



SEVENTH-DAY  
**ADVENTIST**<sup>®</sup>  
CHURCH

*Sydney*



# 2017 OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENTS





## Welcome to the 2017 Offering Announcement Guide,

Each week thousands of Adventists across Sydney faithfully return their tithes and offerings, continuing to support the mission of the Church not just locally but all over the world.

This guide exists to help local Churches be informed about where the offering goes each week and educate members about how their particular contribution is supporting mission.

Faithful stewardship is an act of worship, each time we return our tithes and offerings we are recognizing that we rely on God for every need, that he is worthy of our praise and that all we have belongs to Him. It is our hope that these readings will help give clarity, inspiration and encourage generosity in our local Church context so that many more can experience the blessing of a generous life.

Thanks again for your faithfulness, our local Churches really are the hope of the world and what you do each week to reach others for God is truly inspirational!



Lyndelle Peterson  
Associate Stewardship Director  
Greater Sydney Conference



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07  
JAN

# Local Church Offering



Genesis 39:2: “The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” Joseph went through the most discouraging experience of being hated, rejected, betrayed, almost killed by his own brothers, sold into slavery, framed by a woman and sentenced to prison. Joseph was able to resist the temptation of a beautiful woman although it meant he would go to prison.

Because of his faithfulness, the Lord took him from prison and made him prime minister. Joseph’s faithfulness stands out as an epitome for every follower of Christ to emulate. We, too, by His grace can choose to be faithful even if it means that we suffer a little while. The Lord Himself will restore us and make us strong.

If the thought of giving conjures up the thought of suffering in one’s mind, the best way to test that feeling would be to give. So many can testify that giving is truly a great blessing.

## APPEAL

This year, let us make a deliberate choice and effort to resist all kinds of temptation and remain faithful stewards and the Lord will reward us.

## PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for the examples of the excellence of faithfulness in Your Word. Help us to be faithful in our dealings with You and our fellow beings. Amen.



1 Samuel 1:10: “In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly.” In 1 Samuel chapter one, we read the story of Hannah, a woman who desperately wanted a child of her own. With each passing year the possibilities seemed more hopeless. Her rival, Penninah, constantly provoked her because of her barrenness. In the midst of her discouragement and mental anguish, she did not abandon her faith but turned to God in prayer.

“Lord Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his Life, and no razor will ever be used on his head” (1 Samuel 1:11).

The Lord was able to turn Hannah’s situation upside down by granting her what she asked of Him, and she gave the child back to the Lord as she had vowed.

Hannah’s faithfulness is a testimony to us – a great legacy of excellence in faithfulness.

## APPEAL

As we return the Lord’s tithe and give our offerings, let us not return or give what costs us little, such as a comfortable tithe or offering, but let us give gifts of true sacrifice. Let us not present to God mere tokens but our entire life.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are a hearing and answering God. Help us to return faithfully what You have required and give generously from what You have given us. Amen.

21  
JAN

# Education Offering



The beginning of a new year always marks a time that is filled with anticipation, potential, and hope of what's to come. As the students across our Adventist Schools in Greater Sydney look toward the year ahead, this is no different. What will this year of Adventist education hold?

Each schools will promote a specific project for the annual school offering during 2017. For the general Adventist Education offerings, the focus for 2017 will be on developing better communication and connecting more with our community and our church.

## APPEAL

Adventist Education is a real light in our community, by supporting the work of Education with our generosity we can be a part of seeing more lives impacted by our Adventist Schools.

## PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of education and our teachers and administrators that are so committed to impacting the lives of young people across Sydney. Amen

# South Pacific Division Strategy: Discipleship Adventist Youth

28  
JAN



The youth of the SPD are in desperate need of more Bibles. It has been 4 years since the last Bible distribution in 2013 and because of your donations and faithful offerings the SPD has seen the largest baptismal count in its history (2014-5). Young adults are ready to serve and when they serve and share their faith, they become excited about being Disciples of Christ. Today you have an opportunity to help resource our youth!

This offering will go towards purchasing more Bibles for young adults across the Pacific. We are getting continual requests - even from Australia.

The funds given in previous offerings were used in part to sponsor specific initiatives across the South Pacific from tertiary student funding requests, to sponsoring mission events for Pathfinders such as Camporees, and to outreach focused programs such as resource development.

## APPEAL

It is such a blessing to be able to contribute to God's mission and support the work in our own Division. God invites us to use the resources that he has entrusted us with so that many more will come into a knowledge of Jesus. Your contribution will ensure that youth across Australia and the Pacific will have access to Gods word and are equipped to serve Him.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the way you are working through our Youth, for their passion for Evangelism and commitment to your Word. May we continue to share what you have given us so that more of our youth can become disciples for Jesus. Amen.

04  
FEB

# Local Church Offering



Luke 16:10, 11: “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?”

Nowadays teachings on finances centre around giving people tricks and tips on how to prosper and make enough money. The preachers of the “prosperity gospel” encourage their believers to give so much and insist that God will give them multiple returns on what they have given. Such a poor handling of this very important subject has contributed to the “casino” mentality among many Christians who behave as if God operates the “lottery” company and all you need to do is give much and wait for an instant miracle!

In stewardship, “to obey is better than sacrifice.” Ellen G. White says that “Christians are safe only in acquiring money as God directs, and using it in channels which he can bless” (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 141).

## APPEAL

God wants His people to obey, serve and follow Him with a whole heart rather than to maintain a superficial commitment based on tradition or ceremonial systems. Faithfulness in giving is a heart response, Jesus wants us, not just our obedience.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, Your commandments and teachings are holy; teach us to obey You and to give our hearts to You first before we return our tithes and give our offerings. Amen.

# Local Church Offering

11  
FEB



John 12:8: “You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Ellen G. White says, “If we have prosperity in our secular business, it is because God blesses us. A part of this income is to be devoted to the poor, and a large portion to be applied to the cause of God.”

As Adventist Christians we are challenged to love our neighbours as ourselves it’s a real blessing to be able to contribute to mission in our local community by giving to God through His Church. Our local Church has been entrusted to care for the needs of the ‘neighbours’ in our community and our generosity is what drives this impact.

Ephesians 5:25 teaches that Jesus “loved the church and gave himself up for her.” As followers of Christ we are challenged to love the church as Jesus did and be generous as Jesus was, committing ourselves once more to the mission of the Church.

## APPEAL

As we return our tithes and give our offerings for outreach and church budget today, let us remember that wherever our money goes, there goes a part of our life! Hence, our giving becomes more meaningful. We are tangibly giving part of ourselves to God through the church.

## PRAYER

Loving Father, teach us to follow the example of our Savior. As we return Your tithe and give our offerings today, help us to remember that we are giving up a part of our lives, for where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. Amen.

18  
FEB

# Disaster & Famine Relief



In 2016, ADRA Australia raised \$335,000 for the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering. In 2017, we hope to raise \$350,000 to help support the immediate and long term relief efforts of ADRA Australia.

All funds raised through the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering go to ADRA Australia's Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund. This fund is used to provide training to disaster response personnel, to provide immediate response to disasters such as water, food and shelter, and to support the long-term emergency response to help communities to rebuild following a disaster.

ADRA Australia plays a vital role in communities across our nation that are affected by disaster. Through our generosity we are able to ensure that there are people on the ground in times of crisis who are ready and equipped to respond, the hands and feet of Jesus for those in need.

## APPEAL

Our faithfulness is a response to how God has pulled us from the disaster zone of this world and given us hope and peace. Through our faithful giving we have the opportunity to help provide peace and hope to those in crisis.

## PRAYER

Lord, you hear our prayer, you see our need, and you stand by us in times of crisis and disaster. Thank you for the way you work through ADRA Australia, may we also work to bring hope and peace to those around us. Amen.

# Local Church Offering

25  
FEB



James 1:17: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

Our lives are a gift to be returned lovingly and systematically to God. Luke 6:38 tells us to “give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Ellen G. White in Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 448, says, “In God’s kingdom there is a constant interchange— taking in, and giving out; receiving, and returning to the Lord His own.” She goes on to remind us in Counsels on Stewardship, p. 50, that “as you cooperate with Christ, your hand will open to impart still more. And God will refill your hand.... He will give to you that you may give to others.”

## APPEAL

We continually receive God’s blessings, and we are to continually give them away to make room for receiving more!

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for all the good gifts we receive from You. Help us to lovingly and systematically return them to You. Amen.



2 Corinthians 13:5: “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you unless, of course, you fail the test?”

Our attitudes and habits regarding money and possessions demonstrate to God our usefulness to Him and whether we can be trusted with riches eternally. They also reveal much to Him about each of us.

The rich young ruler of Matthew 19:16-22 wanted to be Christ’s disciple. It appeared as though he kept all the commandments. But his attitude toward wealth was wrong.

The attitude of every Christian regarding money and possessions should be based on these three important principles:

1. God owns and provides and should be first in everything.
2. God’s providence to me should benefit my household.
3. I should also share God’s blessings with the world.

## APPEAL

Ellen G. White in her book *Our High Calling*, p. 192, says, “Open your account book and see how your account stands with God, with your household, and with the world.”

## PRAYER

Lord, You own everything in heaven and on earth. Thank You for providing for us. Help us to put You first in all and to be a blessing to others. Amen.



Romans 10:14: “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

Adventist World Radio is filling a unique role on the front lines of church outreach. Radio waves carry the gospel to places where church workers would otherwise have a very difficult time entering ... and people are listening!

From North Africa and Sudan, to Bangladesh and China, people are hearing of God’s love for the first time through AWR’s programs, and they are responding with testimonies of transformed lives. One new believer in Ethiopia wrote:

“I found your station accidentally. After listening to your programs for the last two years, I started to go to church. My life is changing gradually. I would like to tell you that many people are listening to your programs. God bless you!”

## APPEAL

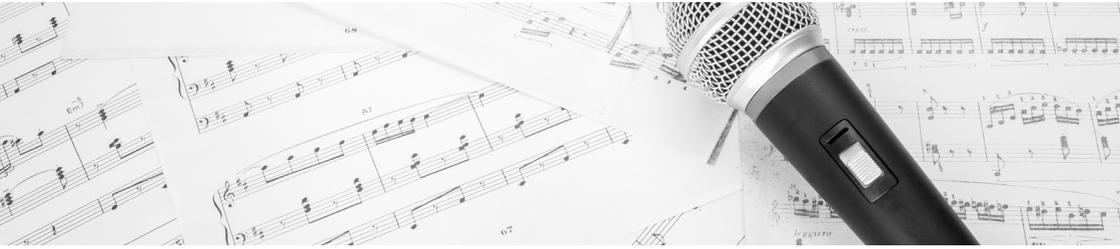
Adventist World Radio’s programs can be heard in more than 100 languages, through shortwave, local AM/FM radio, and podcasts. These broadcasts bypass harsh governments and hostile cultures, bringing hope directly into people’s homes and hearts. But there are still millions of listeners who cannot hear the message of salvation in a language they can understand. With your help, AWR can keep adding new languages and reach ever-further into untouched territories. We invite you today to partner with AWR in this vital ministry.

## PRAYER

Multiply our offerings today dear Lord for this cause. Amen.

18  
MAR

# Mission2Sydney



Here in the Greater Sydney Conference, Jesus is inspiring us with a big vision. He is calling us to join Him in His mission to continue to expand His kingdom. As we have reflected on how many people in Greater Sydney still need to hear the good news about Jesus, our vision has grown to include launching 15 new Seventh-day Adventist churches and community outreach centres right across Greater Sydney by 2020.

Our biggest mission field in Greater Sydney is the Eastern Seaboard. Over 1.4 million people live in this area along the coast, which is about one third of the population of Sydney. However, there are only 8 Adventist congregations with a total of 647 members in this region, which is only 7% of our entire membership. We'll be collecting a special offering today to help plant new churches on the Eastern Seaboard.

## APPEAL

Because there are so few Adventists in this area of Sydney, we are appealing to you to give generously to help plant these new churches. There are so many people along the Eastern Seaboard who desperately need Jesus as their Saviour and Friend. We invite you to give generously so that more people in our city will be able to hear the good news about Jesus.

## PRAYER

Dear God, we know that you have a heart for Sydney and especially the Eastern Seaboard. Take what we are offering this morning and multiply it for your glory, so that many may hear the good news about Jesus. Amen.

LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE. LEARN MORE.



Acts 20:35: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

John Wesley was preaching to a large congregation. There was a farmer sitting in the front row. Wesley began by saying: “Make all you can!” The farmer smiled; he agreed with that. The next point was: “Save all you can!” The farmer nodded approvingly. The third point was: “Give all you can!” A frown covered the farmer’s face. The preacher had gone too far (The Homiletic Review, vol. XLIII, Jan–Jun, 1902, p. 449). Most people see receiving as a blessing, but the Bible teaches that we are blessed when we give. Why?

1. Giving reflects the character of God. God is a giving God: “For God so loved the world that He gave...” (John 3:16).
2. Giving results in the giver being blessed: “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will himself be refreshed” (Proverbs 22:9).
3. Givers bring blessings to others. “Those who give to the poor will lack nothing” (Proverbs 28:27).

## APPEAL

There are two kinds of people in the world: givers and receivers. Which one are you? Be a giver and you’ll be blessed.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for Your excellent example of generosity. Help us to emulate You. Amen.

**01  
APR**

# Mountain View Adventist School Offering



Adventist Education has been impacting lives in Sydney for nearly 100 years and we are privileged to be able to contribute to the growing work of Adventist Education through our offerings.

This week's offering will be going towards Mountain View Adventist College's new prep centre project. The new Prep Centre will consist of two classrooms and an OSHC room. The new building will be replacing current demountable rooms that are being used. This is an exciting project for the school, as it will provide new facilities for Prep children and further enhances the educational services MVAC offers.

This building continues to solidify the Adventist Educational commitment we have to the Western suburbs of Sydney surrounding the Doonside area. Funds raised from your offering will be used to purchase play equipment (inside and outside), technology items and age appropriate toys. From everyone at Mountain View Adventist College, we thank you for your contribution and support in the mission of our Sydney Adventist Schools.

## **APPEAL**

The Bible tells us that it's more blessed to give than to receive and we have an opportunity to be a blessing to our schools in Sydney.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, be with the teachers and students at Mountain View Adventist Academy as they continue to grow and flourish under your leadership. Amen.

# World Mission Budget

08  
APR



Did you know that there are approximately 16,500 people groups in the world population of 7.4 billion? Did you know that 3.1 billion people in 6,700 of these people groups (or 42% of the world population) have almost no Christian presence? The World Mission Fund flows through the world divisions, helping support and strengthen mission outreach all over the globe. The effects of the generosity of congregations all over the world can be seen in building and sustaining mission activity in the Middle East, North Africa and Israel fields, the placement of 1,000 missionaries world-wide and supporting various institutions that continue to serve the world Church.

In recent years, millions of people from challenging areas of the world have found salvation in Jesus and have joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Thousands of new congregations have been established in new areas. Your mission offerings help start, sustain and grow new work throughout the world.

## APPEAL

Today we have a special opportunity to help share God's words of hope and love. Your help is appreciated. Thank you for supporting the World Mission Offerings in order to reach a world in need.

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for the privilege of knowing You. Accept our offerings of gratitude today and may their effect be multiplied in your mission field. Amen.

**15  
APR**

# Local Church Offering



2 Corinthians 9:7: “Each one of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Giving reflects the character of God. God is a giving God. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world that He gave...” He demonstrates His love with the action of giving. He gives continually; there is no ending to the list of things that God gives us. He gives not because of what He has, but because it is His nature to give. Our human nature is contrary to His. We want to receive. Giving is an act of love to the recipient. This is not something that we can manufacture for ourselves or force ourselves to do; it is a manifestation of God’s special work in our hearts. The closer we come to God, the more we reflect His nature. John Maxwell in his book *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*, teaches that giving is the highest level of living because we are like God when we give.

## **APPEAL**

Today we have an opportunity to reflect the character of God as we give. Decide today to partner with God and become a giver.

## **PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, we thank You this morning that You gave and that You continue to give. Help us to become givers too. Amen.



In Greater Sydney Conference we have 6 Adventist Schools that make up our Education System. A high percentage of those who attend our Adventist Schools are from non-Adventist homes. Jesus words in John 4:35 says “open your eyes and look at the field. They are ripe for Harvest.” Our Adventist Schools are a field waiting to be harvested. What better place to harvest then a school where non-christian parents are happy to have their child in attendance to learn Maths, English, Science and Bible as well as hear the gospel message on a daily basis. Todays offering will help to resource and provide opportunities for outreach in our schools through friendship evangelism, parenting workshops, Beyond DVD’s, relationship building of parenting networks and the like.

## APPEAL

School Evangelism through your offering will grow and nurture parents and students to grow them into God’s Kingdom and church here on earth. We have an opportunity today to contribute to the evangelistic work that God is doing in our schools and ensure more people come into a knowledge of Jesus.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the way you are working evangelistically in our schools, may Adventist education continue to be a beacon in our communities. Amen.

29  
APR

# Local Church Offering



Matthew 6:24: “You cannot serve both God and money.”

Placing our security in possessions rather than in God is a dangerous business. Money can quickly become our security in life, we become dependent and it can easily distract us from God. No wonder Jesus warned that we need to serve one or the other.

Either God or money will occupy the supreme place in our lives. God’s desire is that we find our sense of security in Him alone. However, our human tendency is to feel secure only when we feel that we have enough money or material possessions. When we try to find security in material things, we will always be disappointed. Countless people throughout history have tried it and discovered in the end that money doesn’t satisfy the deepest needs in the heart. That is why Solomon could say in Ecclesiastes 5:10, “Whoever loves money is never satisfied with their income.” He also said in Proverbs 11:28, “Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.”

## APPEAL

Let us not place our security in possessions but in God. “You cannot serve both God and money” (Matthew 6:24). God or money will occupy the supreme place in our lives.

## PRAYER

Lord, in plenty and in little, help us to put our trust in You. Amen.

# Record

the official news magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Did you pick up your copy of The Record today? The Adventist Record is the official news and lifestyle magazine for the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Providing roughly 24,000 copies to Adventist church members in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, Adventist Record has been bringing you the latest news about Adventism in the South Pacific for nearly 120 years!

The Record offering goes to help fund the production and distribution of the Record magazine. While the vast majority of the funding comes from the SPD the offering is an important contributor to the funding needed to get these magazines into local Churches every fortnight.

## APPEAL

Our generosity this morning will help contribute to the continued publishing of the magazine and maintenance of the website.

## PRAYER

Lord continue to bless and guide the ministry of the Record in the South Pacific Division. May it continue to inspire many congregations in our mission field about the work that you are doing. Amen.

**13  
MAY**

# Local Church Offering



Psalm 24:1, 2: “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it on the waters.”

In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus taught that God owns everything that we have. He entrusts possessions to us for a time to bring about an increase. Luke’s Gospel further teaches that our role is that of a steward, or manager, who takes care of the owner’s possessions on behalf of the owner. The steward should always handle the possessions with the goal of doing whatever the owner desires to be done, in anticipation of the owner’s return. He asks himself/herself, “What does the owner want? How would He use this resource?”

When we begin to see the things we have as God’s but entrusted to us for a time, we will begin to approach life from a totally different perspective.

## APPEAL

The realization that we are stewards of God’s possessions is a big step toward faithfulness. It shifts our goal from getting rich to desiring to glorify God with whatever we have.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to be more faithful as managers of what You have entrusted to us. Teach us to begin to value the things that You value. Amen.

# South Pacific Division Strategy: Comprehensive Health Ministry

20  
MAY



Stewardship is about offering all that we have been blessed with in service to God. Not just our money but every aspect of our lives for God's glory. Our health focus as a Church is about sharing a message of wholeness in every part of our lives. Your generosity today will support the health work of the Church by contributing to the development and distribution of health resources in the South Pacific Division. Some of these health resources will be used in Health Expos across the division. In 2017 the Papa New Guinea Union Mission is planning to conduct 10 major health expos in each of the local missions across PNG. Resources and equipment required would include health banners and leaflets, scales, stethoscopes, blood pressure machines and many other medical resources. We have an excellent opportunity to use what we have to be a part of seeing the Health work advance in our sister unions and missions. Last year this offering helped fund the development of the new "Forgive to Live" resource series that will be made available to local churches very soon. The "Forgive to Live" series is a follow up program to CHIP that is more spirituality based, which we hope can lead connecting CHIP participants to spiritual truths.

## APPEAL

The faithfulness of members in our local congregations are making a huge impact in the lives of many people across our Division. Many un-entered areas have now been entered as a direct result of our health work. This mode of ministry is effective and powerful and needs continued support.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you that we are part of a worldwide Church movement, that we have the opportunity to have an impact not just in Australia but across the division as well. May many come to live happier and healthier lives because of the health work that happens in our Church. Amen.

27  
MAY

# Wahroonga Adventist School Offering



This week's offering will be going towards Wahroonga Adventist School's chosen offering project for the year. As many of you may know, Wahroonga Adventist School is currently in process of expanding to a full P-12 school and building a new campus to meet this growth. When some students were asked about what they most look forward to about the new campus, here is what some of them said:

"I'm looking forward to the new D&T room, and a bigger cafeteria."

"I can't wait to meet all the new teachers, and having more class options."

"I hope there is a lift in the new building, because I'm pretty bad at walking up stairs."

While not all of these things may happen, such as a lift to avoid stairs, it's exciting to think about the opportunities this new campus will bring.

## APPEAL

This week your generosity will contribute to the growth of Wahroonga's new campus and ensuring our schools, our kids, and the faculty of our Adventist schools have the facilities they need to continue advancing and furthering quality Christian education here in Greater Sydney. Thank you so much for your support.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you that we are expanding and growing by your grace. Be with the teachers, students and administrators at Wahroonga Adventist School, may many more students and families encounter you because of the work of our Adventist schools.



1 Samuel 16:7: The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

To value riches more than character is one’s worst choice. The world usually judges people by the quantity of their wealth and not the quality of their heart. God, on the other hand, judges us not by our wealth but by our character. How do we judge ourselves? How do we judge others? What do we pray for when we pray for ourselves our wants, needs, desires or the development of character? When one starts thinking more about what one has than who one is, one is valuing riches more than character.

Proverbs 3:13-16 says, “Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour.”

## APPEAL

Wisdom is better than riches. May we be challenged to value heart quality over wealth quantity as we worship God through giving today!

## PRAYER

Lord, please give us wisdom. Amen.

**10  
JUN**

# Pacific Adventist University



This is an exciting time to be associated with Pacific Adventist University. Our university is on the verge of the biggest transformation since starting operations in 1983. To meet the ever growing demand for quality Christian tertiary education across the Pacific, we are focused on growth over the next five years. This growth will not only come in the form of increased enrolment, but also in further development of our spiritual programs, our academic offerings, our research and our service to the community.

One thing that is not changing as we grow is our commitment to our vision, mission and core values. We will continue to prepare graduates who are equipped and willing to serve their community, their country, their church and their God.

## APPEAL

Now is the time to participate in the action! Through our generosity this morning we can help Pacific Adventist University grow academically, spiritually and in their service to the community.

## PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your continued work in our Universities. Lead and guide our lecturers and administrators as they impact young lives for you and be a light in the Pacific. Amen.

# Local Church Offering

17  
JUN



Matthew 6:19: “Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”

On his way to New York City to seek his fortune, William Colgate met a godly canal-boat captain who defined success in the following terms: “Be a good man, give your heart to Jesus, pay to God all that belongs to Him.” When he established a business, Colgate remembered that advice. He gave to God one tenth of the first dollar he earned and ever afterward he considered ten cents of every dollar as sacred to the Lord. As the Colgate business increased, so did the man’s generosity. Eventually, he would regularly give over half of his income to religious work. His success story is attributed to his faithfulness in returning tithe and devoting a percentage of his income to God’s work. He was generous in all things. He invested in God’s work before material things.

William Colgate took on the challenge in Malachi 3:10 and found that the floodgates of heaven were indeed opened. He found that tithing was the investment of a lifetime ([www.nairaland.com/1456683/successs-stories-tithers-add-](http://www.nairaland.com/1456683/successs-stories-tithers-add-), accessed 8/29/16).

## APPEAL

Let us respond faithfully to God’s instructions in Malachi 3:10.

## PRAYER

Thank You, Father, for Your abundant generosity. Help us to share in the joy of generosity and be faithful stewards. Amen.

24  
JUN

# Macarthur Adventist College Offering



Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Our schools do an incredible work in training up our young people, not just educational training but spiritual training as well.

This week’s offering will be going towards Macarthur Adventist College. A new building for the arts has been completed as the school continues to expand and improve their facilities. Your offering will help the college obtain the necessary resources for their new building for their art programs, music classes, design and technology courses, and expand their opportunities to learn more in these areas.

## APPEAL

Thank you so much for your generous contributions, and continuing the education of our youth. Without our continued support many of our schools would be under resourced and their ability to continue to train our young people diminished.

## PRAYER

Thank you Lord for the teachers and administrators who faithfully train up our young people, we ask that you continue to work with Macarthur Adventist College as they serve you through the ministry of teaching. Amen.

# Local Church Offering

01  
JUL



1 Kings 17:15, 16: “She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.”

The story of the widow of Zarephath teaches us many lessons about the blessings of faithful stewardship. The Master in His powerful sermon cited her exemplary faithfulness, which is worthy of emulation! “I assure you that there were many widows in Israel. . . . Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon” (Luke 4:25, 26). The fact that this peculiar woman was not even an Israelite and thus ignorant about all the oracles of God makes her faithfulness stand tall in the faith honor roll. It is for that reason that Jesus singled her out as an object lesson of faithfulness. We must note that God did not send Elijah to those with means, but to a poor widow. This should be a rebuke to us who excuse our refusal to give to the cause of God on the basis that we are in dire economic straits.

## APPEAL

Like the widow of Zarephath, God will bless us in ways that transcend our imagination if we make Him first in our lives and Lord of our possessions.

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to be faithful regardless of our financial situation. Amen.

08  
JUL

# World Mission Budget



The work of Adventist World Mission has introduced millions to the love of Jesus and is growing the Adventist Church. Thousands of new congregations have been established in challenging areas around the world. Adventist Mission also needs your generous giving to continue the work of supporting and nurturing these new believers through resourcing them with materials and programs that will strengthen their faith and help them grow as disciples.

Offerings given for the World Mission Budget go to support many frontline mission projects including projects in the Middle East North Africa Union and the Israel Field - two challenging areas that need our help in building, maintaining and supporting mission activities to the many people who don't yet know Jesus.

Your offerings have helped place over 1000 missionaries in the field, and with your giving you support their work and add to their number.

## APPEAL

What an incredible blessing to know that what we faithfully contribute today, God will use to Advance his mission in some of the most challenging fields across the globe!

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, we pray for all those in these fields who don't yet know Jesus, may what we contribute to day support the work of bringing salvation to those all over the world. Amen.

LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE. LEARN MORE.



Deuteronomy 10:14: “To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.” Psalm 24:1 similarly says, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”

The Bible reveals specific items that God owns. Leviticus 25:23 identifies Him as the Owner of all land. Haggai 2:8 says He owns the precious metals: “The silver is mine and the gold is mine, says the Lord Almighty”; and Psalm 50:10-12 tells us, “For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it.”

The Lord owns all things, knows all things and even amidst all the chaos in this world we know that He is still in control! Nothing takes Him by surprise! He will make all things right. What an awesome God we serve!

## APPEAL

Our offerings today affirm that God is indeed the Creator and owner of this earth and Lord of our lives.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise you as Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer of this earth and look forward to the day when all will be made new. Amen.

22  
JUL

# Union Global Partnership Project



Approximately every decade, the General Conference invites established Unions to partner in supporting the mission work in developing mission fields. The Australian Union Conference is partnering to support the mission work in Laos and Timor-Leste (East Timor), similar to what has been accomplished in the Global Mission partnership with Mongolia over the last 10 years.

Timor-Leste is a country adjoining Indonesia with just over 1.2 million people facing significant issues in the areas of health, sanitation, education and human trafficking. While religious freedom is upheld in the constitution, the country is 97% catholic with reports of religious freedom issues and harassment against the 3% mainly protestant minorities.

The Union Global Partnership offering will provide funds for outreach initiatives and events in partnership with the local missions of these countries. Teams of volunteers from Australia will travel to Laos and Timor-Leste and provide much needed support; training and community services to further the Gospel Mission in these largely unworked territories.

## APPEAL

Our faithful generosity today will help advance God's work in these challenging mission fields allowing us to have "boots on the ground" and a broader impact.

## PRAYER

Thank you Lord for people who are committed to using what you have entrusted them with to fund your work in countries that have great need. May many come into a saving relationship with you as a result of those who faithfully answer the call to give this morning. Amen.

LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE. LEARN MORE.



John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Because God loved, He gave. His giving is motivated by love, and this should also form the basis of our attitude in giving. An attitude of love in giving is of paramount importance. “If I give all I possess to the poor... but do not have love, I gain nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:3). If I give without love, it will not benefit the giver whatsoever.

When we give, we must give out of a heart filled with love, and by doing so we recognize that our gifts, though given for the benefit of people, are actually given to the Lord Himself. When we return tithe and give freewill offerings to the Lord motivated by love, then the giving becomes an act of worship. Ellen G. White in *Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 18, 19, says, “ ‘All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.’ Yet God permits us to show our appreciation of His mercies by self-sacrificing efforts to extend the same to others. This is the only way in which it is possible for us to manifest our gratitude and love to God. He has provided no other.”

## APPEAL

This morning we have an opportunity to express our love for God and worship Him by bringing our gifts to Him in a response of love.

## PRAYER

Lord, help us to be motivated to generosity because of our love for you. Amen.

**05  
AUG**

# Education Offering



Throughout the Adventist school system, we support and encourage the needs of every individual (regardless of religious or cultural background) and have an emphasis on caring for all aspects of a child's development and growth.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates 5,846 schools worldwide with a total enrolment of over 1 million students. Across Australia we administer 58 Adventist schools catering for over 12,000 students. This network of experience and care enables us to provide students with education of the highest quality in an ideal environment for them to learn and grow academically, and as a person.

At the heart of Adventist education is a belief that children achieve true growth when their mental, physical and spiritual needs are met. With a focus on personal attention to students, our independent schools provide a nurturing and caring learning environment where Christian values are upheld.

## APPEAL

Your generosity today will contribute to the work of Adventist Education across Sydney. Our education system is having eternal impact on many young lives and it's such a blessing to be able to support that work with our offerings.

## PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the work of our education system as it continues to reach young lives for you. Amen.

# South Pacific Division Strategy: Media Evangelism

12  
AUG



The world is changing, and the way we reach the world with the Gospel needs to change as well. The offering we collect today will be used as part of the South Pacific Divisions media evangelism strategy to help fund the use of social media and other new media technologies.

In previous years the generosity of Church members has been used to support the ongoing Signs magazine ministry and the creation of a new web platform that now includes local Church websites and an online directory of all Adventist entities.

## APPEAL

In 2017 our online presence has become just as important as our physical one. Your generosity this morning will help contribute to media related evangelism, enabling more people to hear about Jesus through various media outlets.

## PRAYER

Dear God, may we continue to come up with new ways to help others hear about the hope and peace that comes from Jesus. Amen.

19  
AUG

# Local Church Offering



Luke 5:16: “But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”

To accomplish what God wants us to, like Jesus we need to be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. Just as a GPS can help us locate a street or address in a big city or town, God’s spirit can lead and guide us like a supernatural GPS. The Holy Spirit can help us follow the route God has planned for our lives.

It is, therefore, important for us to learn to be more sensitive to God’s Spirit. And this is possible if we spend time in getting better acquainted with our heavenly Father through His Word and in prayer.

The more we study God’s Word, the more we can get to know what our heavenly Father is like and what His will is. Also, the more time we spend meditating on His Word and in prayer - communing with the Lord – the better we will be able to hear His voice.

## APPEAL

Let us be good stewards of the time with which the Lord has entrusted us. In our busy schedules we desperately need to make room for staying aware of God’s Spirit. We need to hear His voice.

## PRAYER

Lord, baptize us with Your Holy Spirit and keep us close to You so that we can carry out Your will. Amen.



Over the last 8 years, Faith FM has rapidly expanded around Australia with the potential to reach more than 5 million people 24/7 with the hope of salvation and Jesus' soon return. During this time, numerous people have walked into Adventist churches asking for Bible studies and baptism, thousands have requested free faith-building resources and tens of thousands have and continue to tune in daily.

While media and technology continue to change rapidly, radio remains a favourite entertainment platform around Australia due to its easy access in the car, at work or the backyard. Faith FM can be heard on more than 120 stations around the country from metropolitan cities right down to remote communities and even islands. In addition, Faith FM empowers local churches to produce and broadcast local content in their own communities.

## APPEAL

Today's offering contributes to the work of Faith FM by providing support for expanding network reach, empowering local church content production and promoting and marketing the station to the wider community.

## PRAYER

Thank you God for the many different ways that we can reach people and share a message of hope. Please continue to bless Faith FM and use it to bring many people into a saving relationship with you. Amen.

02  
SEP

# Local Church Offering



Jeremiah 29:11: “ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ ”

The most important thing in our lives is to follow God’s plan. When Abraham was 75 years old, God told him to leave his country – the land of his fathers – and wouldn’t even tell him where he was supposed to go! God said to him, “Go ... to the land I will show you” (Genesis 12:1).

Abraham didn’t question God. He just loaded up all of his belongings, took his family and started out on a journey to follow God’s plan.

What a great example in the history of humanity of someone who trusted the Lord so much that he committed himself to God’s plan, even though he had no idea where God’s plan was taking him.

1 Corinthians 2:9 says, “ ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’ – the things God has prepared for those who love Him.”

## APPEAL

God has many wonderful plans for our lives because He loves us. Let us trust and obey Him; His plan is best. Do not give up on God’s plan for your life.

## PRAYER

Father, thank You so much for all Your plans for us. Help us to trust You with our lives and possessions and circumstances. Amen.

# Annual Sacrifice: Global Mission

09  
SEP



The Annual Sacrifice Offering was created out of a desperate situation in the early 1920s. The Seventh-day Adventist Church faced an urgent threat. Exciting new opportunities were opening up around the world. But in the post-World War I economic slump, the General Conference budget was a quarter of a million dollars short. Missionaries were at risk of being recalled.

This problem eclipsed all others for delegates to the 1922 General Conference Autumn Council. They met and prayed. Finally, they adopted a plan to ask church members to sacrifice one week's wage in an annual offering. Despite the depressed financial climate, the denomination's 208,771 members rallied, and gave one third of a million dollars. 100 per cent of this offering goes to frontline Global Mission work to establish new churches in unentered areas, and among new people groups.

Global Mission financially supports thousands of locally initiated church plants around the world. It also operates six Global Mission Centers, which have the responsibility of helping divisions more effectively understand, build bridges to, contextualize the message, and start new groups among people from other world views.

In addition, Global Mission supports the establishment of Urban Centers of Influence around the world, putting Christ's Method of Ministry into practice, and starting new groups of believers.

## APPEAL

Your contributions to the Annual Sacrifice Offering help make all the above possible. It's really a huge blessing to know that we can help support the advancement of the Gospel into previously un-entered territories!

## PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, take this offering and use it for your glory, that many more will hear the Gospel for the first time. Amen.

**16  
SEP**

# Hurstville Adventist School Offering



In the southern suburbs of Sydney, Hurstville Adventist School provides Adventist education to over 175 students from Pre-Kindy to Year 6. The school has been blessed with a community that continues to share their experience and gratification for the school and its faculty. This is evident in the school operating at or near capacity for the past three years.

One of the projects the school is currently working on is upgrading their outdoor playground facilities; particularly the astro turf on the school grounds. Support from the Greater Sydney Adventist churches allow Hurstville Adventist School to continue their mission of offering quality education in a caring, supportive Christ-centred environment.

## **APPEAL**

Today we have the opportunity of supporting Hurstville Adventist School as they continue to provide a Christ-centred environment of care and support.

## **PRAYER**

Lord, be with the students and teachers of Hurstville Adventist School as we faithful return our offering and they faithful give their time and energy to bring light into the Hurstville area. Amen.



Isaiah 1:19: “If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land” (NKJV).

Abraham made a commitment that few of us will ever have to make. Genesis 22 relates that after God had given Abraham and Sarah their promised son, Isaac, the Lord told Abraham to take his only son, Isaac, and offer him to God as a sacrifice.

The Bible reveals that Abraham didn't even hesitate to obey the Lord. He took his son Isaac to mount Moriah, where God had told him to make the sacrifice. It must have torn a hole in Abraham's heart when Isaac asked him, “Father ... where is the lamb...?” (v. 7). But Abraham spoke words of faith when he said that God would provide Himself a lamb. When he was ready to make his sacrifice, all of a sudden the angel of the Lord called out to him and said, “Don't lay a hand on the boy!” (v. 12). Then God provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice.

Note that when Abraham was willing to give God his all, God didn't require it. God required only a commitment to Him and a willingness to obey.

## APPEAL

Have you made a commitment to obey God? Remember that if we trust and obey Him, we shall eat the good of the Land.

## PRAYER

Our Father, help us to trust and obey You. May we be willing to sacrifice our all to You! Amen.

30  
SEP

# Local Church Offering



Malachi 3:10: “ ‘Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough to store it.’ ”

God encourages His faithful followers to return their whole tithe, an honest tenth, into God’s storehouse (the local church), rather than give it elsewhere, so that He can bless them. Gifts to ministries other than the local church should not be above the tithe in our giving priorities.

Tithe is not some kind of bribe whereby we can receive certain things from above; neither does God need our contributions in order to keep His store of blessings from us running low.

God wants very much to bless all of us in every way, but He cannot bless selfishness. He will not reinforce stingy habits. Above all, our God wants us to experience the joy of generosity. But He has an objective for the tithe and offerings, and that is having them come into the storehouse. By setting aside a tenth of all our profit and giving generous offerings, we affirm God’s lordship in our lives and His wisdom in funding His mission on earth through His church.

## APPEAL

Today as we return God’s tithe and give our freewill offerings, let’s hear the voice of the Lord calling out through Malachi 3:10 as we fill the storehouse faithfully.

## PRAYER

Lord, thank You for providing a means for fulfilling Your mission on earth. May we take care of the storehouse! Amen.

# ADRA Appeal Expense (Retained by Conferences)

07  
OCT



Luke 21:11: There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

We know that the hardships faced today are signs of Jesus' soon return. By our offerings today we can serve our neighbors: our brothers and sisters around the world who are facing these disasters, who are suffering in crisis, and whose lives are being threatened by famine. Many of us wait until a disaster strikes or until lives are being lost before making a contribution to emergency work. It is a fact, however, that acting in preparation saves more lives, and giving in advance makes that preparation go further. Every U.S. dollar given in emergency preparation is worth \$7 in emergency response.

Today's disaster and famine relief offering supports the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Adventist Community Services (ACS), the humanitarian arms of our church around the world and in the United States.

## APPEAL

Our contributions this morning will change lives in the very worst of circumstances. Our support of ADRA and ACS is more than money – it is shelter, clean water, emergency food, protection, a lifeline. Our support is God's love in action.

## PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank You for the privilege of supporting the relief work around the world. Bless those who are delivering the aid. Amen.

14  
OCT

# Local Church Offering



John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

God loves us and wants us to know Him and experience a meaningful life. He created us in His own image, and He desires an intimate relationship with each one of us. Our heavenly Father watches us with eyes of love and affection. He cares for us too deeply to have stayed in heaven, looking down on us watching us fall and fail. Instead, He came down out of heaven into this sinful world in the person of His precious Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

Ellen G. White reminds us that “we belong to God; we are His sons and daughters.. His by creation and His by the gift of His only-begotten Son for our redemption.... The mind, the heart, the will, and the affections belong to God; the money that we handle is the Lord’s” (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 72).

## APPEAL

Let us remember that we are His, that we are loved, and that He has entrusted us with means in order to show His love to the world.

## PRAYER

Thank you Father, for your love to us. Help us to demonstrate that love to others. Amen.

# Hills Adventist College Offering

21  
OCT



Hills Adventist College is located in one of the fastest growing areas of Sydney. The Hills District - particularly Kellyville and its surrounding suburbs - is experiencing a boom; consequently the College is facing the enormous task of attracting and providing for new families who are moving to the area. God has blessed the College, which now operates a dual campus Pre-School to Year 12 program, and in 2017 will have a student population of over 650 students from Pre-school to Year 12.

The College is in the midst of a major building program, as the Kellyville campus is developed, providing for continuing student growth. 2018 sees the introduction of Kindy at the Kellyville campus which is the next major step in the development of the Kellyville campus as it provides families with the option of choosing their most convenient location for Kindy - either the Castle Hill or Kellyville campus.

Hills is committed to ministering to families in the North-West of Sydney and partners with the surrounding churches to deliver a wholistic sense of community and to provide families with a real experience in Christian schooling and care. We work hard to embody our vision statement: Nurture for today; Learning for tomorrow; Character for eternity.

## APPEAL

Adventist Education has the ability to present a picture of Jesus in homes that may otherwise be unreachable. Our giving this morning can help impact students from all different backgrounds all over Sydney.

## PRAYER

Thank you Jesus for our Schools, mission fields in their own right and beacons of hope, peace and love in our communities. Bless the teachers, staff and students of Hills Adventist College and multiply what we give so it can be a blessing for them. Amen.

28  
OCT

# Local Church Offering



Proverbs 11:24, 25: “One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.”

Some people believe and teach that returning tithe and giving freewill offerings and gifts results in only spiritual blessings. Others believe and teach that “you give to get!”

When we give, we should do so with a sense of expectancy that the Lord will provide a material sustenance or increase. What we never know is when or how the Lord may choose to provide this increase.

Ellen G. White in Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 240, says, “When Christians are controlled by the principles of heaven, they will dispense with one hand while the other gains. This is the only rational and healthy position a Christian can occupy while having and still making money.”

## APPEAL

Let us cheerfully and willfully return God’s tithe and give our freewill offerings anticipating that the Lord will provide both spiritual and material increase. Let us focus on our giving and trust the Lord with our receiving.

## PRAYER

Lord, accept Your tithe and our offerings and gifts that we bring to You today with a glad heart. Amen.

# Local Church Offering

04  
NOV



Jeremiah 29:11: “ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ ”

The most important thing in our lives is to follow God’s plan. When Abraham was 75 years old, God told him to leave his country, the land of his fathers, and wouldn’t even tell him where he was supposed to go! God said to him, “Go . . . to the land I will show you” (Genesis 12:1). Abraham didn’t question God. He just loaded up all of his belongings, took his family and started out on a journey to follow God’s plan.

What a great example in the history of humanity of someone who trusted the Lord so much that he committed himself to God’s plan, even though he had no idea where God’s plan was taking him. 1 Corinthians 2:9 says, “ ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’—the things God has prepared for those who love Him.”

## APPEAL

God has many wonderful plans for our lives because He loves us. Let us trust and obey Him; His plan is best. Do not give up on God’s plan for your life.

## PRAYER

Father, thank You so much for all Your plans for us. Help us to trust You with our lives and possessions and circumstances. Amen.

**11  
NOV**

# World Mission Budget

## Unusual Opportunities



2 Corinthians 9:2: “For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action.”

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

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

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

### APPEAL

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

### PRAYER

Dear Lord, may we follow the example of the early church Christians and give sacrificially to support the gospel mission. Amen.

**LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE. LEARN MORE.**

# Local Church Offering

18  
NOV



2 Corinthians 8:2-5: “In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.”

The Bible tells us that the Macedonians were in severe trials, in extreme poverty, and were new in the faith as compared to the believers in Jerusalem, where the gospel was first preached.

When a need arose in Jerusalem and the believers there needed help, the Macedonians, on their own without being asked, contributed and sent help. Even after the apostle Paul tried to stop them from giving they pleaded to have a part in the privilege of sharing.

Take note that their love for Jesus motivated them to give beyond their means. They first gave themselves to the Lord and the Lord filled their hearts with love and joy; then they gave out of willing hearts, not under pressure or compulsion.

## APPEAL

When we return God’s tithe and give our freewill offerings, let us first give our hearts with love and joy, and then give of our means willingly and cheerfully.

## PRAYER

Lord, we give ourselves unreservedly first to You, then we return Your tithes and give our freewill offerings. Amen.

**25  
NOV**

# Sydney Adventist School Auburn Offering



Sydney Adventist School Auburn started in July 1917 at the back of the Auburn Seventh-Day Adventist Church. This year the school is celebrating 100 years of commitment to Adventist education in its community and across Greater Sydney. Sydney Adventist School Auburn's surrounds provide a culturally diverse community and school family to engage, interact, and grow with. The school has grown from its humble beginnings of a one teacher and 27-student school to nearly 150 students in its Prep-Year 6 campus.

The continued support of from the Greater Sydney Conference has allowed for this growth and commitment to Adventist education to be fruitful over the last 100 years.

## **APPEAL**

Today we get a chance to contribute to the work of Auburn Adventist School through our offerings. Our contributions will help to see many more students and teachers impacted through the work of Auburn.

## **PRAYER**

Father, thank you that we can celebrate 100 years of Auburn Adventist School. Please continue to lead and guide the teachers as they nurture young people in the Auburn area and share your light with those around them. Amen.

# Local Church Offering

02  
DEC



Mark 12:41-43: “Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said ‘Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.’ ”

Notice that this poor widow gave all she had left with which to live on. She loved the Lord so much that instead of satisfying her human need, she longed to see the Lord’s work progress. Jesus did not try to stop her from giving because she was poor! He knew that giving brings its own blessing to the giver.

Even though the amount of money she put in was just a fraction of a cent, she had done better than the theatrical rich givers who poured in sacks of money to be seen by all.

## APPEAL

As we return God’s tithe and give our freewill offerings today, let us remember that in the sight of Heaven, it is not really the size of a gift that counts but the motive that prompts it.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to return Your tithe and give our freewill offerings prompted by Your love. Amen.

09  
DEC

# South Pacific Division Strategy: Mission to the Cities



The Mission to the Cities offering, is to be used within the South Pacific Division to help reach our cities that are over 1 million in population with the gospel of Jesus Christ and His message for these last days.

This offering will fund initiatives that are specifically based on what Ellen White called Christ's Method. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow.'" MH143

## APPEAL

Our cities are in desperate need of the Gospel. Your generosity today will help further the work in some of the biggest cities within the South Pacific Division. It's such a blessing to know that we can share what God has given us to draw many into a saving relationship with Him.

## PRAYER

Lord we pray for the cities in the South Pacific Division, we pray for wisdom and guidance as we try to reach more people for you. Amen.



1 Peter 5:10: “And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

Jobs story is one of hardship, loss and deep struggle. The Bible portrays him as a man of upright character who loves God and is very wealthy. Yet God in His infinite wisdom allows Satan to assault him by destroying his flocks, material possessions, his children and his own health. Through these experiences, Satan intended to drive a wedge between Job and his God, by getting Job to believe that God was not just and good. Job’s life, however, was not built on material possessions but on God; hence, Job refused to give up on God, even though he did not understand why these things were happening to him. Because of his integrity, the Lord blessed the latter part of his life more than the first by giving him double of what he had lost. We, too, must trust God even when we do not understand the difficult situations we face. Even amidst the hardship, loss and struggle we can learn to rely on God.

## APPEAL

Let’s not allow anything to drive a wedge between us and God. Let us remain faithful in all situations and continue to trust Him.

## PRAYER

Lord, thank You for all you’ve done for us. Help us to remain firmly committed and faithful to You no matter what life brings. Amen.

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# Fund for Needy Persons



Matthew 25:40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

God calls us to treat those in need as though they were Jesus Himself. Fund for Needy is a tax-deductible charity of the Greater Sydney Conference. Its aim is to help desperately poor people recover from a crisis - to help them back on their feet so they can be independent again.

Typically funds are spent on the accommodation of abused single mothers and their children - to keep them from sleeping rough.

## APPEAL

We want to thank you sincerely for supporting Fund for Needy as it is only through your generosity that many people can have a roof over their head.

## PRAYER

Lord, we think of those who are in need in our community, make us aware of the need and help us to faithful give and support those who are struggling to support themselves. Amen.



Psalm 8:6: “You made them ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.”

As stewards, our responsibility involves the care and management of our entire lives and of the earth God created. We are to properly take care of and use our body temple, time, abilities and possessions for the glory of God and to advance the Lord’s work.

Ellen G. White makes a profound statement in Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 475: “When they shall arouse and lay their prayers, their wealth, and all their energies and resources at the feet of Jesus, the cause of truth will triumph.” The Lord has brought us safely through another year. We are grateful for His mercies. We know that we are one year closer to His return, and we believe that Jesus is coming soon. Let us lay our prayers, wealth, energies and resources at the feet of Jesus, so that many more can come into a saving relationship with Him.

## APPEAL

As we begin the new year of 2018, let us purpose to be good stewards for Jesus in every way as we eagerly look forward to the coming of our Lord and Saviour.

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to be faithful stewards, so that many more can come into a saving relationship with you. Amen.







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