

Local Church Budget

March 2, 2024

When Joshua began leading the Israelites, there was likely a lot of uncertainty around how things would go. Moses had spent years leading the children of God through the wilderness and through many miraculous events! In Joshua 1, we can see that God calls Joshua to be both “strong and courageous” (Joshua 1:6, NIV) in a transition of leadership that surely may have felt overwhelming to Joshua at times.

And yet, God walked with Joshua through the ups and the downs of his journey as a leader. Joshua proved to be a faithful steward of what God gave him. God gave him the task of leadership, and Joshua leaned on God to see that through. The beautiful thing about Joshua’s story is that God did not just give Joshua an enormous task – God took it upon Himself to provide Joshua with the wisdom to be the leader that Israel needed at that moment.

We too have been given the privilege of supporting the work of God at a local level. Our offering today will go to support our local church budget. The ministries of the local church are the heartbeat of the gospel spreading in our community. As we collect our offering today, consider how you can best steward all of the resources that God has blessed you with!

Adventist World Radio

March 9, 2024

Adventist World Radio uses many forms of technology to reach people where they are, in their local dialect. From its shortwave towers in Guam to 1,800 radio stations around the world, these messages are broadcasting in more than 130 languages every day. And for those who aren't in range of a radio station, their YouTube videos and ministry app are ministering to millions.

In addition, solar-powered Godpods are reaching everyone from prisoners to shepherds! And the ministry's semi-truck in Ukraine is both meeting needs in the community and broadcasting Bible-based messages of hope wherever it goes.

Recently, the ministry tried something unique in Ghana. After renting airtime on 10 radio stations near the Sahara Desert, Adventist World Radio started sharing the good news of the gospel over marketplace loudspeakers in 12 cities. They also paired this with a "Question of the Day," where callers were invited to receive a prize such as a copy of the book *The Great Controversy* by answering a question about the prior day's broadcast.

The results have already been astounding. In the last six months, more than 10,000 people have been baptized, with approximately 5,000 from the market loudspeakers alone. In Habakkuk 1:5, God predicted that one day we would be "utterly amazed" at what He would do—and we are!

Thank you for your support of Adventist World Radio.

Local Church Budget

March 16, 2024

The beach is one of my favorite places. My family lives close to the beach, and it is a wonderful place to come to, especially when the weather is warm. My husband and I have taken many walks along the water and prayed for God to guide the next steps of our lives.

Looking at the water, we can all be reminded of God's sovereignty. That's a big, theological word that simply means that God reigns above everything. God is in control. When the disciples, in the book of Mark, were caught in a storm, they cried out to Jesus for His help. Jesus was fast asleep, but they woke Him up and He calmed the storm that threatened their lives. Their response found in Mark 4:41 was, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!".

Today, we can rest in knowing that our God is able to calm all of the storms in our lives. Even deeper than that, God is able to give us a sense of peace, even when the world around us feels like it is in chaos. We are blessed to be able to gather as believers and encourage each other with our testimonies of how God has carried us through the storms of our lives. As we return our tithe and offering today, let our hearts give from a place of gratitude for our "storm-calming" God.

Combined Youth Ministries

March 23, 2024

One of my favorite things to do to clear my mind and connect with God is to go on a run outside. Whether it is sunny or even on a cold day, running has been a great way to reset my thinking. Running consistently has been shown to improve memory, increase overall health, and provide people with better moods and more energy. When I used to run on a track team, our coach always emphasized focusing on the race ahead of us, not what is happening to the right or to the left.

There are many things happening in our world today, and if we focus on all of the turmoil, it can become very discouraging. Yet God encourages us with these words found in Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you”. Together, we can “run” this race together, and one way to support one another is by giving to the Combined Youth Ministries offering. Did you know that your gift goes to support ministries that touch young people’s lives? One example of this is our summer camp, which is a place where many young people serve God and work together to bring other young people to Christ through music, games, and activities. As we give today, let’s give with an open heart.

Local Church Budget

March 30, 2024

I remember it like it was yesterday. I got a call from a close friend saying that they had gotten an incredible job in an incredible city that would be their dream come true. I celebrated with my friend, while also feeling the sting of pain from my own disappointment from recently being rejected from yet another job for which I was qualified, yet was not found worthy to possess.

Disappointment and rejection can be hard things to deal with. One thing that God taught me and my family during that season of our lives was that though it may not be “my turn” for the blessing of my dream job, it is always “my turn” to serve God and those around me by doing my best, no matter what position I’m in.

One thing that has blessed me and many others during tough times is the support local churches offer to those who are struggling just to make it. I’ve been in small group Bible study where other members prayed for me and supported me in many ways, both with physical needs and spiritual. Today’s offering will go to support our local church budget, which supports ministries that are the heartbeat of our church all week long, not just on Sabbath. Acts 20:35 says, “The Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’”.