

# Local Church Budget



“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me’.” Luke 9:23 (NIV)

The pioneers of the early Advent movement had lived through the Great Disappointment of expecting Jesus to return in 1844, yet they still remained excited and enthusiastic about sharing with the world the soon coming of Jesus. The problem was that though their enthusiasm was great, their resources were limited. There was no worldwide church or network of tithe- and offering-paying stewards yet. The group was still small, and their missionary efforts depended very much on individual generosity. They took their responsibility so seriously that at certain times, among other ways of saving, they’d skip one meal per day and use the money saved for the mission!

I wonder whether we, today, could be counted upon to give at those levels of personal sacrifice. There is no mandate to skip meals; the point is that they were 100% dedicated to

sharing the gospel and the message for the times with the world.

Do we feel a similar sense of urgency and investment to the spread of the gospel? They were so close to the action that they couldn’t help but feel a burden to do something, to share something, to give up something so that the work of Jesus could go forward.

## Appeal

Today our offering is going to stay close to the action by supporting our local budget.

## Prayer

Dear God, renew a sense of enthusiasm for Your work in our community. Amen.

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