

VICTORIA

WE

TITHE AND OFFERINGS
READINGS DEVOTIONAL

WORSHIP

WORSHIP HIM WHO MADE THE HEAVENS, THE EARTH,
THE SEA AND THE SPRINGS OF WATER. (REV. 14:7)



Review & Herald[®]
PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION

WEEKLY TITHE AND OFFERINGS DEVOTIONAL VIDEOS



The [Tithe and Offerings Devotional Videos](#) are a weekly production of the Stewardship Ministries department with the intention of assisting every church member to prepare for total worship. The content is both instructional and inspirational. These videos can be presented before the offertory appeal and also shared on social media platforms.

LERATO AND HER MONEY QUESTIONS: MAKING CHILD DISCIPLES WHO UNDERSTAND GOD AND MONEY—Book and *Participant's Workbook*.



Following the example of the Master Teacher, Michael Ngwaru creatively uses stories to share stewardship life lessons with kids. His book addresses creating and managing wealth to grow disciples for God's kingdom. The *Participant's Workbook* by Johnetta B. Flomo motivates young disciples to reflect, analyze, and draw conclusions in a joyful and thought-provoking experience that naturally increases receptivity and internalization of values. These two, the book and workbook, can be used during family worship, promoted and studied in churches during children's Sabbath School programs, or used as textbooks for elementary and middle school students.

GOD FIRST MILLENNIAL VIDEOS



The "God First" video series was developed to help people connect with God, providing them a living experience of trust in Him. They are devised to answer questions about tithes and offerings that may still be in the minds of some members. They may be freely translated into other languages.

TITHE AND OFFERINGS DEVOTIONAL READINGS 2022

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A quarterly magazine focuses on God as our Owner and Provider, teaching fundamental Christian Stewardship principles.



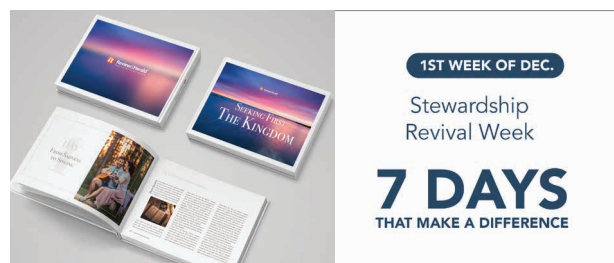
62. GODFIRST NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication that focuses on a particular theme, bringing events and news to the world field.



69. STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF REVIVAL

Materials facilitate the divine service program of the local church on the first week in December.



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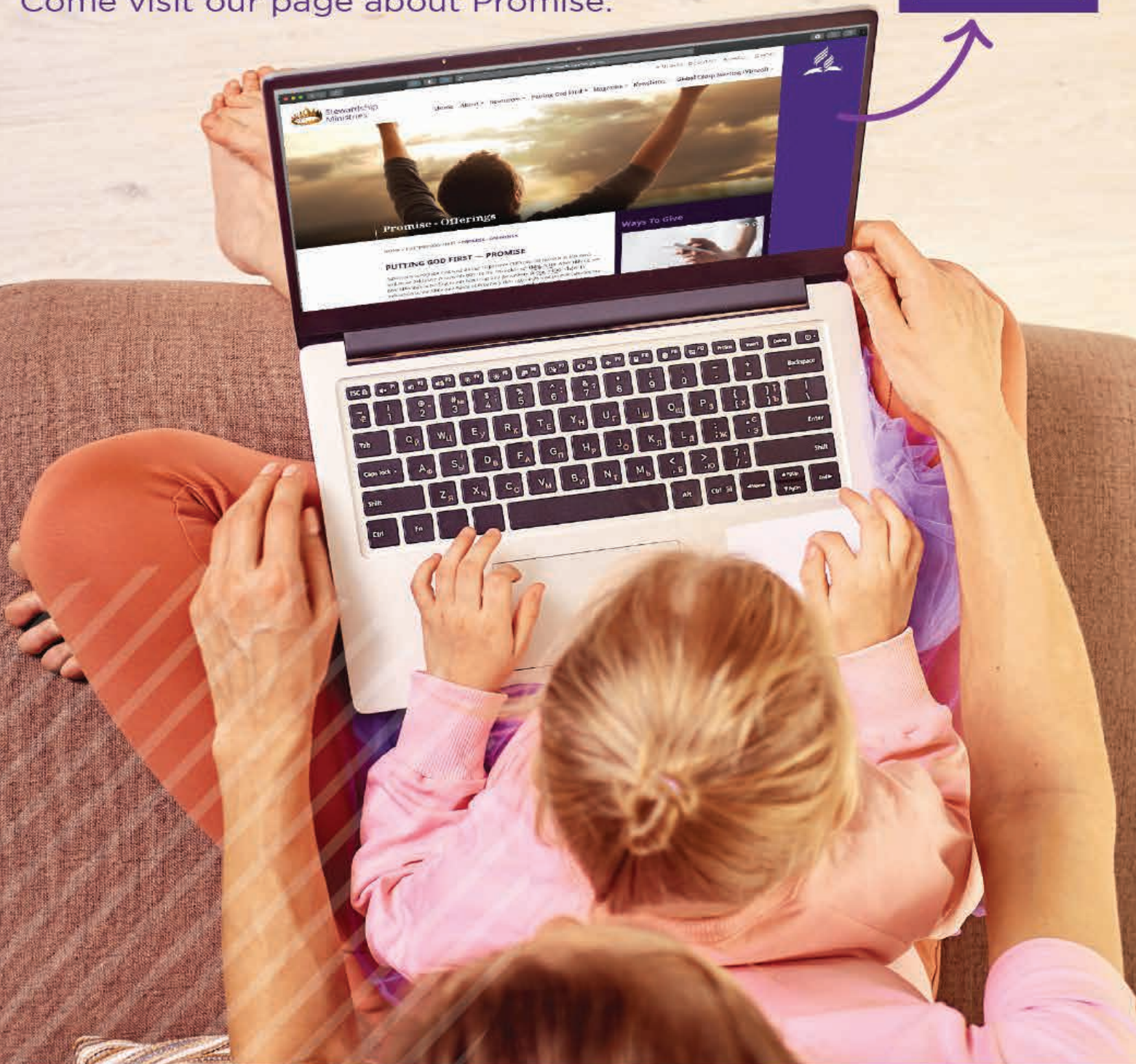
Getting to know Aniel Barbe.

Learn more about

ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES RESOURCES



Come visit our page about Promise:



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GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

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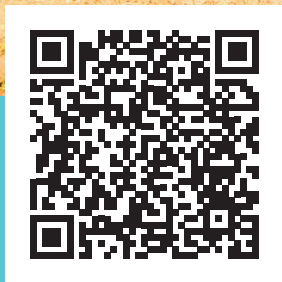
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FOR YOUR CHURCH OR SMALL GROUP.



A SIMPLE GUIDE



TO THE TITHE AND OFFERINGS DEVOTIONAL VIDEOS

You may play or download the two-minute videos (one for each of the 52 Sabbaths) by using the QR code below. The following are instructions on how to use them:

- The videos are to be presented in the church before the offering collection.
- They do not include the appeal or the final prayer, which should be supplied by the person scheduled to promote the offerings.
- The videos may (and should) also be shared through social media or during congresses, youth programs, camp meetings, church boards, Stewardship Weeks of Prayer, etc.
- The videos were recorded in English, but each division or union is permitted to translate them into their various languages or customize them with regional accents.
- The entire video with original soundtrack—no voiceover/ no letterings—will also be available, upon request, to divisions and unions at no cost.
- Local church pastors and stewardship ministries directors must be informed about the videos and how to download them and share them in their churches, especially before the offering collection.
- You may watch the videos using this link: <https://stewardship.adventist.org/2021-tithe-and-offerings-devotionals/videos>.

**"THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE
ON EARTH ARE THE PEOPLE
WHO HAVE DISCOVERED
THE JOY OF GIVING."**

Unknown

CALENDAR OF OFFERINGS

Victoria 2022

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

March 12 Adventist World Radio	April 9 Hope Channel	July 9 World Mission Budget
September 10 Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)	November 12 World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities)	X

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS FOR 2022

First Quarter Southern Asia-Pacific Division	Second Quarter Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
Third Quarter South American Division	Fourth Quarter South Pacific Division

SABBATH WITHOUT DESIGNATED OFFERINGS (DIVISIONS)

There are six Sabbaths in 2022 that do not have designated offerings. Each division committee is to designate these offerings for use in their division, union, or conference. Hence, they are labeled "Division" offerings in the calendar. These Sabbaths are:

January 22	May 7	May 28
June 11	August 13	December 10

SUMMARY OF OFFERINGS

General Conference	5
Division	6
Conference/Union	13
Church	<u>29</u>
Total:	53

*Program provided by the General Conference
+Worldwide offering

Calendar of Offerings—Victoria 2022

01

	<u>JANUARY</u>
Local Church	1
Local Church	8
Local Church	15
Discipleship of Christian Services for the Blind & Hearing Impaired (SPD)	22
Education	29

02

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>
Local Church	5
Disaster & Famine Relief (Union)	12
Local Church	19
Education	26

03

	<u>MARCH</u>
Local Church	5
Adventist World Radio	12*+
Local Church	19
Education	26

04

	<u>APRIL</u>
Local Church	2
Hope Channel International, Inc.	9*+
Local Church	16
Local Church	23
Education	30

05

	<u>MAY</u>
South Pacific Record (SPD)	7
Local Church	14
SPD Health Strategy: 10,000 Toes Campaign	21
Local Church	28

06

	<u>JUNE</u>
Local Church	4
Avondale University (SPD)	11
Local Church	18
Conference ADRA Support Offering	25

Calendar of Offerings—Victoria 2022

07		<u>JULY</u>
	Local Church	2
	World Mission Budget	9*+
	Local Church	16
	Union Global Partnership Project - Timor Leste	23
	Education	30

08		<u>AUGUST</u>
	Local Church	6
	Comprehensive Media Evangelism (SPD)	13
	Mamarapha College (Union)	20
	Local Church	27

09		<u>SEPTEMBER</u>
	Local Church	3
	Annual Sacrifice (Global Mission)	10*+
	Local Church	17
	Local Church	24

10		<u>OCTOBER</u>
	Local Church	1
	ADRA Community Projects	8
	Local Church	15
	Local Church	22
	Education	29

11		<u>NOVEMBER</u>
	Local Church	5
	World Mission Budget (Unusual Opportunities)	12*+
	Local Church	19
	Education	26

12		<u>DECEMBER</u>
	Local Church	3
	Mission to the Cities (SPD)	10
	New Church Buildings	17
	Local Church	24
	Local Church	31



WHAT IS PROMISE?

- It is a name used for the regular and systematic offering (it is different from the freewill offering), in which:
 - the regularity of giving is determined by the regularity of receiving (the income).
 - the system is proportional (percentage-based).
- Regularity, percentage, and period of validity must be previously “vowed,” “promised,” or “purposed” by the worshipper (2 Cor. 9:7).
- It is given as a percentage or proportion of the income (1 Cor. 16:1; Deut. 16:17).
- The worshipper chooses the percentage of the income that will be regularly given as “Promise” (any percentage is valid).
- It is considered as important and binding as the tithe (Mal. 3:8-10).
- It should be given after any income (Prov. 3:9).
- It is not expected when there is no income (2 Cor. 8:12).
- The worshipper offers it immediately after the tithe, and before any other expense is met or giving is done (Prov. 3:9; Matt. 6:33).

“But the upside of painful knowledge is so much greater than the downside of blissful ignorance.”

—Sheryl Sandberg

A LITTLE MORE...

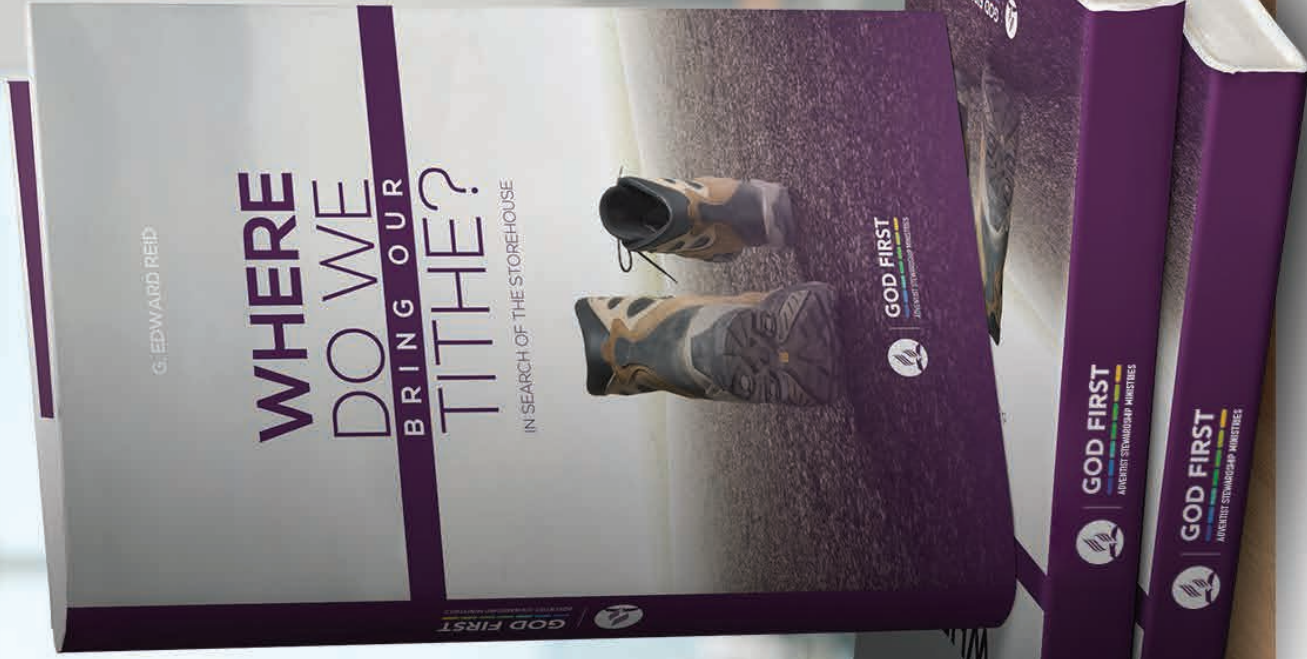
In Malachi 3:8-10, tithes and offerings are clearly placed under the same system. This implicitly suggests at least three similar characteristics for both: (1) regularity (according to the income), (2) proportionality (a proportion of any income), and (3) delivery (brought to the storehouse).

Ellen G. White also agrees that tithes and offerings are under the same system. She says that this system includes the concept of also giving offerings as a proportion of the income: "In the *Bible system* [singular word] of tithes and offerings [both under the same system] the amounts paid by different persons will of course vary greatly, since they are *proportioned* to the income."—*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 73 (italics provided).

In another quotation, she says that this offering along with the tithe, is not voluntary but is part "of our obligation." This thought is in line with Malachi 3:8-10, which states that not bringing that offering is viewed by God as dishonesty. Here is the quote: "This matter of giving is not left to impulse. God has given us definite instruction in regard to it. He has specified tithes and offerings as the measure of our obligation. And He desires us to give regularly and systematically."—*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 80.

COMPARING TITHE, PROMISE, AND FREEWILL OFFERINGS

FEATURES/ OFFERINGS	TITHE	PROMISE	FREEWILL OFFERING
REGULARITY	Determined by one's Income	Determined by one's Income	It is sporadic.
SYSTEM	Proportioned to the income	Proportioned to the income	According to the impulse of the heart
MANDATORY	Lifelong	Lifelong	Circumstantially (when prompted by the Spirit)
PERCENTAGE	Predetermined by God (10%)	Chosen by the worshipper (___%)	N/A
POSSIBILITY OF PERCENTAGE ADJUSTMENT	No	Yes	N/A
DELIVERED TO	Storehouse	Storehouse	Place chosen by the worshipper
FINAL RECIPIENTS	Local, regional, and international range	Local, regional, and international range (suggested)	Chosen by the worshipper



DOWNLOAD THE E-BOOK



SCAN THE QR CODE

FOREWORD

The 2022 offertory devotional readings invite us to revisit our call to worship the true God, which is at the core of the three angels' messages (Rev. 14:6-13).

Our common enemy often diverts us from acceptable worship by enticing us into destructive relationships with money and material resources. He suggests sources other than God as the provider of resources, insidiously recommending practices that violate God's instructions for creation and management of wealth. These ways of acquiring and using resources conflict with our identity as stewards. As a result, many believers are trapped in a situation of dual allegiance, where money is competing with God for worship (Matt. 6:24).

The weekly reflections in this booklet aim at empowering us to resist these deceptive schemes. Each passage uncovers a new reason for us to worship God with our resources. Some of the motives explored are God the Creator; God the Provider; God the Model; God the Redeemer; God the Companion; and God the Master. Each reason stands on a biblical passage, is illustrated by a current life example, and ends with a personal commitment.

We encourage the translation and dissemination of this material to all local churches. These texts will also serve to produce weekly videos accessible at <https://stewardship.adventist.org/tithe-and-offerings-readings>.

Together, we aim to raise a people who worship God fully.

//

And I will rebuke the
devourer for your
sakes,
So that he will not
destroy the fruit of
your ground,
Nor shall the vine
fail to bear fruit for
you in the field,"
Says the Lord of
hosts;
"And all nations will
call you blessed,
For you will be a de-
lightful land,"
Says the Lord of
hosts.

Malachi 3:11, 12 (NKJV)

Aniel Barbe



JANUARY

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS,
THE EARTH, THE SEA AND THE SPRINGS OF WATER (GEN. 1:1).

FIRST IS WHERE HE BELONGS

JANUARY 1, 2022

Genesis 1:1—"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

We worship God because first is where He belongs. The opening words of the Holy Scripture, "In the beginning God," positions God as "the First" without other details about His origin and prior existence. His position as "the First" is more than an honorific or a static title; it declares the Divine Being as the rightful Starter of everything. In Paul's words, He is the Chief Cornerstone; and for John the Revelator, He is the Alpha. As the appeal "Put God first" resounds in our ears, it would be presumptuous to think that we have the ability to decide whether or not God is first. Putting God first is simply an acknowledgment of who God is: the First, the Starter. When we put God first, we are aligning our existence with the order of the universe.

The story is told of two brothers who were busy assembling the pieces of a puzzle game. After some time, the father could hear conflict between the brothers. As he stepped into the room, he could see both brothers holding and pulling the same piece of the puzzle while screaming at each other. One wanted to place the piece at the bottom left and the other at the top right. He could not refrain from smiling and finally gave these words of advice: "Unless the piece is placed where it should be, you will never complete the puzzle."

Unless "the First," "the Starter," is placed where He is supposed to be, our existence will never be complete. We are doomed to be nonstarters. In managing our resources, small and great, who and what is competing for the first place? If you aspire to make this year a masterpiece of your life, choose to acknowledge God as the First in everything.

PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for being the great Starter of the universe. We invite You to be first in our life and first in the management of our resources. In You, we want a great start and a strong finish.

FULL RESTORATION

JANUARY 8, 2022

Isaiah 43:11—"I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from me there is no savior."

We worship God with our best resources because God has provided what we need the most, salvation: "Apart from me there is no savior." And His salvation embraces all aspects of life; in Him, there is full redemption.

This was the experience of a man named Roger. His dad was a fisherman, and his mother died during his early childhood. Roger coped fairly well because of the love and support of his dad until something terrible happened. While at sea, his dad had to climb to the top of the mast. He fell into the water and was never found. At the age of 14, Roger became an orphan with no one to pay his school fees. He became partially homeless, spending some nights at some relatives' homes, some nights sleeping in fishing boats by the sea, and other nights sleeping in trees! He would steal raw vegetables from people's gardens to fill his empty stomach. He was so poor that he had to wear all three pairs of his pants, one on top of the other, to cover himself. To escape this harsh reality, he started drinking alcohol, and rapidly he became a heavy drinker. But one day, Roger heard about the gospel and accepted Jesus as his Savior. His life was transformed. He was healed of his painful emotions, quit drinking alcohol, settled in a job, ran his own business, grew a happy family, owned a house, sent his kids to school, and lived with a life's purpose of introducing others to His Savior.

In response to the exceptional redemption he experienced, among other things, Roger decided to worship God by faithfully returning his tithe and offerings until he died. What has the Savior accomplished in your existence? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us show an appropriate response to His salvation.

PRAYER

Lord, we are thankful for the complete salvation provided to us and to Roger. Help us to worship You with our transformed life and our generosity with our resources.

SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION

JANUARY 15, 2022

2 Timothy 4:18—“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

We worship God with our resources because of His multiple saving acts against supernatural powers. The apostle Paul speaks about his assurance concerning God’s protection and deliverance from every evil attack. God’s rescue from such supernatural powers was one motive leading Paul to constantly give Him glory.

As a young boy, Eric struggled with frequent nightmares. He dreamed of attacks by strange animals that looked like some of the divinities worshipped in his culture. Frequently, he would wake up sweating and crying. As soon as he went back to sleep, the nightmares would return. To make things worse, Eric’s family would often hear strange noises on the steel roof of their house, like someone running or a stone rolling. The parents were convinced that their home was haunted and that the evil spirit wanted to kill their son. They tried every possible means to ensure protection from these supernatural attacks. Among many other things, the parents would bring the boy to a Hindu priest for regular rituals, and once a year they would do a pilgrimage to the grave of a priest. They vowed not to cut Eric’s hair until he turned 7. These strategies did not bring the little boy peace. Finally, they resolved to seek help from the God of the Bible. At bedtime, the mother would read Psalm 91 while laying hands on the boy’s head. Gradually, Eric began making the connection between a night without nightmares and prayers before sleeping. He became convinced of the existence of a God who is more powerful than the evil forces that were harassing him. For complete security, he dedicated his life to the powerful God.

Evil attacks may be visible or invisible, known or unknown, but they are a reality that many people experience. However, everyone and everything dedicated to God can be securely preserved. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us express thankfulness for divine protection.

PRAYER

Almighty, powerful God, we are thankful for Your divine protection against the evil one, who seeks to destroy and steal what You have provided. Today, we place ourselves and our resources under Your trust and care.

JANUARY 22, 2022

Genesis 2:16, 17—“And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’”

More than a billion people worldwide live with a disability — blindness, deafness, mental or physical impairment — and some are in your church. Please reach out to them and their families with the gift of friendship and inclusion. Always include those with special needs, and give consideration, support and loving care to the families and carers of those with special needs. And remember, it isn't about their needs and limitations, but their possibilities.

The Adventist church's Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired is supported by church offerings, donations and bequests, which together fund its free services. These include advocacy and awareness building, audio and braille resources for the blind, captioning and audio augmentation for the deaf and hard of hearing, and development grants to qualifying blind or deaf individuals or related organisations. Please give generously. You can also make an online, tax-deductible donation at any time via eGiving.

Download video and graphics for social media from disciple.org.au/2022offeringresources/

PRAYER

Lord, indeed You are the Wisest Instructor. We invite You to lead us in our life decisions and the management of our resources.

THE PRICE OF LIFE

JANUARY 29, 2022

Numbers 8:17—“Every firstborn male in Israel, whether human or animal, is mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set them apart for myself.”

We worship God with our resources because He has preserved our lives. We all remember Joseph and Mary bringing Baby Jesus to the temple 33 days after His birth. This event is known as the dedication of Jesus and has inspired many Christians. The origin of this practice goes back to the time when the Israelites left Egypt. During the tenth plague, all the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed, whereas God protected the Israelite firstborn. As a sign of remembrance, every parent in Israel would consecrate their firstborn son to the Lord and make the corresponding offerings. Depending on the family’s wealth, it was either a 1-year-old lamb or two turtledoves, offered in appreciation and for the consecration of a spared life.

God is still sparing lives today. Eric was a young man when he realized how God spared his life. His summer job was to clean the large windowpanes of a three-story building. He had to step out of each room and stand on a 12-centimeter (almost 5-inch) ledge to clean the outside surface of the fixed middle panel of each window. There was no security gear; he could only hold tightly onto the frame with one hand while working with the other. One day, while he was working outside of a room on the third floor, a violent wind closed the window on his hand that was holding the frame. As a reflex reaction, he opened his grip. For some few seconds he was standing still, hands free, 20 meters (65 feet) above the ground with no security. Miraculously, Eric managed to take hold of the frame with his injured hand. God had preserved his life, and Eric chose to fully consecrate himself to serving His Protector.

After going through a pandemic that has already killed millions of people, we as the survivors have many reasons to be thankful. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us show appreciation to our Protector.

PRAYER

Lord, we worship You because Your love and care have preserved our lives. Receive our offerings of thanks and consecration to you.



FEBRUARY

AND GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE A VAULT BETWEEN THE WATERS TO SEPARATE WATER FROM WATER (GEN 1:6)."

THANKS TO THE MASTER CONSULTANT

FEBRUARY 5, 2022

Luke 14:28—“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

We worship God with our resources because He is the Master Consultant. Jesus taught that everything comes with a cost, and it is wiser to know the cost and plan in advance. This life-management principle applies to all aspects of our existence. Ignoring or neglecting this brings embarrassment, trouble, and pain.

A young man was anxious about his upcoming wedding. He knew that the bride was the one he had dreamed of, but he had some real concerns for their finances as a new couple. He would be the only one earning a salary, and previously as a bachelor he could hardly reach the next payday without borrowing some money. Surprisingly, after the first month, the first quarter, and the first year of marriage, the one income was sufficient for the couple’s expenses. They could even reach the next payday with a bit left over for savings. The result was great peace of mind. How was that possible? During their wedding preparation, the pastor counseling them reminded them about the instruction of Jesus to “sit down and estimate the cost.” They learned about the importance of a family budget. Neither of them was an accountant, but with practice, discipline, and God’s help, they established a budget, a roadmap for their expenses.

Today, we live in a generation where we are constantly urged to use our resources without thinking and planning. Commercials and viral advertising appeal to our senses. Many base spending on what they see, hear, touch, smell, and taste. The result is an unhealthy spending pattern leading to some dire consequences. The Master Consultant, Owner, and Provider of all resources provides valuable insights to help us avoid the pitfalls of unwise spending. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us place God and His instructions on the forefront of our lives.

PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for the multiple resources You have provided us, and we thank You for Your valuable instructions.

FEBRUARY 12, 2022

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.’”

In an average year more than 300 disasters affect more than 200 million people – most of which are already in poverty and disadvantage. Disasters like bushfires, flooding and cyclones destroy homes and livelihoods, leaving thousands of children, women and men without their basic needs. They often need shelter, enough food to eat, clean water, physical safety and the ability to rebuild their lives. And they can’t do this without our help.

Appeal: By supporting the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering today, you will enable ADRA to be ready to respond immediately to disasters both at home and overseas. Your offering will help deliver emergency shelter, food, water and medical supplies to those affected.

Download video and graphics for social media from disciple.org.au/2022offeringresources/

PRAYER

Lord, we want to partner with You with our resources to alleviate sufferings and bring relief around us. Make us agents of Your love and compassions.

WHATEVER HE RECEIVES, HE MULTIPLIES

FEBRUARY 19, 2022

**John 6:9—“Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish,
but how far will they go among so many?”**

We worship God with our tithe, regular offerings called Promise, and donations, because whatever He receives, He multiplies. The miracle of the multiplication of bread teaches that a desert can become a restaurant when Jesus is around; nothing is too small for Him to make into a sumptuous feast. Jesus can only multiply what is given to Him. The food that had remained home, He did not multiply; the food that was eaten before the disciples came could not be multiplied; the food that was hidden away was not multiplied. Only the food freely offered by the little lad did He multiply. As the disciples went through the crowd to look for bread, the little boy gave his bread and fish. Jesus multiplied both. He multiplies whatever is given to Him.

A young man wanted to become a pastor. As there was no theological school in his home country, he applied to two affordable schools abroad. Unfortunately, one of the schools had to close because of a civil war. For the other, he was not granted a student visa. He was disappointed. Then, unexpectedly, he was invited to the local Adventist conference office. There, he was introduced to a man who asked him: “Do you really want to study theology to become a pastor?” He answered affirmatively. Without any further discussion, the stranger informed him of his intention to pay for his studies at any theological school he chose. He could hardly believe what was happening, but on that day he understood the meaning of whatever God receives, He multiplies. With their limited resources, if his parents had kept their tithe and offerings for several years, it wouldn’t have been enough to pay his tuition at the school that he finally attended.

For all these untold miracles of God multiplying our resources, should we not persevere worshipping Him with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise?

PRAYER

Lord, we worship You because Your love and care have preserved our lives. Receive our offerings of thanks and consecration to you.

A REGULAR AND DEPENDABLE GOD

FEBRUARY 26, 2022

1 Kings 17:14—“For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’”

We choose to give regularly and systematically because of the regularity of God’s care for us. The story of the Shunamite widow’s oil and flour testifies loudly about the God whose compassions never fail and are new every morning. Every single day during these three and half years of famine, there was food on her table. She never missed a single meal. God faithfully kept His promise in response to the widow’s action to provide first for Elijah, the man of God. During these days of scarcity, God’s miracle was as consistent as dawn.

God remains consistent even today. A family had recently settled in a new country and encountered some financial challenges. Their family budget was not balancing. They decided to remove all superfluous expenses, but that was not enough. It was now time for some drastic decisions: to either cut their giving to the church or not enroll their son in his piano classes. Both decisions would be temporary until their financial condition improved. Prayerfully, but painfully, they chose the second option—no piano lessons. A few days later, early in the morning, the wife picked up an envelope from their living room floor. The envelope was sealed and had no name written on it. When she opened the envelope, great was her surprise to find money inside! The amount was more than enough to cover the fee for piano lessons for at least three months. The family experienced the consistency of God’s care.

Some life circumstances may tempt us to interrupt our regularity in worshipping God with our resources. If this is our struggle, let us allow God’s faithfulness and regularity to inspire us. This week, in response to God’s consistency, we worship Him with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise.

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for being the unchanging, eternal God on whom we can depend for our daily sustenance. Help us to reflect Your image of regularity in faithfulness.



MARCH

GOD MADE TWO GREAT LIGHTS—THE GREATER LIGHT TO GOVERN
THE DAY & THE LESSER LIGHT TO GOVERN THE NIGHT (GEN 1:16).

THE MODERN-DAY WALDENSAINS

MARCH 5, 2022

Luke 8:1-3—“The Twelve were with him, and also some women; . . . Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.”

We bring our tithe, offerings, and donations because the Master calls us to partner in His final mission. During Jesus’ earthly ministry, a group of women provided the resources for His last trip around Galilee. As a result, this phase of His ministry was particularly rich in teaching and demonstrating power and expansion in mission. During this missionary tour, Jesus and His disciples visited the Gentile regions outside the borders of Israel: Tyre, Sidon, Bethsaida, and Decapolis. They went north as far as Caesarea Phillipi. Outside Tyre, Jesus repeated the miracle of the multiplication of bread by feeding 4,000 men, non-Jews, presenting Himself as the Bread of Life for all nations.

Today, some young people are dedicating their lives to bringing the gospel to some hard-to-reach people and groups in the Middle East. In the tradition of the Waldensians of the Middle Ages, they pursue secular activities as a vehicle for preaching the gospel. Some are enrolled in universities. Though they are students, their first aim and focus is to find opportunities to bring the love and message of Jesus to their peers. One modern-day Waldensian wrote these words: “Being in a foreign land is challenging. You miss your family, your home country, and your friends. You also have to adapt to a new culture, the people, the climate, and so forth.” But her commitment remains unshaken because “universities are amazing mission fields. You meet people your age, you easily make friends, and you have many opportunities to share about God with open-minded, inquisitive people.”

A part of the tithe and offerings is used to support the work of these young people. Would you like this ministry and other ministries to move forward and expand? Participate this week and onward in returning your tithe and regular offerings, called Promise.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the work of these frontline missionaries. Protect them and bless their service. Help us not to miss any opportunity to support Your final mission.

MARCH 12, 2022

Matthew 28:19, 20—“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, . . . teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Adventist World Radio is a media ministry of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. With more than 1,000 worldwide radio stations and local studios, cell-phone evangelism, apps, podcasts, health messages, and Internet-based outreach, AWR is reaching nearly all of the world with the gospel.

Radio is still the primary source of communication for most of the world. It knows no borders, no walls, and no limits. It can penetrate homes and hearts and go where missionaries cannot enter.

One major target of Adventist World Radio's broadcasts is the 10/40 window, comprising parts of North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia—areas currently closed to the gospel message, but easily reached by radio.

Last year, AWR's Unlocking Bible Prophecies and Earth's Final Countdown series received millions of views in dozens of languages. Many of these videos are still the top results when people search for Bible prophecy topics on YouTube and Google.

Every day, AWR receives e-mails, letters, and messages from around the world. One recent letter said: “The Unlocking Bible Prophecies series is transforming my family. I was raised Baptist and attended church on Sunday, so I've been so blessed to learn of the Sabbath and will be attending my first in-person Adventist church service this weekend.”

Appeal: Today's offering is for Adventist World Radio, which has been broadcasting the good news to the world for more than 50 years. Currently, AWR broadcasts in more than 100 languages, but plans are underway to prepare evangelistic sermons and health presentations in more than 500 languages and dialects so that every person on the planet can listen to Bible-based messages in their own language. Thank you for your prayers and for partnering with Adventist World Radio.

Download video and graphics for social media from disciple.org.au/2022offeringresources/

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the opportunity to work with You in the saving of souls. Please bless the ministry of Adventist World Radio. We know it is only through your Spirit that this work can go forward and change lives for the kingdom of heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE INVISIBLE DRIVER

MARCH 19, 2022

Psalm 18:2—“The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

We worship God with our resources because He is our sure Deliverer.

From his anointment when he was about 15 until his old age, King David had a long and perilous journey through many dangers. To name a few: there were the lions and the bears, Goliath—the giant, Saul—the envious king, and Absalom—the overly ambitious son. For keeping him safe, David burst into praises, worshipping God as the Rock, the Fortress, and the Deliverer.

A missionary family in Madagascar has also experienced God’s miraculous protection. One early morning, the family of three, with a 9-month-old baby, together with some friends, started on a 12-hour road trip. By midday, after a good lunch, they set out immediately so they wouldn’t miss their meeting. Heading west, the sun began to set in front of them. Conversations became sparse, and, finally, the only noise was the snoring from the front passenger seat. The driver started feeling sleepy. He dozed off several times, but he was determined to reach their destination on time. He sped up. Then for a few seconds he blacked out. A branch violently hit the front windscreen. The car was seriously damaged, but miraculously the occupants had only some minor bruises. The baby fell on the small foam mattress that the parents had bought the day before. Just a few meters, or miles, from where the car stopped, children were playing soccer. They were shocked but not harmed. Later, everyone realized that the vehicle had passed perfectly between two trees. There were ditches on both sides of this road, except where the car had left the tarmac. The outcome could have been very different without the intervention of the Invisible Driver.

The God of David and of the missionary family is not less active today. Do you think that the Deliverer deserves our full worship? This week, through our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we can worship the Great Deliverer.

PRAYER

Lord, we are thankful for You being our Rock, Fortress, and Deliverer. Accept our praises as we honor You with our resources.

THE UNLIMITED PROVIDER

MARCH 26, 2022

Philippians 4:19—“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

We worship God because He is the limitless Provider. One day Abraham had a conversation with God during which God informed him of the son that he would soon have through Sarah and the blessing that would rest upon this second son. Perplexed, Abraham pleaded with God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!” (Gen. 17:18). This conversation between God and Abraham teaches the important truth about divine abundance. Abraham was troubled that if the blessing would go to his second son, Isaac, there wouldn’t be any blessings left for Ishmael. God reassured Abraham that He has enough blessings for both and for everyone. He is the unlimited Provider.

The belief in the scarcity of God’s blessings has led some to function in strange ways. Here are some common scenarios of this mindset: “If someone else receives, I cannot receive, or I may receive less.” This conviction creates a spirit of jealousy, brutal competition, and animosity. Another scenario: “If I give or share, less will be left or available for me. I’m losing what I have.” This curtails generosity and fosters selfishness. However, these are false assumptions that ignore the reality of divine abundance. It is unhealthy to reason from the perspective of finite human beings and forget the Provider, who is an infinite God. In Him we are not empty, even if we were to give away everything.

Do you know that God has a full reserve of untapped blessings for each of us? This week, let us show through our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, that we believe in divine abundance!

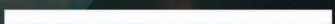
PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for being an unlimited God who provides for us according to Your great riches. Increase our faith and help us to have a clearer picture of who You are.



0 APRIL 4

LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK TO THE HEAVENS:
WHO CREATED ALL THESE? (ISA. 40:26)



HOLY TO THE LORD!

APRIL 2, 2022

Proverbs 3, 9, 10—“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

We worship God with our offerings because offerings are holy to the Lord. The adjective “holy” is often associated with the Sabbath and the tithe, but rarely with offerings. However, the Scripture is full of references regarding the holiness of offerings. Among other passages, the Bible declares that two expiatory offerings, the sin and guilt offerings, are “most holy” (Lev. 6:25; 7:1); and the grain and food offerings are described as “most holy part” and “sacred” (Lev. 2:3; 22:10). The offering is a means, a very special means set aside and established by God for His children to worship Him and enjoy a unique encounter with Him. It was an indispensable component of the life of the children of Israel; neglecting the practice of offering was equivalent to robbing God (Mal. 3:8) of the honor due to Him.

In ancient Israel, through the giving of offerings, God’s children were worshipping and praising Him; celebrating Him as the Giver of the Holy One; affirming Him as Lord; acknowledging Him as Owner, Provider, and Sustainer; showing a willingness to obey; supporting the holy ministry; and being a blessing for many. God set the amount or value of some offerings, and for other offerings God left it to the personal choice of the worshipper. Nonetheless, the general principle was always to give in proportion to what one has received (Deut. 16:17) and to give the very best to God as offerings (Lev. 22:20).

Today, it is common knowledge that the ratio of tithe to offerings is often in favor of tithe. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we observed a clear trend: there was a significantly higher reduction in offerings than in tithe, although in many regions both declined. On many other occasions, we are simply giving what is left over as offerings. This week, as we worship with our regular offerings, called Promise, let us acknowledge the holy functions of offerings.

PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for the privilege to worship. Please help us to value the holy practice of offerings.

APRIL 9, 2022

Psalm 31:24—“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.”

Sharing God’s good news. Every day, God uses the global evangelistic media ministry of Hope Channel to reach thousands of viewers with the message of hope and love that comes from Him! With 68+ Hope Channels around the world broadcasting in more than 80 languages, the mission of Jesus is being fulfilled by the power of the Holy Spirit—“The harvest truly is great!” (Luke 10:2).

Through turbulent and unprecedented world events, God used Hope Channel to share uplifting messages and opportunities for connection with viewers around the world. Hope at Home, a new Hope Channel program, has become the local online church service for thousands worldwide each weekend by providing inspiring messages, music, and wellness tips from professionals. You can tune in at [HopeTV.org/AtHome](https://www.hoptv.org/AtHome). The Bible study platform, [Hope.Study](https://www.hoptv.org/Study), has grown to provide free and easy-to-use Bible study courses on topics such as igniting your prayer life, navigating stressful situations, and learning to understand the Bible better. We are also seeing more and more inspiring testimonies of viewers whose lives have changed; you can watch these testimonies at [HopeTV.org/Transformed](https://www.hoptv.org/Transformed). We encourage you to invite your family and friends to watch Hope Channel too!

Appeal: Your support for Hope Channel provides much-needed resources for this global evangelistic media ministry. The General Conference regularly receives a portion of offerings from the divisions, and it redistributes the funds to mission projects and institutions. Hope Channel is included in that list. Additional offerings for Hope Channel may be given at any time in a marked envelope.

Download video and graphics for social media from [disciple.org.au/2022offeringresources/](https://www.disciple.org.au/2022offeringresources/)

PRAYER

Father, thank You for the opportunity to work with You in the saving of souls. Please bless the ministry of Adventist World Radio. We know it is only through your Spirit that this work can go forward and change lives for the kingdom of heaven. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

LOVE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

APRIL 16, 2022

John 3:17—“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

We worship through regular and systematic giving because God gave us an example of love without boundaries. John 3:17 declares the nature and the scope of the mission of the Son: Jesus came to bring salvation, and He brought it to the whole world. Doing mission in the footsteps of Jesus means embracing a universal mission. Among other things, the tithe and offerings plan provides us with an opportunity to participate in a global mission.

The story is told of a pastor who was ministering at a city church. This large and well-off congregation was known for its generosity. They were keen to invest in the regular upgrading of their church facilities, unfortunately sometimes at the expense of returning a faithful tithe and participating in regular offerings. Interestingly, the pastor refrained from educating his members about the danger of self-serving generosity and the importance of supporting the global church family. Pastoring a church with the best facilities was even a source of pride and satisfaction for him. After some years, the conference transferred him to a different and less affluent locality; he quickly understood the consequences of the narrow vision of mission.

How large is our vision of God’s mission? We are saved because God emptied heaven and sent Jesus to our world. And at some point, the church mobilized resources to send a missionary to our home country or region. With Jesus as our model, would you like to be an instrument of love to every nation, tribe, language, and people? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we have another opportunity to give globally.

PRAYER

Lord, Your love has no boundaries; that’s why we are saved. We praise Your name. Through our giving, help us to express the same kind of love for all humanity.

THE MASTER'S APPEAL

APRIL 23, 2022

Malachi 1:6—“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is my honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the Lord Almighty.”

We worship God with our tithe and offerings in response to the call to acknowledge God as Master. Acknowledging the real Master can sometimes be a struggle.

The captain of a ship looked into the night and saw faint lights in the distance. Immediately he told his signalman to send a message: “Alter your course 10 degrees south.”

Promptly a return message was received: “Alter your course 10 degrees north.”

The captain was angered; his command had been ignored. So, he sent a second message: “Alter your course 10 degrees south—I am the captain!”

Soon another message was received: “Alter your course 10 degrees north—I am Seaman Third Class Jones.”

Immediately the captain sent a third message, knowing the fear it would evoke: “Alter your course 10 degrees south—I am a battleship.”

Then the reply came: “Alter your course 10 degrees north—I am a lighthouse.”

Not acknowledging the One in charge, the real Lord, is always risky. For this reason, Malachi appealed to God’s people to return and acknowledge Him as Master. Hearing the call, the people responded in Malachi 3:7, “How are we to return?” In response, the Lord reminded His people that they had departed from Him by robbing Him in tithes and offerings.

Each time we consider money as our source of status, protection, security, and even love, we elevate it to the rank of lord in the place of the real Lord. We allow money to compete with God for the position of Lord. The system of tithing was established as a means to acknowledge God as Lord and Master. This week, let us not miss the opportunity of reiterating our confession of God’s lordship by worshipping Him with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise.

PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for being an unlimited God who provides for us according to Your great riches. Increase our faith and help us to have a clearer picture of who You are.

EMULATE AN ORDERLY GOD

APRIL 30, 2022

Jeremiah 31:35— “This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night . . . the Lord Almighty is his name.”

We worship with our resources in a disciplined way because we emulate an orderly God. One striking feature of God’s creation is its well-ordered design. The daily, weekly, and monthly patterns speak loudly about the Designer, Creator, and Sustainer of the universe. As believers, we define ourselves as being His image and God being our model. Therefore, those who aspire to be His clear and sharp image are indeed paying attention to these words: “But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way” (1 Cor. 14:40). Spontaneity should not be an excuse for an absence of order in worship and giving.

A man was always complaining of people stealing his money; he even suspected his wife and children. One day, his good friend gave him some advice: “If you vow to make a special gift to God, no one will touch your money.” He agreed to make this vow. On payday, he cashed his check and hid his money. After a few days, he remembered his vow, but to his great disbelief, there was only one small bill left. He burst into a rage, shouting and cursing his wife and children: “This time, you have stolen God’s money, and He will deal with you.” His wife remained silent, wrote on a sheet of paper from top to bottom, and added some numbers on the right. Then she gently pushed the paper toward her furious husband. His eyes moved up and down through the list of items and numbers. He dared not add one single word. No one had stolen his money; he was spending carelessly without any plan.

When our finances are in a mess we can hardly enjoy a happy life, and it is difficult to honor God with a faithful tithe and adequate offerings. Would you like to enjoy the quality of life that your Divine Father has meticulously purposed for you? Exercise more discipline and order in the management of our God-given resources. This week, may we reflect the image of the orderly God that we serve through our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the example of the order that You have set. Please give us the wisdom and discipline to reflect this attribute in the management of our personal affairs.



MAY

THE LORD GOD MADE ALL KINDS OF TREES
GROW OUT OF THE GROUND ... (GEN. 2:9).

MAY 7, 2022

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.’”

Did you know, Adventist Record is more than a magazine that informs, inspires and nurtures church members across the South Pacific? As well as the print magazine you’ve always known and loved, Adventist Record is also a website that is updated daily, and a dynamic Facebook, Instagram and Twitter page, all to serve you in more ways and more places.

Adventist Record has been spotted in some diverse settings, from prisons in PNG, to marketplaces in Solomon Islands, to fruit stalls in Cook Islands and of course the magazines find their way into churches all throughout our Pacific region.

But all of this is only possible through your continued support. By giving to the Adventist Record offering you ensure that we can continue to tell our stories, connect our family and share our hope.

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PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank You for the privilege of supporting the relief work around the world. Bless those who deliver the aid and continue to protect and provide for those suffering the worst of the global health crisis. Amen.

HE EMPOWERS!

MAY 14, 2022

Deuteronomy 8:18—“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

We worship God with our resources because He has placed something valuable in each of our pockets. Some of you are not convinced by these words because you are thinking of how thin your purse is or about the bank account that you don't have. Sometimes we search thoroughly and still fail to see the valuable things that we have received. Hence, we are tempted even to doubt these words or take comfort by spiritualizing the meaning of the word “wealth.” Is it possible that we focus too much on the end product while not appreciating the “ability to produce wealth” that God has given us?

One day a man was asked about the difference between himself and his wife. Listen to his answer: “When I am hungry, I behave differently from my wife. After my day of work at the office, I will drop my bag, rush to the kitchen, remove the lid from over the pot, and look for my favorite dish. In contrast, my wife, when she is hungry, will open the cupboard and the fridge, get out the raw materials, and prepare a delicious meal.” Two different strategies to address the same need: one is seeking desperately for the end product, and the other is using the available raw materials.

Instead of being frustrated and discouraged about the absence or limitation of the end product, it is more efficient to acknowledge and use God's raw materials. They comprise, among other things, the health, energy, talents, and gifts that He has provided. And God promises to empower us as we diligently use these raw materials. Do you know that one of the most thrilling experiences is to partner with God to produce resources for our subsistence? This week, through our participation in tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we can praise God for assisting us in transforming the raw materials He provides.

PRAYER

Lord, we are thankful for both the raw materials and the ability to produce wealth. You are indeed the Provider of everything.

MAY 21, 2022

1 John 3:16—“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

In 3 John 2, we see God’s desire for all people, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers”. Our focus for health week in May 2022 is two-fold. Firstly, for you to be in good health, and secondly, to help support the 10,000 Toes Campaign in the Pacific, which is an Adventist Health Initiative. Our aim is to be known as the “go to” destination for health, healing and hope through our Wellness Hubs, Wellness Schools and Wellness Clinics.

The Health offering will be 50% for the local conference health department to support their health initiatives. And the other 50% for the 10,000 Toes campaign in the Pacific.

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PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for consenting to make the greatest of all sacrifices to save us. Help us demonstrate the same sacrificial spirit in our daily lives, including how we use our resources.

PROVIDER OF ALL

MAY 28, 2022

Philippians 4:19—“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

We give a tithe of all because our Lord is the Provider of all. After His victory against a powerful coalition, Abram gave a tithe of everything—food, goods, and possessions—to Melchizedek the priest (Gen. 14). Jacob, his grandson, promised to return a tithe of everything (Gen. 28). According to Leviticus 27:30, “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Jesus Himself acknowledged that tithing was from “all I get” (Luke 18:12) and from the minutest gain (Matt. 23:23a). What could be the reason for this emphasis on tithing everything?

This real value of tithe is not monetary but symbolic. It reminds us to acknowledge and remember God as the Giver of all: “He asks us to acknowledge Him as the Giver of all things; and for this reason He says, of all your possessions I reserve a tenth for Myself, besides gifts and offerings, which are to be brought into My storehouse” (Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship*, pp. 80, 81). A partial tithe would mean that God is the Giver of only part of what we need.

A well-known trust game called the blind swing helps us to understand the value of depending on God as the Giver of all. In this game, you close your eyes and allow two individuals to swing you to and fro. After some time, you experience the peaceful sensation that results from complete trust. This is possible only when you keep your eyes completely closed and choose not to peek from time to time. Perfect peace is the outcome of perfect trust. In a world of uncertainties and confusion, the exercise of tithing from everything, an apex of total dependence, will definitely contribute to our inner peace. Which message is your tithing practice sending to your brain and heart? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we can grow in heavenly peace.

PRAYER

Lord, we praise You because in You there is perfect peace. Help us to regularly acknowledge You as the Giver of all through our tithe, gifts, and offerings.



JUNE

THEN GOD SAID, "I GIVE YOU EVERY SEED-BEARING
PLANT ON THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH ...(GEN. 1:29).

PROTECTION AGAINST BABYLON'S MANIPULATION!

JUNE 4, 2022

Revelations 18:3—“For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

We worship God with our resources because it is one of God's protective walls against the deceitful one. The Bible portrays Babylon as a major threat to God's people. Prophetic Babylon serving intoxicated wine conveys the idea of deception (Prov. 20:1). One of Babylon's final deceptions is to present itself as the source of economic prosperity. This manipulation works well because it appeals to our natural attraction for material gain. Are we not the generation known as “lovers of money”? (2 Tim. 3:2). How do we stand in resistance to the deception of Babylon?

Observing squirrels can teach us a lesson. These cute and furry creatures often roam in our backyards, but they are always cautious not to come too close and are furtive when you approach them. However, when their reserve of acorn is almost depleted, this is the time to attract them to you by offering them some nuts. Their need for food leads them to lower their defense mechanism. Effective manipulations function in the same way: they appeal to a perceived need. When one experiences a financial crisis, the means to acquire some form of income becomes particularly attractive!

The practice of returning tithe and giving systematic offerings helps us constantly remember that God is the Source of true riches (Deut. 8:18). Hence, we don't have to yield to the Babylonians' manipulative schemes to obtain what we need. Furthermore, the craving for material possessions loses its grip over us when we are already appreciative through giving of what we have received. Ellen G. White wrote: “Constant, self-denying benevolence is God's remedy for the cankering sins of selfishness and covetousness” (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 3, p. 548).

We are called to come out of Babylon. This includes resisting the manipulation of Babylon in issues of finances. Is it safe to discard the protective gear that our God has given us? Through our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we can stand in resistance to Babylon.

PRAYER

Lord, we face all sorts of temptations to compromise in matters of faith. We thank You for Your instructions given for our safeguard.

JUNE 11, 2022

1 Timothy 6:17—“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”

Your gift to the Avondale University will help enhance the Avondale experience, protect its heritage, or partner in discovery. The Avondale experience is about people and supports scholarships that bring students to Avondale or projects that bring life to campus. Heritage is about place—these are projects that invest in capital works. And discovery is about purpose—the research that gives us a better understanding of ourselves and our world.

By making a gift, you’re transforming lives through Christ-centred higher education. The impact of this transformation: graduates who go on to serve their world for good.

You can make your gift in two ways. If in church, place your gift in the offering or use [eGiving](#). If online, visit avondale.edu.au where gifts above \$2 are tax-deductible in Australia.

Thank you for your support.

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PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for being a sure hope for Your children. Protect us daily from the deception of misplaced hope.

SALVATION IS NOT AN AFTERTHOUGHT

JUNE 18, 2022

1 Peter 1:20—“He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”

We give systematically and regularly because the Divine Model has demonstrated that His giving to humanity was not an afterthought. The plan to offer His Son and rescue humanity from sin was elaborated before the creation of the universe, and at the set time, Jesus came to Planet Earth. This clearly illustrates the consideration of a loving God for fallen humanity. In response to the example set by the greatest Giver, the apostle Paul gave the following admonition to the believers in Corinth: “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up” (1 Cor. 16:2). Giving that is planned honors the receiver.

Think about your feelings when you receive a belated birthday note from someone whom you consider close and important to you. Sometimes the message comes when they see your social media post thanking others for their well-wishes. These belated notes are rarely the most valued. When we want to show someone that he or she counts and is special, we usually mark our calendar and even add a reminder for us not to miss the important event. The best expression of love is both spontaneous and planned.

Which type of giver are we when we express love and thanks to God? Do we depend solely on the prompting of our impulses and feelings? Are we those who ask the deacon to wait while we dig deep into our purse or pocket? Or do we remember about returning tithe and giving offerings when we see an expectedly higher balance on our bank statement at the end of the month? How do we honor the Savior who does not treat us as an afterthought? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular and systematic offerings, called Promise, let us show that our God is first and foremost.

PRAYER

Lord, the plan of salvation tells us how much You love us and that we are important in Your sight. In response, please help us to emulate the same consideration for You and others.

THE MOST SECURE PLACEMENT

JUNE 25, 2022

Matthew 6:20, 21—“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

We worship God using our resources because our treasure is most secure when we store it in heaven. The Bible reveals that in the end, “the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare” (2 Pet. 3:10). Possession will be of no value. These events will represent the most severe recession/hyperinflation/depression ever experienced by humanity. Peter invites his readers not to take these things lightly but to undergo some fundamental changes: “What kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives” (2 Pet. 3:11). We can learn something from those who had to cope with hyperinflation.

In a time of inflation, prices could double in less than 24 hours. In some places, individuals would go to the grocery store carrying cash in a basket over their heads. Worried and angry people would line up for hours in front of banks to withdraw their savings only to hear “request denied.” As a result, the population and investors would lose faith in the local currency. Many would try to exchange their money for stronger currencies as a survival strategy. Some countries would exchange their devalued currency for new currency or start using foreign currencies locally. Exchange is the key strategy. This corresponds with the admonition of Jesus: “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:21).

How can one do this exchange effectively? No need to go to the black market: “To do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share,” this is the path revealed by the apostle Paul (1 Tim. 6:18). This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we have another opportunity to exchange our perishable resources by being a blessing to others.

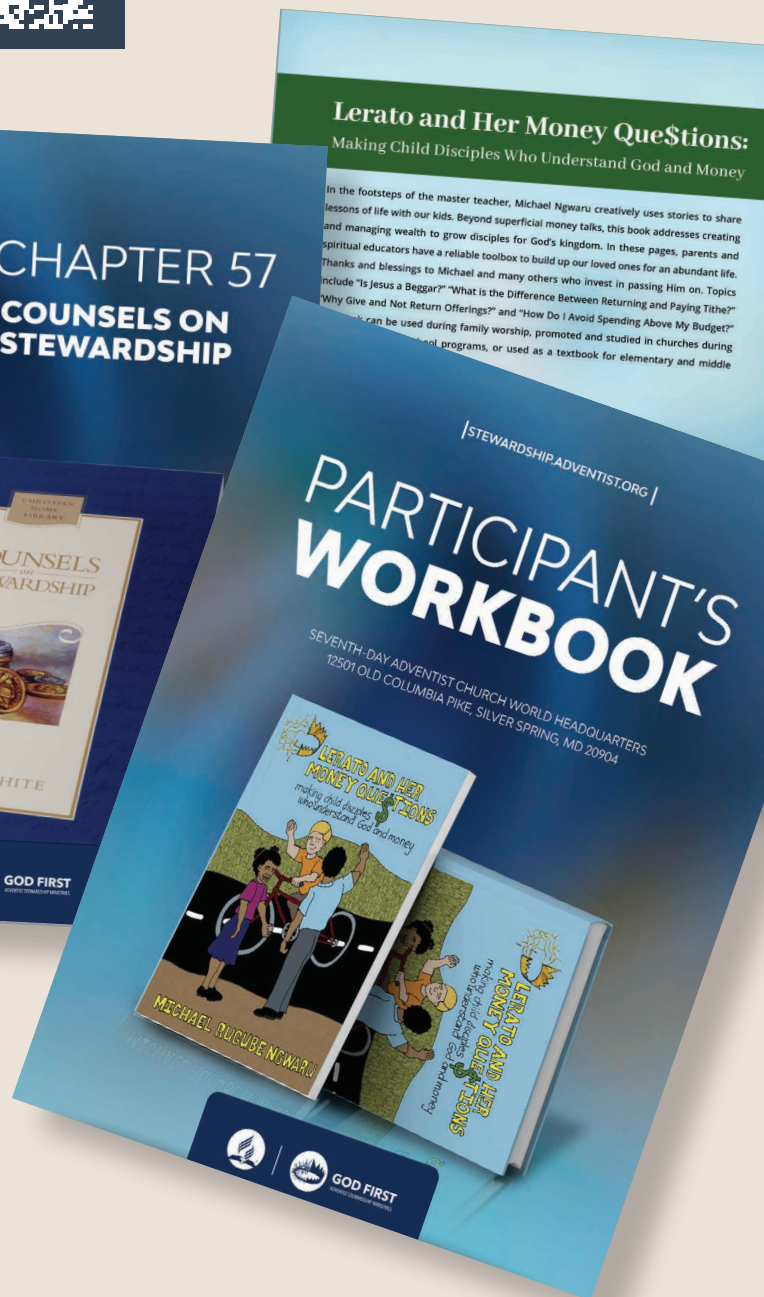
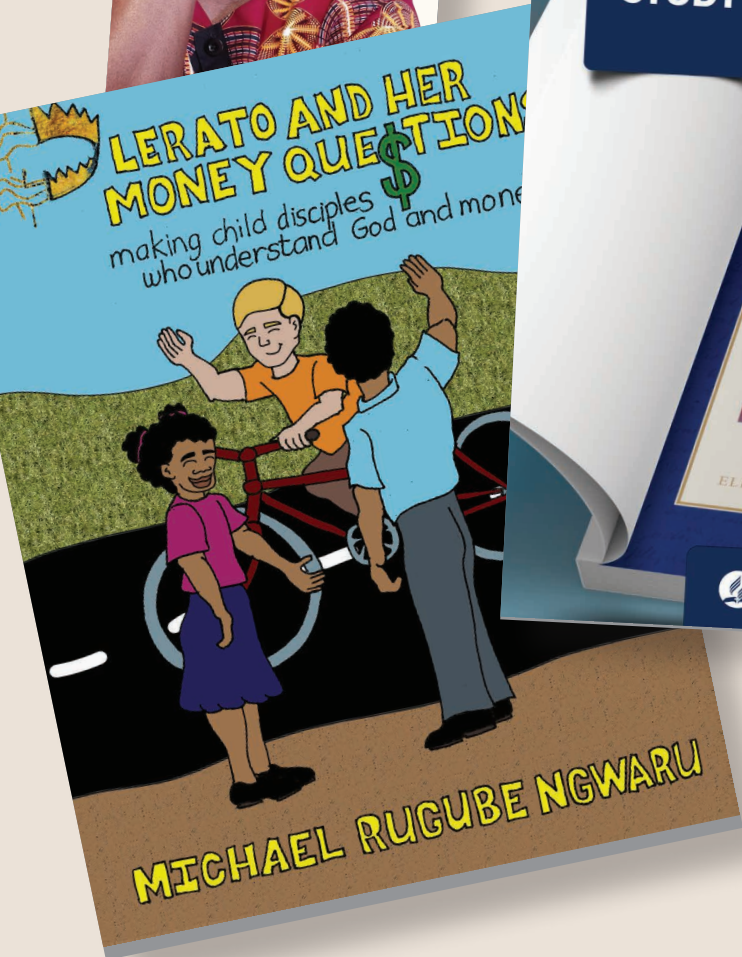
PRAYER

Lord, You are so thoughtful that You care for both our present and future life. We thank You for Your advice. Please help us to be doers of Your instructions.

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Disciples Who Understand God and Money*





JULY

SO GOD CREATED THE GREAT
CREATURES OF THE SEA...(GEN. 1:21)

HASTEN HIS COMING

JULY 2, 2022

Matthew 24:14—“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

We worship with our tithe and offerings because we wait eagerly to see our God face to face. The Scriptures associate the Second Coming with the proclamation of the gospel to the whole world (Matt. 24:14). God desires all to come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). Our involvement in doing and supporting God’s mission makes it possible for others to hear and receive the good news. Peter describes the waiting experience as an active one: “as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming” (verse 12). Ellen G. White clarifies Peter’s words: “By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God” (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 633, 634). It appears that God has made it possible for us to hasten His coming.

The example of a toboggan, or sled, helps us to understand the meaning of hastening His return. If you put a sled at the top of a hill and allow it to glide, it will reach the bottom after some time. This is the natural course as a result of gravity and normal force. However, kids who like playing in the snow know that you can speed up your sled as it goes downhill. Among other tricks, you can spray cooking oil on the bottom of the sled, pack down the snow on the track, stay low on the sled, or balance your weight on it. As a result, you go faster, and it is more fun. In the same way, the reality of Jesus’ second coming is unalterable; it will take place, but it can happen earlier if we associate with Him to reach out to others.

Are we going to forsake this opportunity to speed up His coming? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we can reveal how deeply we long for the Second Coming.

PRAYER

Lord, as a loving God, You don't want to be separated from Your children any longer. Please help us to demonstrate the same desire through our actions and giving.

JULY 9, 2022

Hebrews 6:10—“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.”

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is known throughout the world for its mission outreach. Your regular and systematic mission offerings are like a life-giving river with tributaries flowing around the world, carrying refreshing water to mission fields. Every time we give our mission offerings, we're adding water to a life-giving river that flows through often-parched lands bringing life and hope. We're helping the church grow, not only locally but also in areas we may not have even heard of. We're assisting missionaries we may never meet and building schools and clinics we probably will never visit. We are helping plant churches we may never worship in. And we're bringing life to the church's mission by introducing Jesus' love to the hearts and minds of people all around the world.

Did you know that even before COVID-19, the Adventist Church was experiencing a noticeable decline in mission offerings? Part of the reason is that we sometimes want to give to a specific project or put our offerings toward something special that stirs our hearts. We see the results, and we feel satisfied. Giving to the mission offering may not be as glamorous as giving to a specific, well-advertised project or program. But mission offerings help sustain all mission projects.

As with offerings, we do not know where every drop of water in a river goes, but we can see the results, and they are beautiful. Psalm 104 says, “He sends the springs into the valleys, they flow among the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field, the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them, the birds of the heavens have their home, they sing among the branches.”

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus Himself said, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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PRAYER

Dear Lord, we thank you for sustaining us with your wonderful blessings. Please show us what more we can do to support Your work until Your return. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LIVE ON WHAT IS LEFT

JULY 16, 2022

2 Kings 4:7—“She went and told the man of God, and he said, ‘Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.’”

We worship the God who makes promises and provides instructions. Our Bible text describes the initiative of a widow after she had experienced a miracle—a room of jars full of oil. She returned to Elisha to express gratitude. Then the prophet spoke these final words to her: “Live on what is left!” These words stand as a promise about the sufficiency of God’s provision. She did not have to fear for her future. This was also an instruction not to live on borrowed resources. Previously, her family contracted a huge debt that resulted in painful consequences. Elisha’s parting advice was for her to manage wisely. The Lord does not only perform miracles, but He also teaches us how to use our blessings.

The instruction to “live on what is left” still holds much relevance for us today. Across G20 countries, a quarter of the people did not agree with the statement “Before I buy something, I carefully consider whether I can afford it” (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2017). Personal financial management is a major deficiency of our generation, bringing disastrous consequences. Believers who have the best intentions to partner in God’s mission often do not because their finances are in a mess. These words are unfortunately a common description of reality: “Many do not remember the cause of God, and carelessly expend money in holiday amusements, in dress and folly, and when there is a call made for the advancement of the work in home and foreign missions, they have nothing to give, or even have OVERDRAWN their account” (Ellen G. White, *Review & Herald*, Dec. 19, 1893, emphasis supplied).

As we claim His promises daily, let us also be diligent in the management of our resources. Some may be struggling, not because the Lord has not already blessed them but because of their lack of self-discipline and good management. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us choose to be better managers of God’s resources.

PRAYER

Lord, Your promises bring peace and comfort to us. We thank You also for Your instructions, because they provide directions for our life.

JULY 23, 2022

1 Chronicles 16:24—“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.”

The Australian Union Conference has been partnering and supporting Timor Leste in mission for over 3 years. Previous offerings have contributed to the building of classrooms for students who were having their lessons in tents and supporting the installation of 5 centres of influence providing services in health, mission and all types of ministry work. In the past this offering has supported the training of local ministers by sponsoring students to get their teaching, pastoral and nursing qualifications. Your ongoing support means that there are currently a team of local ministry people on the ground in Timor Leste that are moving Gods mission forward in that region.

Appeal: As you give generously this team will continue to grow with further sponsorship, resourcing and practical assistance. What you give makes a difference in how we are Gods hands and feet with our neighbours in Timor Leste, Please continue to pray for our partners and the challenges they face and know that your offering is making a huge difference.

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PRAYER

Dear God, bless and multiply what is given this morning for your glory in Timor Leste. We pray for our partnership country, may the Church in Timor Leste be filled with your Spirit and be a powerful force for the Gospel in that region. Amen.

SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE MISSION

JULY 30, 2022

Mark 6:37—“But he answered, ‘You give them something to eat.’”

We worship with our offerings and donations because Jesus invites us to care for others as He does. One day, the crowd noticed the movement of Jesus and His disciples and came to meet them. Full of compassion, Jesus spent the entire day teaching, blessing, and healing. It was a spiritual feast. As the sun was lowering in the sky, the disciples asked Jesus to send the crowd away to seek food (Mark 6:36). The crowd would soon get hungry, and there was no bakery in the desert. But instead of attending to their quite sensible request, Jesus invited the disciples to “give them something to eat” (Mark 6:37). This unexpected answer reveals Jesus’ concern for both the spiritual and the temporal needs of people. This is also our mission: “When we see human beings in distress, whether through affliction or through sin, we shall never say, this does not concern me” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 504).

The story of Emilienne from Madagascar reminds us that we can put back a smile on people’s faces. Before 2015, Emilienne was always frowning. She was a single mother whose children were always hungry, and she could not afford to send them to school. Then she joined the ADRA food security project in a town called Bikily. There she received training, access to farm tools, and drought-resistant seeds. As a result, she started her farm. She planted sorghum, sweet potatoes, cassava, and pumpkin. Now she has enough to feed and clothe her family, pay their school fees, and invest in the future. Above all, she also has a huge smile on her face.

Would you like to do mission in the footsteps of Jesus and draw smiles on people’s faces? Giving is one means established by God to alleviate sufferings, express His love, and bring back hope. This week we can practice Christ’s ministry method by worshipping with our tithe and regular and systematic offerings, called Promise.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the love and compassion that You have for us. Please help us today to be channels of Your blessings to others.

A photograph of two blue and yellow macaws perched on a tree branch in a lush jungle. The macaws have vibrant blue feathers on their wings and bodies, with bright yellow chests and throats. They have black beaks and white faces with black markings around their eyes. The background is filled with dark green foliage, including large, deeply lobed leaves. The overall lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the birds' feathers and deep shadows in the surrounding forest.

AUGUST

AND LET THERE BE BIRDS TO FLY IN THE
AIR OVER THE EARTH...(GEN. 1:20).

WHO CAN OUTGIVE GOD?

AUGUST 6, 2022

1 Chronicles 29:14—“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

Our generosity is inspired by God’s generosity. In preparation for the construction of the temple, the Bible reports on the generosity of Israel. First, King David gave lavishly out of his personal treasures. Then the other leaders gave willingly, following his example. Inspired by their leaders, the rest of the people gave “freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord” (verse 9). Seeing such an expression of generosity, David burst into praise and mentioned the factor driving such a profusion in giving: “Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” David gave as a response to what God had already provided: election, forgiveness, presence, promises, and abundance. No one can outgive God. Even if someone chooses to give everything, God has all the means to replenish that person’s resources. This was the mindset of David, a leader-giver in Israel.

Abraham, a Masai man, had a similar mindset. He was the owner of 1,000 head of cattle and large herds of sheep and goats. Acknowledging that God was the source of his blessings, he decided to be faithful to God. He placed his cattle in large pens and counted them as they walked through a chute. Abraham dedicated each tenth cow as tithe for God. His friends and acquaintances were amazed. In their culture, people’s wealth is measured in cattle. One doesn’t just give away their cows! They began to mock him, and many people declared him to be crazy. But the laughter abruptly stopped nine months later when 40 of Abraham’s cows gave birth to twins! In addition, many of his goats and sheep birthed triplets!

“Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?” (Num. 23:19). This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us reflect on the truthfulness of these words in our own life.

PRAYER

Lord, Your generosity toward us has no limit, and it embraces all aspects of our existence. Make us generous as You are.

AUGUST 13, 2022

**John 6:12—“When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples,
‘Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.’”**

Media presents the church with significant opportunities to connect with our communities. Whether it be through broadcast media, social media, radio or print, these are all avenues by which we can share the good news of Jesus Christ with a large and unknown viewership as well as our neighbours and friends.

This Media Evangelism offering will provide much needed resources to support the production of short film clips for social media, the broadcast of Hope Channel and provide resources for ministries such as Mums at the Table and the Hope Discovery Centre which works directly with media contacts.

Your generous support will help the church with its mission of engaging, equipping and evangelising through media.

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PRAYER

Lord, You have designed us to enjoy an abundant life and to partner with You. Please give us the wisdom to manage our resources.

AUGUST 20, 2022

Hebrews 13:16—“Do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Mamarapha College is a tertiary education institute owned and operated by the Australian Seventh-day Adventist Church. As an RTO (Registered Training Organisation) we offer nationally accredited qualifications ranging from Certificate II to Advanced Diploma courses in Indigenous Studies, Indigenous Pastoral Ministry and Lifestyle Health Promotion!

The Seventh-day Adventist church’s membership in Australia includes 6% from the first nations people compared to the actual population percentage of first nations which is 2%. We want to continue to train men and women (Many of whom are not Seventh-day Adventist) in our holistic beliefs and health principles that can not only change their lives but the communities across Australia where they are from. This ministry is key in training disciples who are making disciples through evangelism in a Godly culturally sensitive.

Mamarapha web page: mamarapha.adventist.place

Appeal: Your offerings today will support Mamarapha’s core focus of training disciples to spread the Gospel of Jesus into Indigenous communities throughout Australia.

Download video and graphics for social media from disciple.org.au/2022offeringresources/

PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, thank you for the focus you’ve given us in Australia to work with the first nations people and we thank you for the impact our church has had. Bless those who are willing to give from a generous heart to enable the continued ministry of this ministry we pray in your name, Jesus, Amen.

A TIME OF SPIRITUAL REVIVAL

AUGUST 27, 2022

2 Chronicles 29:3—“In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the Lord and repaired them.”

We worship God with our resources because we are in a time of revival. Ellen G. White wrote: “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs” (*True Revival*, p. 9). Revival is an invitation to turn away from other gods and acknowledge Him as the sole Lord of our lives. Second Chronicles 29-31 tells us about the revival during the time of King Hezekiah. The temple was repaired. The worship services were restored. Passover was celebrated once again. Levites were reinstated to ministry. Restoration of true worship was at the heart of true revival.

The people’s response to the call to revival comprised a concrete element: “Then Hezekiah said, ‘You have now dedicated yourselves to the Lord. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the Lord.’ So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings” (2 Chron. 29:31). Spiritual revival acknowledges God as Lord, and one tangible means is to honor Him with our gifts.

The story of Zacchaeus in the New Testament presents giving as a result of true spiritual revival. Before welcoming Jesus as his guest of honor, Zacchaeus was the greediest man in Jericho. He was ready to betray his country, lose his friends, forsake his religion, and sacrifice his reputation for just a little more. However, when salvation entered his house, he was prompted to give more than what he owed: “I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount” (Luke 19:8). That was his love response to the love he received from Jesus. We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

The call for a spiritual revival is resounding loud in our churches. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, would it show that the revival message has taken root in our hearts?

PRAYER

Lord, help us to respond to Your call of revival through prayers, singing, giving, and a dedicated life.



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GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



SEPTEMBER

AND GOD SAID, "LET THE LAND PRODUCE LIVING CREATURES
ACCORDING TO THEIR KINDS ... (GEN. 1:24).

A MATTER OF TRUST

SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

Malachi 3:10—“‘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 there will not be room enough to store it.’”

We worship with our resources because it is a means of trusting God. God’s instructions about soil management in Leviticus 25:3, 4 is an example of God’s invitation for His children to trust Him: “For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.” We now know some of the benefits of putting the land to rest through knowledge acquired in agricultural science. In those days, after receiving such an unusual instruction, the Israelites would surely wonder what they would eat in the seventh year if they did not plant or harvest. It was an invitation to trust. Interestingly, there are no reported instances of someone dying of starvation for keeping this strange command. God’s order was backed up by a promise: “*Follow my decrees and be careful to obey my laws, and you will live safely in the land.*”

On one occasion, a pastor accompanied by an elder visited a low-income family of the church. They were gladly welcomed and had a great time fellowshiping together. At some point, the pastor opened the Bible and read Malachi 3:9, 10, encouraging the family about faithfulness in giving. Upon completing their visit, the elder shared with the pastor that he was very uncomfortable with the text he read because this family was struggling financially. Gently but firmly the pastor responded: “I wanted to make sure that they are not missing God’s blessings.”

Have you ever gone through situations where God’s instructions do not make any sense to you? Remember the words of the hymn: “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus” (*SDA Hymnal*, no. 590).

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the opportunity we have each new week to sharpen our confidence in You. Increase our faith, and thank You for fulfilling Your promises.

Week 37 ANNUAL SACRIFICE (GLOBAL MISSION)

SEPTEMBER 10, 2022

Ephesians 5:1, 2— “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

What will you sacrifice for mission?

Global Mission Pioneers are the unsung heroes of Adventist Mission. Around the world today, hundreds of these laypeople go to unentered areas and people groups to start new Seventh-day Adventist congregations. Many of the places where they begin to work are areas where the church has never had success in the past, but nobody has told the pioneers that they can’t do it. So, on a small living stipend, they go and live among the people and put Christ’s method of ministry into practice. They mingle with the people in various ways: in the rice fields, playing soccer with kids, in the cities. They show sympathy and minister to needs in very practical ways. And then they win the confidence of the people and bid them to follow Jesus. These pioneers embed themselves as Jesus did incarnationally in the community. They sacrifice their time and efforts to live simply and bring others into a loving relationship with God.

Appeal: Historically, the Annual Sacrifice Offering has come at the end of the Week of Prayer, and it is an opportunity for us to sacrifice for mission. So please give generously to this important offering.

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PRAYER

Dear Lord, we know You love a cheerful giver. Please move us, we pray, to respond with speed to Your call to give generously to further Your work.

THE BLIND GIVER ATTITUDE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

**Romans 5:8—“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

We worship with our resources because we follow the example of our God, who is a Blind Giver. When God gives, He rarely focuses on the nature of the recipients or even the outcome. He gives out of love. Faithful to this attribute, “He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matt. 5:45). In contrast, we are inclined to give exclusively to what we see and whose outcome we can control. As a result, some have withdrawn from participation in tithe and regular offerings, not seeing the direct effect of their contributions. Others have resolved to support only local projects rather than a worldwide mission, far from their eyes. This is not the “blind giver” attitude.

We have a glimpse of what can happen when God’s people reproduce the “blind giver” attitude. Have you heard about *The Hope of the Amazon*, a floating church? It is not known by most of us, and even fewer have visited this boat church. However, this project has materialized through the “blind giving” mindset. In 2016, God’s children from all over the world pulled funds together to support the Thirteenth Sabbath projects, and one implemented project was the floating church, *The Hope of the Amazon*, in Brazil. The result is inspiring. In the first 12 full months of operation of the boat church, 286 people were baptized, and three churches were planted in 2017. And this is the testimony of Pastor Reno, who served on *The Hope of the Amazon*: “The boat church is God’s way of saving people who have been forgotten by political, economic, and health systems.”

God, our Example, is involved in a global mission toward those we see and cannot see, toward those we know and do not know. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we have another opportunity to demonstrate the same global mindset as our God.

PRAYER

*Lord, we are inspired by Your universal and blindfolded generosity toward humanity.
Please help us to be givers in Your likeness.*

NURTURE PEACE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

John 14:27—“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

We worship with our resources as a means of nurturing God’s peace in us. Jesus recognizes His disciples’ need for peace. Peace, Shalom in Hebrew, conveys the idea of completeness, wholeness, and fulfillment. We usually go to one of two common sources to quench our thirst for peace, Jesus or the world. They are not the same.

The world encourages us to achieve completeness and fulfillment by striving for more material things. This leads both rich and poor to engage in this frenzied race for just a little bit more. Unfortunately, it’s like chasing a mirage or drinking seawater when thirsty. Material possessions are not real solutions to our insecurity, sense of powerlessness, and fear of insignificance. Socrates, the philosopher, while walking through the groaning abundance of the market in Athens, exclaimed to himself, “Who would have thought that there could be so many things that I can do without?” Do we really need more?

In contrast to the race to acquire more, the Bible exhorts the believer to embrace contentment (Phil. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 6:6-12; 2 Cor. 12:9, 10; Rom. 8:28) to grow in peace. As Christians, our contentment does not mean that we settle for what is mediocre. We become content when we acknowledge that an all-powerful and loving God is taking care of our needs, both material and spiritual. Ellen G. White recommends ways to acknowledge God as Provider: “He asks us to acknowledge Him as the GIVER of ALL THINGS; and for this reason He says, Of all your possessions I reserve a TENTH for Myself, besides gifts and offerings, which are to be brought into My storehouse” (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 65, emphasis supplied). Cultivating contentment through giving is great gain!

PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for being a faithful provider. As we are inclined to forget and become stressed, help us remember Your goodness by giving back to You and others.



OCTOBER

THEN THE LORD GOD FORMED A MAN FROM
THE DUST OF THE GROUND ... (GEN. 2:7).

BEAR FRUITS

OCTOBER 1, 2022

John 15:4—“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

We worship with our resources as a response to the call to bear fruits. John the Baptist appealed to those who were coming to him for baptism: “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matt. 3:8). For John, baptism and being part of God’s people were not sufficient. The Gospel of Luke shares some concrete examples of the “fruit of repentance” that John the Baptist gave to those who came to him. He asked the tax collector not to collect any more than was required. He exhorted the soldiers not to “extort money” and to “be content with your pay.” And he commanded the crowd to share their second shirt and food with the one who does not have much (Luke 3:10-14). These examples reported by Luke have something in common; they are related to one’s attitudes toward finances and material possessions. The fruit of repentance involves being careful about the means used to obtain resources and using our resources to bless others.

The Bible tells the story of a man, Nabal, a son of Abraham, who was heavily blessed but did not bear the fruit of repentance in his material life. He refused to reward those who protected his flock and would harshly rebuke the servants of David who came to ask for some food. This attitude led his wife to call him wicked and to make the following comment: “He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him” (1 Sam. 25:25). Sadly, the following day, he had a stroke. Ten days later he died.

As we reflect on the need to bear more fruits of repentance in our material life, let us apply the advice of Jesus: “Remain in me as I also remain in you.” The result would be beyond expectation. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we can bear fruits of repentance.

PRAYER

Lord, we want to bear fruits of repentance in all aspects of life. Please help us to remain connected to You daily through regular prayer and Bible study.

Week 41 ADRA COMMUNITY PROJECTS

OCTOBER 8, 2022

Proverbs 3:27-28—“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, “Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you”—when you already have it with you.”

In every community, there are people struggling to get by and falling through the cracks. ADRA, in connection with Adventist Churches, has volunteer-run projects in Australia and New Zealand that feed, clothe, house, connect and empower people to overcome hardships and crisis and get back on their feet.

Appeal: Today’s offerings will support ADRA Community Projects in Australia and New Zealand such as community meals, free counselling services, crisis support, and disaster response. Each project is run in partnership with a local Adventist Church and is a tangible way for us, as Adventists, to connect with our local communities and be the hands and feet of Jesus. Give generously today to help others live as God intended.

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PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the needs that arise in our own context. We pray for the ministry of ADRA in Australia and New Zealand, lead and guide the leadership, staff and all those that come in contact with the support that ADRA provides. Bless our giving this morning and multiply it for your glory. Amen.

ONE PLACE . . . ONE GOD

OCTOBER 15, 2022

Leviticus 17:5a—“This is so that the Israelites will bring their sacrifices they are now making in the open fields. They must bring them to the priest, that is, to the Lord, at the entrance to the tent of meeting and sacrifice them as fellowship offerings.”

We bring our regular offerings and tithe to church because it is part of true worship. Leviticus 17:5 gives instruction about the appropriate place to offer sacrifice in ancient Israel. There was a central place to give, with no provision for alternatives. One may legitimately ask why the place was so significant. Interestingly, the text focuses not only on the place, the tent of meeting, but also on the One who received their sacrifices, the Lord. For the Israelites, the tent of meeting was the “tabernacle of the LORD,” the place where the Lord resides. Ultimately, the restriction about the place had to do with whom they were worshipping. Relocating the place where they brought their sacrifices was typical of idol worship at the time. God designated one place for sacrifice because He wanted to be the sole object of their worship.

Today, the appropriate destination for tithe and regular offerings remains a frequently asked and debated question. The example of King David provides us with an answer: “I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you” (Ps. 66:13). Ellen G. White applies this principle to God’s people today: “The time has come when the tithes and offerings belonging to the Lord are to be used in accomplishing a decided work. They are to be brought into the treasury to be used in an orderly way to sustain the gospel laborers in their work” (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 19, p. 376). She specifies that place as the church treasury with the appropriate agency to support God’s mission. However, this does not remove our social responsibility toward the poor and needy. We should apportion special donations for this purpose (see Ellen G. White, *Welfare Ministry*, p. 275).

This week we have another opportunity to bring our tithe and regular offerings, also called Promise, to God’s church. While we worship at God’s designated place, let us choose again to make Him the sole object of our worship.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the instruction about the destination and usage of our tithe and regular offerings. Help us trust Your wisdom and remain faithful.

IN APPRECIATION OF SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

OCTOBER 22, 2022

Numbers 18:24—“Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the Lord.”

We worship God with our tithe and offerings because He has appointed spiritual leaders to minister to His people. The books of Moses mention two special groups of spiritual leaders and how they were sustained. We read in Numbers 18:2: “Bring your fellow Levites from your ancestral tribe to join you and assist you when you and your sons minister before the tent of the covenant law.” This chapter reviews the tasks assigned to priests and Levites. Priests were assigned to the altar and inside the tabernacle; Levites were to take care of everything else regarding the tabernacle. Each group had specific responsibilities, although Israel as a whole was “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Exod. 19:6). Their ministry brought spiritual blessings.

How were they sustained in their needs? We read in Numbers 18:8b and 24: “All the holy offerings the Israelites give me I give to you and your sons as your portion.” “Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the Lord.” God gave the holy offerings that were His to the priests and His holy tithe to the Levites. This transfer of resources was a means used by God to support the spiritual leaders in ancient Israel. This provision was connected to the fact that their important ministries required total dedication. Both Jesus and Paul considered that the same principle should apply to support the appointed spiritual leaders of the church (Matt. 10:9, 10; 1 Cor. 9:3-10; 16:2).

Pastors and other spiritual leaders are a source of blessings. Do my tithe or offerings pay for them? The answer is No. Tithe and offerings once returned become God’s property, which He disposes as He wills. However, one good reason to give is in order to partner with God to support the essential work of ministry. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we are enjoying the privilege of participating in God’s saving mission.

PRAYER

Lord, in appreciation for the spiritual blessings we receive through Your church and designated servants, we bring our tithe and offerings to You. We are blessed to be part of Your plan.

FOR EVERYONE . . . FROM EVERYTHING

OCTOBER 29, 2022

Genesis 14:20b—“Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”

We worship God with our tithe and offerings because it is a privilege and blessing. But is that really how we feel? In some places, we debate passionately about who is supposed to tithe. Some have restricted the practice of returning tithe to a limited group by quoting Leviticus 27:30, 32: “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.” “Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod—will be holy to the LORD.” This passage refers to tithe from products of the land and livestock. Is the practice of tithing reserved for farmers and cattle raisers? Are businesspeople, mechanics, teachers, builders, or anyone else who receives an income in cash exempted from the experience of tithing? Some may rejoice about this restriction, whereas others would be saddened to be excluded from the privilege and blessings. The larger context of Leviticus 27 helps to untie this issue.

This chapter provides instructions about redeeming and exchanging things that were devoted to the Lord into money. This exchange includes people, animals, houses, land, and fields dedicated to the Lord. Israelites could exchange the tithe of the produce of the land for cash, but no provision was made for exchanging the tithe of animals, and there is no mention of the tithe from cash earned. The most probable explanation for this omission has to do with the major thrust of the chapter—converting items dedicated to the Lord into cash. If the 10 percent of income had already been in the form of cash, there would be no need to exchange and mention it in the list of Leviticus 27.

It is clear that all tithes of animals, of the land, or of any other sources is devoted to the Lord. He expects a tithe of everything from everyone. The practice is not restricted to farmers. This week, all are invited to worship the Provider with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for the privilege and blessing given to everyone through tithing. By Your grace, we want to respect what is devoted to You.



NOVEMBER

THE LORD GOD SAID, "IT IS NOT GOOD FOR THE MAN TO BE ALONE. I WILL MAKE A HELPER SUITABLE FOR HIM (GEN 2:18).

CLAIM HIS PROMISES

NOVEMBER 5, 2022

Psalms 34:8—“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

We worship God with resources because this places us in a condition to claim His promises. The Bible is full of promises. Everett R. Storms spent a year and a half counting Bible promises and came up with **7,487 promises** God made to humankind. God’s promises have three characteristics: they are true, everyone can claim them, and they are often conditional. Paul wrote about his confidence in God’s promises: “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ” (2 Cor. 1:20a). When God says, “Yes,” nobody can say, “No!” Several are conditional to faith and obedience (Matt. 21:22; Isa. 59:2). About obedience, Ellen G. White writes: “All who obey Him may with confidence claim the fulfillment of His promises” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 145).

An incident in the life of Fred Stirewalt, a farmer from Hollister, California, shows the value of obedience in claiming God’s promises. One afternoon Fred observed that army beetles had covered his field. Immediately, he realized the disastrous outcome awaiting: these small creatures eat until there is nothing green left. Feeling powerless, he had an insightful conversation with his daughter Helen.

Helen asked, “Daddy, you pay your tithe, don’t you?”

“Yes,” he replied.

“Then why not ask God to keep His promise and drive the beetles away?”

Convinced by these words, they knelt and prayed, claiming the promise of Malachi 3:10, 11. Right after praying, they saw a cloud of blackbirds descending on their fields. The blackbirds remained for a short time, but there wasn’t a beetle left when they flew away.*

God has a heaven full of blessings for those who will cooperate with Him. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, we are placing ourselves in a position to claim His promises.

PRAYER

Lord, we are thankful for Your promises of spiritual and temporal blessings. We claim them over our lives. Remove all doubts and unfaithfulness that could be obstacles.

**Story of Fred Stirewalt adapted from <http://guidemagazine.org/pdfs/Guide-5-23-20.pdf>, pp. 12-14.*

NOVEMBER 12, 2022

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

If you had one shot at making a sudden, big difference in someone’s life, would you take it or let it slip away? When crisis hit the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we need to be nimble and agile to respond rapidly. By so doing, we can turn a challenge into a new opportunity to increase the impact of God’s mission throughout the world.

Unusual opportunities don’t happen every day, but they require a rapid response from God’s church when they do. When you give your Unusual Opportunities Offering, you contribute to a special fund that enables the General Conference to respond rapidly to urgent projects as soon as they arise.

So, let’s seize the moment. Let’s speed the work of the gospel by giving generously. Please mark your tithe envelopes “Unusual Opportunities Fund.” With your support, the church will be able to respond to new opportunities that will increase the impact of God’s mission throughout the world.

Download video and graphics for social media from disciple.org.au/2022offeringresources/

PRAYER

Dear Lord, please help us to sacrifice something we don't really need and contribute its value to the Annual Sacrifice Offering.

REGULARITY CALLS FOR REGULARITY

NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Lamentations 3:22, 23—“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

We worship God through regular giving in response to the abundance and regularity of His care. While going through trials, griefs, and humiliations, the prophet Jeremiah uses the plural form to speak about God’s compassion and mercies. He was the recipient of God’s covenant, love, grace, goodness, kindness, compassion, and much more. Besides being multifaceted, God’s manifestations amid Jeremiah’s crisis were daily and regular, not occasional. He did not have to choose between a huge blessing once in a while or daily miracles. God provided for both. Israel responded to God’s regularity by adopting a regular pattern of worship and giving.

Numbers 28 and 29 report about regularity in worship and giving to God. The Israelites were worshipping daily, weekly, monthly, and during all annual festivals. Concerning their offerings, they brought “two lambs a year old without defect, as a regular burnt offering each day” (Num. 28:3). Interestingly, what they brought during the weekly, monthly, and annual festivals were “besides,” or “in addition to, the regular burnt offering.” During the Festival of Tabernacles, they offered the largest number of special offerings, but there are eight mentions in the text, one for each day of the festival, that special offerings were given in addition to the regular daily offerings (Num. 29:12-38).

The above example tells us that the best practice is not to be a worshipper only during Easter week, the Christmas season, or special Sabbaths. A God who manifests Himself continually and regularly expects the same pattern of worship from His children. How does this principle translate into our giving practice? It is always a joy to participate in special offerings supporting some good projects or ministries. However, it is appropriate that these occasional gifts and donations are besides, and in addition to, our regular offerings. The starting point for such practice is to decide in advance the proportion, or the percentage, of our income to be dedicated to regular offerings.

PRAYER

Lord, we are thankful for Your abundant and regular care. In response, we choose to worship You regularly and set aside a percentage of our income as regular offerings. Sustain our commitment.

DON'T JUST MANAGE . . . PRODUCE WEALTH

NOVEMBER 26, 2022

Deuteronomy 8:18—“But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”

We worship God with our tithe and offerings because He gives us the power to produce wealth. The parable of the talents tells the story of three servants who received a share of their master’s property and their reports about how they used their share to produce more wealth. The three servants had this in common: they faithfully returned to the master what belonged to Him. However, the first two did something in addition. They produced wealth with what they had received, and they were rewarded for that practice. As God promises the “ability to produce wealth” to all His servants, it is unfortunate that the third servant fails in this area and was deprived of his master’s reward.

As believers, we are responsible for what we have received and for what we can produce. Ellen G. White writes these words: “In making a profession of faith in Christ we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and we should cultivate every faculty to the highest degree of perfection, that we may do the greatest amount of good of which we are capable (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 330). Growth in all areas of life and participation in the production of resources is a divine assignment. This responsibility often needs courage, strength, perseverance, and self-discipline. It is a daily uphill journey. However, no one has to be discouraged or quit. God made a permanent promise: the ability to produce wealth.

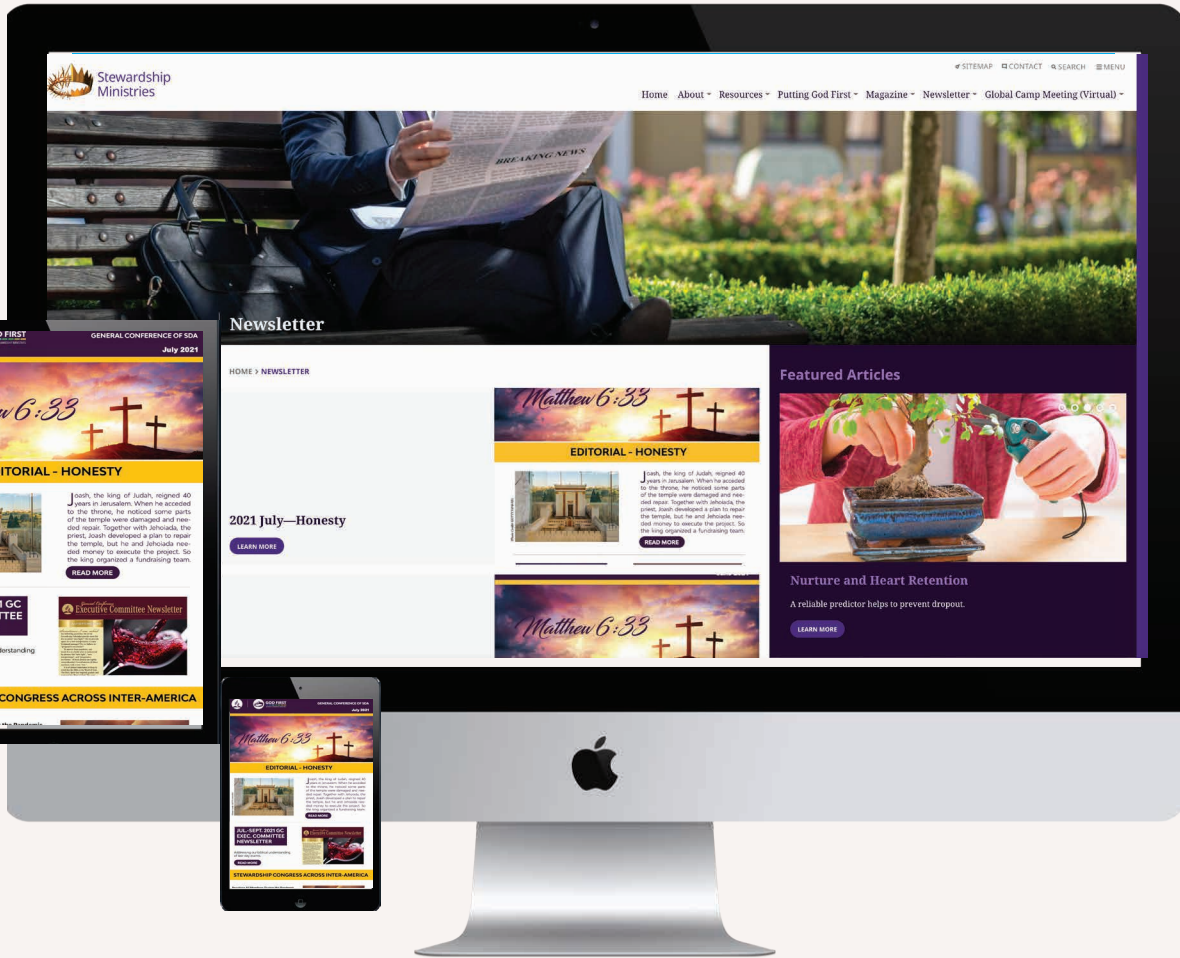
The principle of doing “the greatest amount of good” is an invitation to reassess our giving. Today, through our faithful giving, we are a source of blessing. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us reflect and pray on how to become a greater blessing by growing our resources to their real potential.

PRAYER

Lord, we praise You for entrusting us with Your resources. In partnership with You, we commit to grow our resources and become larger channels of Your blessings to humanity.

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12 DECEMBER

FOR NO MATTER HOW MANY PROMISES GOD HAS MADE,
THEY ARE 'YES' IN CHRIST (2 COR. 1:20).

SPECIAL PROVIDER

DECEMBER 3, 2022

Psalm 145:15—“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.”

We worship God with our resources because He often makes provision for our needs even before they arise. In a dream, the Lord informed Pharaoh about the seven years of severe famine that would strike Egypt. However, before the beginning of the crisis, he provided seven years of abundance. Under the inspired leadership of Joseph, they could save the surplus and adequately prepare for the crisis. God provided before the need. Joseph told his brothers about the God who acted in anticipation: “But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance” (Gen. 45:7). Our needs and emergencies of today never take God by surprise or put Him off balance.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a family had witnessed how God acted in anticipation of their needs. Because they were staying in a foreign country, the wife had to renew her employment authorization. The process took much longer than expected. After a few months of waiting, her current work authorization expired, and she was terminated from her job. The family budget was not balancing anymore. At first they thought that the authorization would come in a few days. It was not so. Interestingly, exactly seven months before she lost her job, the week that many companies were closing down and dismissing employees, causing a record-high unemployment rate, she miraculously held onto her job. This allowed the family to consolidate their emergency fund not knowing the challenge they would soon face. Regularly, they would check the status of her application. The waiting time grew from three months, to four months, to five months, and finally up to nine months. It was a testing time. During this extended time, their consolidated emergency fund kept them afloat. More accurately, it was the work of the God who made provision even before their needs arose.

This week as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us show our gratitude to the Provider, who already has solutions for our unforeseen crises.

PRAYER

Lord, we worship because You do not only know the future, You have already prepared a way for us. You are our special Provider.

Week 50 MISSION TO THE CITIES (SPD)

DECEMBER 10, 2022

2 Corinthians 8:2—“In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.”

When talking to Jonah, God said, “Should I not pity that great city Nineveh?” And Ellen White wrote that, “the work in the cities is the essential work of this time.” When she wrote that in 1910 the population of New York city was smaller than Sydney is today! Your offering today will be used carefully and prayerfully to make disciples in the largest mission field in the South Pacific Division, our major cities. Please give as God challenges you.

Download video and graphics for social media from disciple.org.au/2022offeringresources/

PRAYER

Lord, in Your infinite grace, You do not look down on what we have brought to You. We thank You for the privilege of participating in Your mission.

HE EMPOWERS GIANT KILLERS

DECEMBER 17, 2022

1 Samuel 17:37—“The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the Lord be with you.’”

We worship God with our resources because no one like Him empowers us to face life's challenges. Saul and his army went out to fight the Philistines. The Philistines had crossed over the border of Israel. With Goliath on the battlefield, the soldiers in Saul's army faced the prospect of fighting a giant. This challenge was extraordinary. After the first day, the first week, the first month, Goliath was persistently harassing and frightening the Israelites. But David, the little lad from Bethlehem, knew that the Lord could provide rescue from internal, unusual, and persistent challenges. Empowered by God, he would be known throughout history as the giant's killer.

Just like David, a young boy overcame his life's challenges. He grew up with the dream of becoming a preacher but had to struggle with an acute form of stammering. This handicap was inborn, and the application of several remedial strategies was of no value. The issue dragged through many years. The challenge was internal, beyond ordinary, and persistent. However, empowered by God, he was healed of his broken voice and could live his life's dream.

We all know the popular formula for a happy life: Parents send kids to school, then kids study hard and pass their exams, embrace a well-paid career, get married, and live a long and peaceful life. Unfortunately, real life often fails to match this ideal. Unexpected troubles become lifelong companions. Nevertheless, in God we can count our victories, those that sometimes are the most unlikely according to human criteria. Are they not sufficient reasons to worship God with our best resources? This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us recall the numerous interventions of God.

PRAYER

Lord, we are thankful for the many rescue operations that You have performed in our lives. Your effectiveness leaves us without a voice. In response, we dedicate ourselves and our best to You.

CHEERS TO THE ROYAL BABY

DECEMBER 24, 2022

**Matthew 2:2—“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?
We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”**

We worship God with our resources because the Royal Baby, Jesus, was born on Planet Earth. The fascination for royal babies has transcended all ages. A search of the name “Archie,” a royal baby born to the Mountbatten-Windsor family in 2019, will give millions of results. The birth of a royal baby often creates a buzz in the media, and people feed on the most minute details out of curiosity and admiration. Likewise, seeing His star, the Magi left everything and everyone behind and embarked on a tiresome, time-consuming, and unsafe journey beyond the boundaries of their homeland. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they disclosed the purpose of their trip: “We have come to worship the King, born of the Jews.” The description that we have of this act of worship deserves attention.

Do you know any Christmas carols that the Magi sang to Baby Jesus? Do you know the prayer that they made to the newborn King? Can you remember the words with which Joseph and Mary addressed them during their visit? Or any souvenir that they brought back home? Nowhere in the Gospels do we find such information. This silence is surprising and possibly significant! The focus was elsewhere: “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matt. 2: 11). They honored the Royal Baby by presenting gifts to Him.

The celebration of the birth of Jesus remains a major event in most countries and for many Christians. This year won’t be an exception. Listening to carols, enjoying favorite seasonal food, blessing ourselves and our loved ones with gifts, and participating in some uplifting church services define Christmas for many of us. This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, let us remember how the Magi worshipped the Royal Baby: by giving of their resources.

PRAYER

Lord, as we talk about, sing about, and reflect on the birth of Jesus, help us dedicate time and energy to seek You and to use our resources to honor You as King.

FULL WORSHIP

DECEMBER 31, 2022

Romans 12:1—“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

We worship God with tithe and offerings because it expresses our desire to offer our all to Him. In his letters to the believers in Rome, Paul explains extensively that salvation in Jesus is freely accessible to all by faith. Then he mentions our adequate response to God’s mercy: “to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.” Christ died for us. In return, we live totally for Him. We worship the Savior by attending church services and returning our tithe and offerings, but true worship does not end at the doorstep of the church; it only begins there. These words of Jesus deserve our attention: “You give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone” (Luke 11:42). Tithe and offerings, though essential, are only one component of the life of the worshipper. They are part of a lifestyle of offering oneself to God and others.

Terry from Hong Kong gives us an example of giving our life as an offering to God. In the 1980s, he was on track for a brilliant career as an engineer. He graduated from Hatfield Polytechnic in the United Kingdom as an electronic engineer, and later was selected by the Hong Kong government to specialize in an advanced technology known by very few. In spite of his success, Terry realized that something was missing in his life. He found this missing piece when he met Jesus and was baptized in December 1988. Seven months later he dedicated his life to God’s service. He left his promising future behind to enroll in seminary to study theology. In his own words: “Nothing under the sun is more important than knowing Jesus and inheriting eternal life.” He is known as Evangelist Terry. Dr. Terry Tsui is currently serving as the president of Taiwan Adventist College.

This week, as we worship with our tithe and regular offerings, called Promise, may our giving be an expression of our total dedication to God.

PRAYER

Lord, who we are and what we possess belong to You. We pray that You lead us to experience a higher level of dedication as we step into a new year.

STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF REVIVAL



7 DAYS
THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE
First week in December



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PASTOR ERIC JEAN-BRUNO ANIEL BARBE

Pastor Aniel Barbe has served as an associate director of the Stewardship Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist world church since July 2018. He was born in Mauritius, an island situated in the southwest region of the Indian Ocean. Previously, he served as the Stewardship Ministries director of the Indian Ocean Union and the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID).

His parents, Roger, a former alcoholic, and Therèse, joined the Adventist Church when he was still a little boy. He sensed God's calling to serve as a pastor at a very young age. Through God's leading and provision, he studied theology at Institut Adventiste du Salève, France. Later, he completed an MA in Religion with Andrews University at Babcock Extension Campus, Nigeria. His passion for studying the human mind led him to do a BA in Psychology/Education with the University of South Africa.

During his 26 years of pastoral service, Aniel was mainly involved in church pastoral work, administrative responsibilities, and departmental assignments. His primary passion is for pastoral work in the local church, which he considers the greatest school for ministry. He was enriched by the ten years he spent with the Youth Ministries department in his local conference and the Indian Ocean Union. He served as the executive secretary and president of his home conference and as president of the Indian Ocean Union.

He has been married to Micheline, his partner in life and service, for the past 24 years. They are the happy parents of Adam, the miracle of their lives.



"It really comes down to one question, do you trust God, or have you just been saying you trust God."

Larry Burkett



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