. A hardened and dried clot or scab forms a crust over the wound. This protects the area so the cells below can have time to heal.

Underneath the scab, new skin cells multiply to repair the wound. Damaged blood vessels are repaired, and infection-fighting *white blood cells* attack any germs that may have gotten into the wound. We cannot see it under the scab, but a new layer of skin is forming. And when the new skin is ready, the scab falls off, usually within a week or two.

**Appeal:** Our Creator in His infinite wisdom designed our bodies to repair themselves and fight infection. His words are so true, “I am God, and *there is none like me.*” (Isaiah 46:9). “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse....”

## Sabbath 46

November 14, 2009

Offering: Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)

In Matthew 24:14, it says: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” The word Adventist in the last part of the name of our church means that we are looking forward to the Second Coming of Jesus. As Seventh-day Adventists we long for Jesus to come and end all the suffering, to end all the wars, to end all the evil.

Do you know that there are still 26 countries or areas of the world where there are no Seventh-day Adventist churches? And did you know that there are 20 countries where for every one Adventist you have more than 100,000 who are not Adventists? And did you know that there are communities, towns, and villages around the world where you cannot find a group of Adventists to worship with even if you wanted to?

Today’s offering will help Global Mission carry the gospel to the unreached people and areas of the world. Every cent given for the Annual Sacrifice offering goes to help start new groups of believers in unreached areas.

**Appeal:** Your offerings today can help carry a message of hope in Jesus to an unreached area of the world. Your offering can help us take one step forward in telling the world about Jesus. Thank you for your sacrificial support to help build God’s Kingdom.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 47**  
**November 21, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

The coast redwood is one of the three sequoia species, together with the giant sequoia and the dawn redwood. The coast redwood grows in natural stands in a long, thin coastal area along the Pacific Ocean in the west and northwest of the United States (mostly California). It is the tallest tree in the world.

With its relatively slender silhouette, this tree can grow even 20 meters higher than the tallest giant sequoias, which are nevertheless the biggest trees in the world, when looking at the volume of the trunk. The tallest known living tree, named Hyperion, is 115.55 m or 379.1 feet (measured in 2006) tall! This gets close to 120 to 130 m, that, according to a 2004 biological study, is the maximum attainable height of a tree.

The awesome redwood trees testify of the Creator in a number of ways. They are strong like our mighty God. The grandeur of these trees directs our thoughts to the One who is the sacred embodiment of majesty. The ability of the redwood tree to live for thousands of years speaks of the eternal nature of our Maker and King.

**Appeal:** Spend a few moments learning about the grand sequoias and discover for yourself the beautiful spiritual lessons they teach about our Creator. “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse....”

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 48**  
**November 28, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

The voice of God speaks to us through the wonders of nature. Listen to the words of God’s servant:

“Wherever we turn, we hear the voice of God and behold His handiwork. From the solemn roll of the deep-toned thunder and old ocean's ceaseless roar, to the glad songs that make the forests vocal with melody, nature's ten thousand voices speak His praise. In earth and sea and sky, with their marvelous tint and color, varying in gorgeous contrast or blended in harmony, we behold His glory. The everlasting hills tell of His power. The trees that wave their green banners in the sunlight, and the flowers in their delicate beauty, point to their Creator. The living green that carpets the brown earth tells of God's care for the humblest of His creatures. The caves of the sea and the depths of the earth reveal His treasures. He who placed the pearls in the ocean and the amethyst and chrysolite among the rocks is a lover of the beautiful. The sun rising in the heavens is a representative of Him who is the life and light of all that He has made. All the brightness and beauty that adorn the earth and light up the heavens speak of God” (*Child Guidance*, p 53).

**Appeal:** When you are enjoying time spent outdoors, listen for the voice of the Creator. He speaks of His great love for us through the beauty of creation. With joyful hearts, let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Sabbath 49**  
**December 5, 2009**  
**Offering: Outreach/Church Budget**

Mountains are an awesome symbol of God's power. In the Bible days, God's place of choice for demonstrating His great power was often on a mountain.

For example, there was Moses' burning bush experience on Mt. Sinai. God also showed His power before giving Moses the Ten Commandments. Exodus 19:18-20 says,

“And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the Lord came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount....”

There was also Abraham's heart-wrenching test on Mt. Moriah. At the critical moment, God intervened and provided a ram for a sacrifice. We must not forget the dramatic contest on Mt. Carmel between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. God showed Himself in a mighty way that day.

**Appeal:** Our Creator is powerful indeed. When we have the opportunity to see the mountains, let us meditate on God's goodness. Just as He worked mightily for the people of old, He will do the same for us today. “Bring all the tithes into His storehouse....”

**Sabbath 50**  
**December 12, 2009**  
**Offering: Division**

The book of Job records God's longest speech in the Bible. In His conversation with Job, God tries to broaden Job's concept of the Deity. His divine purpose is not to explain Job's sufferings but to reveal Himself as the Almighty.

In chapter 38, God speaks to Job about the creation of the world, the sea, and the dawn. God asks Job a very direct question, “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.” God continues by asking if Job was the one who set the boundaries of the seas or if he commands the morning, causes the rain to fall or sends the lightning.

In chapter 39, God continues to present to Job the divine description of the wonders of creation. God asks Job, “Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?” Obviously, Job did none of these things.

When Job focused on who God really was, his perplexities disappeared. Only God the Creator could provide this kind of solution for his problems.

**Appeal:** When we are overcome by suffering and trials, let us remember our mighty Creator who is greater than all of our cares. “Bring all the tithes into His storehouse....”

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 51**  
**December 19, 2009**  
**Offering: Church Budget**

Every year around this time, Christians commemorate the birth of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. Young and old alike take part in the grand celebrations. School children in costumes recreate the events surrounding Christ's birth in stage plays. Musicians worldwide perform glorious concerts in honor of the Advent. Dramatic readings and lavish decorations all help to make the Christmas season special.

Celebrations are important, but more important is what we do when the festivities have ended. Philippians 2:5-8 says that Jesus *is* the Savior of fallen humanity and that He—the God of creation—took on the form of man so that you and I could be saved.

Do we know the Savior as we should? Do we spend time communing with the One who came as a baby and was sacrificed years later so that we might have eternal life?

**Appeal:** If you do not know Jesus for yourself, take time to get to know Him. You will find Him to be a faithful friend. In honor of our Savior's excellent greatness, let us worship Him now with our tithes and offerings.

**Prayer**

**Sabbath 52**  
**December 26, 2009**  
**Offering: Conference/Union**

This year is rapidly drawing to its end. We have all had many different experiences—some good and some not so good. However, if we were asked to give a testimony, we would have to say that through times of joy and times of sorrow our God has been faithful.

Our loving Creator has provided for us and sustained us. He has cared for us in a way that no one else can. He has given us new revelations of Himself so that we can trust Him more.

**Appeal:** On this last Sabbath of 2009 we have much to be thankful for. Let us vow to end this year in good standing with our Maker. With hearts filled with gratitude, bring all the tithes into His storehouse.

**Prayer**