



# GENEROUS LIVING

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All of Me in Response to All of Him

## Offering Appeals

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020

Treasurer's Copy

Please store this booklet in the pulpit.

## January 4, 2020 - Local Church Budget

***When we serve, miracles happen.*** For nine decades Oseola McCarty lived an unassuming, humble life. A washerwoman, like her grandmother, she learned early to be frugal. She started saving at 8-years old. When she died at the age of 91, her bank account stood at \$280,000, of which she donated \$150,000. The McCarty scholarship helps needy students. Her example inspired Ted Turner to donate one billion dollars to charity.

President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Citizens Medal. Harvard University gave her an honorary doctorate. The United Nations distinguished Ms. McCarty with the Avicenna Medal for her selfless commitment to education.

When we serve others, miracles happen. Let us commit to supporting our local church budget with a zest worthy of our Lord. Our local church budget sponsors programs that positively affect our communities and neighbors.

When asked why she chose the University of Southern Mississippi as a recipient of her donation, Ms. McCarty responded: "Because it's *here*." Our local church budgets are *here*, in need of our

support. Let us pledge our systematic, long-term support this entire year to our local church budget.

**IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!**

Having the blessing and honor to attend the Chosen Pathfinder Camporee in August, 2019 I was overwhelmed by the wonderful ministry and RESULTS of the Pathfinder program!

I was able to witness over 50,000 youth engaged with the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Over 1,000 of these were representatives of the Carolina Conference. Youth that were there to participate, socialize, engage and grow in and with OUR church. What an amazing ministry is our Pathfinder and Adventurer programs. Those who were present were able to witness over a thousand of these youth give their hearts to Jesus and were baptized.

These Young people from around the Carolinas and the world come from clubs staffed by individuals who truly see this as their ministry and are leading young people to love and serve our Creator.

How exciting it was for me to see so many former Pathfinders and students who were now directors of their own clubs. Edgar, Angelo, Kristen, Carlos, Smyrna, adults now who were once the Pathfinders who fell in love with OUR church largely through the Pathfinder program. Today they are leading a new generation of Pathfinders to love the Lord in SDA

churches throughout and maybe, just maybe, one day the youth they are influencing today will be directors preparing others for service to our Lord.

Our voluntary offering today is in part to contribute to this amazing ministry and only the Lord knows the eternal results.

Written by Hector Gonzalez,  
Youth and Young Adult Director

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## **January 18, 2020 - Local Church Budget**

***A couple remains financially faithful.*** The unexpected news was raw: “You have cancer!” The treatment was very costly and the insurance company declined coverage. The choices were stark: empty the retirement funds or challenge the insurance company for payment. The expenses increased with a major unexpected home repair which was also declined by an unrelated insurance company. The amounts owed by these institutions were very similar. The husband and wife prayed for divine counsel. Prior to receiving the bad news, the couple had made commitments to invest significantly in God’s Church and its related local ministries. These major financial blows were perceived as “Satan’s justly excuses” to dishonor the commitments made earlier.

After careful consideration, the couple decided to remain faithful to their pledges to the Lord. Several months later, within five minutes of each other, both insurance companies called and said they would pay. This couple remained faithful despite very difficult circumstances. They did not waver. The best news: there is no more cancer!

Today, we must remain faithful by supporting our local church budget.

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**January 25, 2020 –**

**3002**

**NAD (Emphasis: Religious Liberty)**

***Thus saith the Lord!*** Recently, I read the following quote from a cherished book called *Christian Service* by Ellen G. White: “Men will exalt and rigidly enforce laws that are in direct opposition to the law of God. Though zealous in enforcing their own commandments, they will turn away from a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord’” (*Testimonies* vol. 9, p. 229).

This beautiful quote reminded me that around the world there are people, systems, and powerful decision-making bodies that enforce a view of Christianity that is diametrically opposed to Scriptural truth.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America advocates for religious tolerance and mutual respect toward other religious traditions through its magazine, *Liberty*, and its efforts in the public sphere. *Liberty* is sent free of charge to many lawmakers and public figures. Our church likewise advocates and defends the religious rights in employment disputes for our Seventh-day Adventist Church members.

Our generous offering today will provide continued resources to expand this indispensable work in defending religious liberty across the North American Division.

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## February 1, 2020 – Local Church Budget

***Help, at the right time.*** A physician and his wife walked into a store and met a fellow church member. The member was frequently absent from church meetings. When asked why, the reply was: “we had some hard times, and needed to go to the local food bank open on Saturdays.” The physician and his wife felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to purchase a gift card from a local grocery store. They quoted a beautiful Bible verse on the card and set it in the church mailbox for this member.

Several weeks later, the member walked up to the couple and gave them a hug. She said: “I know this gift card was sitting for a while in my mailbox, but it came just at the right time. Thank you.” The physician and his wife were overwhelmed with gratitude. Tears welled up in their eyes. God had used them to help another person in need just at the right time.

Today’s offering is for our local church budget. We have worthy causes that minister to our local communities “just at the right time” for those who need it the most. Let us be generous with our contributions. Let us be part of God’s plan described in the book of Matthew: “for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in” (Matthew 25:35).

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**February 8, 2020**

**500**

**World Budget (Emphasis: Adventist TV Ministries)**

***“Who is that new person?”*** The pastor leaned over to the elder and asked: “Who is that new person sitting in the back pew?”

Elder: “He is a visitor who also came last week.”

Pastor: “How did he hear about us?”

Elder: “He was channel surfing and found Hope TV.”

Pastor: “That is excellent.”

Elder: “Yes. He said that the ‘preacher’ was talking about the Sabbath on TV and it was very interesting.”

Pastor: “Did you talk with him?”

Elder: “Yes, I did last week when you were at the other church.”

Pastor: “Did he enjoy his first visit last week?”

Elder: “It looks like it, since he came back this week. I think he wants to meet you, pastor.”

This conversation takes place more and more often in churches around the world. Our Seventh-day Adventist television ministries here at home and across the world are making a huge impact in promoting the Gospel to millions of viewers. With your help, commitment, and sacrificial giving, we can continue to provide these modern-age services. Let’s commit a portion of our income to these ministries.

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## February 15, 2020 – Local Church Budget

***The angel recorded every offering made to God.*** In *Testimonies to the Church* (vol. 2, p. 518), Ellen White notes the following statement: “I was shown that the recording angel makes a faithful record of every offering dedicated to God and put into the treasury.” She continues on page 520 with the following words: “Duties in this direction are binding upon all who profess to be followers of Christ. God’s law specifies their duty to their fellow men: ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.’” Mathew 22:39

In February we celebrate love in secular society. But from a spiritual perspective, God also celebrates the importance of love toward our fellow human beings. Mrs. White is very explicit in stating that loving our neighbor is a “duty” for all of us who profess to be “followers of Christ.” Such an imperative is inescapable. God desires that we serve, in love, those closest to our spheres of influence. These could be our neighbors, coworkers, or anyone we come into contact with regularly.

This week our offering is dedicated to the local church budget. Our local churches have ministries that reach out corporately to our local communities and our “neighbors.” Let us be generous with our tithes and offerings so that our outreach may be a substantial blessing for those who receive it.

**IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!**

When I was a young boy I remember the first time I saw my older brother Albert in his Marine uniform. I was moved by how different he looked. He looked assured, accomplished, mature and well, just different! I stood back as his kid brother and just saw him respectfully, “different”.

The Adventurer and Pathfinder participants also wear a uniform. We do not have to go to Camp Lejeune or pass rigorous training to earn the right to wear our uniforms, but once we have it, we continue to wear it with pride and respect. Hopefully, we feel “different”. In this mindset, the wearers realize that they are part of something big and important. They realize they are representing a youth organization that is much bigger than just their local club.

The uniform represents unity to a cause and mission that is **different** than anything else they do. The mission of the wearer is “real and visible”. The uniform represents loyalty toward to the mission of serving Christ and loyalty to all the others wearing the same uniform. Together as a group the wearers grow in fellowship and purpose towards showing the world that Jesus is KING.

Through your offering today, you may continue your support so our Busy Bees, Helping Hands, Companions, Master Guides, etc. continue to praise God’s name by being “different” for others everywhere to see and be moved.

Written by Hector Gonzalez,  
Youth and Young Adult Director

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## February 29, 2020 – Carolina Evangelism 8002

The Carolina Conference has sponsored 18 Global Mission projects from 2014-2019. Global Mission projects are cooperative church planting initiatives supported by every level of the church (i.e. General Conference, Division, Union, and Conference). The Carolina Conference has expended Carolina Evangelism funds to support the beginning of work in new territories throughout North and South Carolina. Intentional church planting—especially near the larger cities—yields greater impact upon people accepting Jesus and the message entrusted to Seventh-day Adventists. This impact yields more baptisms and professions of faith, reclamation of disconnected members, greater church attendance, increased passion and giving to support the LORD's work.

The LORD's servant has written in, "*Upon all who believe, God has placed a burden of raising up churches*" (**Medical Ministry, page 315**). Ellen White knew that the work is not finished anywhere until it is finished everywhere including every city and village in the Carolinas. In fact, she witnessed in a vision of the future "*Jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the earth. God's word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials [churches] for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world.*" **Testimonies, vol. 9, page 28-29**

Thank you for support of Carolina Evangelism. When you support Carolina Evangelism, you are investing in the most effective form of evangelism—church planting. More important, you are investing in souls for the kingdom of Christ our Savior!

Written by Brad Cauley,  
Church Planting, Church Revitalization, and Health  
Ministries Director

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## **March 7, 2020 - Local Church Budget**

***Faithful in small things.*** The university student riding the subway had to make a choice: Would he spend his last 50 dollars on discretionary spending or give it to God as an offering? A verse came into his mind: “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33). As a new Adventist, he understood that miracles happen when the people of God stay faithful to the ideas and values that lift us closer to heaven. His offering, he argued, would help the local church reach others just like him.

The reason he became an Adventist Christian was due to a local Seventh-day Adventist church sponsoring a teacher who in turn gave Bible studies to students. He was one of those students who accepted Jesus Christ and chose to be baptized. The student decided to stay faithful to his pledged promise and give an offering to God in the local church.

The local church has an array of ministry opportunities that reach out to students, single parents, economically disadvantaged people, the sick, and the imprisoned. Our faithful and generous support of these ministries will have a tremendous dividend for eternity. Let us be liberal and magnanimous in supporting our local church budget. This support will serve people in need and introduce them to Jesus.

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**March 14, 2020 - World Budget**

**500**

**Emphasis: Adventist World Radio/Hope Channel**

***Maria had hit rock bottom.*** After escaping an abusive marriage, she eventually found love again with a kind policeman. But then the unthinkable happened and she and her husband were ambushed during a drive-by shooting. Her husband shielded her with his body. She survived; he didn't. Her anguish became unbearable. She succumbed to depression and even turned to séances.

One day, her sister forwarded her an AWR360° cell phone sermon about the state of the dead. She became convicted about the Bible truth and prayed for forgiveness. That Sabbath, she walked into an Adventist church with her children, and has attended ever since.

But the Lord wasn't done with her. She wanted to reach others with the Three Angels' Messages. Incredibly, she forgave both her abusive first husband, and her second husband's killers, and started sending them cell phone sermons. They now listen every week.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of thousands of people are regularly listening to AWR360° cell phone sermons, and that number continues to grow worldwide.

The offering today goes to support Adventist World Radio and Hope Channel Ministries. Both are transforming lives for eternity.

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## March 21, 2020 – Local Church Budget

***God opens doors we can't imagine.*** A small church and school decided to start a building project. They contracted a local architect to design the project. The architect priced the construction cost at \$75,000. The quoted price was within the local church's saved budget. The project commenced, but the excavation cost of the building site was higher than expected. The church realized that the project was significantly underestimated and that they lacked sufficient funds.

The contractor abandoned the project and the architect left the area. "What are we going to do now?" asked the church members. They decided to pray. There was no miraculous descent of dollar bills from the sky. Yet, something happened. A church member started a fundraiser for the needed funds. The church members saw that she needed help and offered to work with her. This brought the church together. Her project succeeded in providing more than \$36,000 a year and sparked a growth in unity, faith, and trust. Tithes and offerings increased. The church grew. Within a few years, the church completed a million-dollar project and saw what God can and will do when people unite, humble themselves, and pray.

Today's offering is for the local church budget. Let us unite, pray, and ask God to show us a miracle. Let us

become accessories to this miracle by returning faithfully His tithes and offerings.

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I love reading and preaching from 2 Timothy. The relationship between an adult and a youth is very powerful when reading this book of the Bible. The emotion of an adult who prays (1:3) for his young protégé. The emotion of the youth who sheds tears (1:4) when his adult mentor leaves. There is something powerful about the dynamic of youth having adults to lead, guide, mentor and encourage them along their journey. It is a blessed opportunity to teach and help them to be strong (2:3-6) when times are overwhelming, to live to please God (2:15-19) every day, and to stay away (2:22-24) from temptations and bad influences.

We also know that besides Paul Timothy also received mentoring and teaching from (1:5) his mother and grandmother, adults that lovingly taught and guided him. How precious and powerful are these opportunities.

I am reminded of a story that happened just a few years ago and it represents the results of adult investment in a youth:

Willie was 9 years old when he was kidnapped from his own driveway in Atlanta, GA. He was held for over 3 hours. In his fear he remembered a song that

his mother sang at home and proceeded to sing this song repeatedly for those 3 hours. “Every praise is to our God. Every word of worship with one accord...” His kidnapper cursed at him, told him to be quiet and threatened him, but the entire time Willie continued to sing this song that he was taught. Finally, after over three hours the kidnapper released young Willie, UNHARMED.”

May we adults give of our offering to support the ministries for our youth and also give our time and mentorship to prepare our young people to be strong until Jesus returns.

Written by Hector Gonzalez,  
Youth and Young Adult Director

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# ***Tips for a Successful Offering Appeal***

## **1. Pray**

Your attitude is of utmost importance. An offering appeal presented with a pre-season of prayer is always more effective. People in the pews will know the difference and respond accordingly. With an attitude of gratitude, calling for the offering is always a privilege for which to be thankful.

## **2. Practice**

Read the script out loud several times and stay with the script until the reading comes naturally. If possible, stand in the church location and read the script with the microphone on. Take courage, you will gain experience over time and eventually come to wonder why it seemed so hard at first.

## **3. Appreciate your audience**

Realize that they want you to succeed. Relax as best you can! We are all in this together.

## **4. Visualize yourself giving the offering appeal**

Smile! Imagine yourself speaking, your voice loud, clear and confident. Visualize the congregation smiling and pleased with your presentation. This will boost your confidence as they approvingly smile.

## **5. Know your material**

Make sure you fully understand how the designated offering will be used. Give everyone a reason to help support the designated offering.

## **6. Do not apologize for any nervousness or problem.**

Being nervous is natural. No one but you has to know. Do not allow yourself to focus on your anxiety, but rather focus on your message and audience. They will never suspect you are not a public-speaking pro!