



# 2019 OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Church Leaders,

Thank you for your willingness to share the offering appeals with your local congregation. It is a wonderful and gratifying responsibility. How you present these readings could determine how effective they are. Here are some suggestions you may want to consider before you share:

**Pray:** Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that God will use your words to speak to the hearts of the congregation.

**Practice:** Read over the appeal at least three times to familiarize yourself with it. Find key words (underline or highlight them) to emphasize throughout the reading. Strive to share these readings with excellence.

**Preparation:** There may be times when other materials are sent to your local church to distribute or present along with the appeal. Please use them accordingly, and determine how they can be used most effectively.

**Present With Passion:** Read slowly and clearly. It is an amazing responsibility to lead out the worship in giving. Fill your heart with the thoughts presented, and God will do the rest.

For more information, any videos or graphics for specific offerings make sure to check [disciple.org.au](http://disciple.org.au) or Sydney. [adventist/stewardship](#)

May God richly bless you and speak through you as we take this journey together in 2019.

Lyndelle Peterson  
Director of Sabbath School & Stewardship

## **JANUARY**

- 5 Local Budget
- 12 Local Budget
- 19 Education Budget
- 26 SPD Strategy: Discipleship of Adventist Youth

## **FEBRUARY**

- 2 Local Budget
- 9 Local Budget
- 16 Disaster & Famine Relief: Administered by Union
- 23 Local Budget

## **MARCH**

- 2 School Evangelism
- 9 GC Adventist World Radio
- 16 Local Budget
- 23 Auburn School Scholarships
- 30 Local Budget

## **APRIL**

- 6 Local Budget
- 13 Hope Channel
- 20 Local Budget
- 27 Local Budget

## **MAY**

- 4 South Pacific Record
- 11 Local Budget
- 18 SPD Strategy: Comprehensive Health Ministry
- 25 Wahroonga School Scholarship

## **JUNE**

- 1 Local Budget
- 8 Pacific Adventist University
- 15 Local Budget
- 22 Macarthur School Scholarship
- 29 Local Budget

## **JULY**

- 6 Local Budget
- 13 World Mission Budget
- 20 Local Budget
- 27 Union Global Partnership Project: Timor-Leste & Laos

## **AUGUST**

- 3 Local Budget
- 10 SPD Strategy: Comprehensive Media Evangelism
- 17 Local Budget
- 24 Union Offering: Digital Media
- 31 Hurstville School Scholarships

## **SEPTEMBER**

- 7 Local Budget
- 14 Annual Sacrifice: Unusual Opportunities
- 21 Hills School Scholarships
- 28 Local Budget

## **OCTOBER**

- 5 ADRA Project within Australia
- 12 Local Budget
- 19 MVAC School Scholarships
- 26 Local Budget

## **NOVEMBER**

- 2 Local Budget
- 9 World Mission Budget: Unusual Opportunities
- 16 Local Budget
- 23 School Evangelism
- 30 Local Budget

## **DECEMBER**

- 7 SPD Strategy: Mission to the Cities
- 14 Local Budget
- 21 Fund for Needy
- 28 Local Budget

# Local Budget



“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV)

The New Year is always a great opportunity to reflect on the way God has faithfully provided for us. We are blessed with new opportunities for ministry, new opportunities to share Jesus and new opportunities to serve Him.

But a New Year also comes with its challenges. Can we trust God to provide for us? Can we trust God amidst continuing health problems, sickness or family challenges? Sometimes the year may start fresh but our problems and struggles carry over.

Jeremiah talks about the blessing of those who trust in God. He likens this trust to trees that are planted by water, not fearing drought, heat or that they won't bear fruit, because they are rooted in good soil by fresh streams. In the same way, those who are firmly planted in Jesus have nothing to fear.

**05**  
JAN

## Appeal

Today our offering is going toward the work of faith building ministries in our local Church. Let's trust God to take what we return to bless the ministries of our local Church.

## Prayer

Dear God, as we trust You to take these offerings for the ministries in our local Church to build up the faith of others, I pray that our faith in You will be strengthened also.

Erosion. The gradual destruction or reduction of something. Just like erosion can inhibit a tree's ability to grow, strong roots in good soil can have the opposite effect. As we face a new year and new challenges we have an opportunity to show our trust in God by being faithful with our giving. Our offerings are an outward expression of our faith in Him, to provide for our needs, to care for our worries and to strengthen us through difficult times.

# Local Budget



“The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.” Deuteronomy 28:13 (NIV)

IF – the biggest little word.

When the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness came to an end, Moses, because of his own disobedience, was prohibited from crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land. Before he handed the leadership over to Joshua, Moses gave the Israelites some final words of reprimand!

Deuteronomy 28 has the whole sermon for us and if you read through Moses words you’ll notice that everything hinged on one of the most powerful little words in the English language - “IF”.

IF you obey... God will make you the greatest nation.

IF you obey... your towns and fields will be blessed.

IF you obey... your children and flocks will be blessed... the Lord will conquer your enemies... the Lord will guarantee

a blessing on everything you do!

IF you obey...

Despite Moses pleas, the Israelites spent the next 500+ years in and out of slavery because of their disobedience. Over and over they succumbed to the cultural pressures around them, and soon became just like the other nations in many ways. Following their exile in Babylon, some returned under Ezra and Nehemiah to rebuild the nation and entered a period of great enthusiasm for the Law, which by the time of Christ had become quite legalistic. Meaning they didn’t recognize the significance of the cross when it came...

## Appeal

Faithful obedience is just legalism without the gospel. Our offering this morning will contribute to the ongoing ministries of our Church.

## Prayer

Dear God, it’s our prayer that you will use what we give this morning to bless our community through the ministries of our Church. Amen.

12  
JAN

# Education



“The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out.” Proverbs 18:15 (NIV)

The beginning of a new year for our Adventist Schools in Greater Sydney is always marked with anticipation, excitement and hope for what is to come. In the book Education, Ellen White states that students should be thinkers and not mere reflectors of other men’s thoughts and our teachers today continue to work towards making this a reality!

Our schools were initially started to educate Adventist kids, and now we see them as missional opportunities to reach our communities. In this sense we’ve been almost too successful, where some schools we have about 10% of our students being Adventist.

We also know, that for some families, an Adventist education is beyond their financial means, so we’ve decided in Greater Sydney with our 6 Education Offerings a year, one each for each of our 6 schools, we want to donate all proceeds to be put into our Scholarship fund to provide scholarships for kids in need. Previously, our offerings were used to buy library resources, playground equipment, etc. for our schools which is great, but we believe our offerings should really focus on students, and giving them an opportunity to come to our schools.

Our offering today is for education and goes to support the work of our schools across Sydney. Take some time to think and prepare for the school scholarship offerings that will come up later in the year, it’s a great opportunity to support more kids in Adventist schools.

**19**  
JAN

## Appeal

Adventist Education is a real beacon in our local community. By supporting the work of Education – with our generosity we can play a vital part in seeing more lives eternally impacted by our Adventist Schools system.

## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the gift of education, bless our staff, students and administrators who are impacting the lives of young people across Sydney. Amen.

# South Pacific Division Strategy: Discipleship of Adventist Youth



“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

Do you remember receiving your first Bible? Perhaps it was at your Baptism or a gift from family or friends. Do you remember the excitement you felt, the fresh pages ready to be opened and explored? A Bible just of your own, to write personal thoughts and feelings in, or a Bible you could use to share promises with someone else! Across the South Pacific Division there are thousands of Adventist young people that are willing and ready to share their faith if they only had the resources.

Today’s offering will aid in resourcing youth groups right across the South Pacific Division to engage their friends with Bibles, reading guides and training that will empower them to reach the nearly 12 Million youth and young adults across the South Pacific who currently do not know Jesus as their personal Saviour and friend.

**Appeal**  
This offering will help to purchase and distribute World Changer Bibles, and accompanying study guides to every student attending every Adventist school in the South Pacific, equipping them to share the gospel.

**Prayer**  
Dear God, may the Bibles purchased with our offerings today have a powerful impact in seeing more young people come into a relationship with Jesus. Amen.

**26**  
JAN