

Local Church Budget

April 6, 2024

Years ago, a mentor of mine encouraged me to take my relationship with God as seriously as I take my career. She saw me as a very driven person, but she instructed me to make sure I connected with God at the beginning of every day. That began my habit of waking up before the sun rises, around 5 am, to spend quiet time reading God's word and reflecting on it through prayer.

A little bit ago, my husband and I noticed our daughter taking out her Bible in the morning before getting ready for school. She found a corner in our living room to pray. When my husband asked her why she was up so early, she said, "Mommy gets up early to speak to Jesus, and I want to be like Mommy." I was so struck by my daughter! It was and is my desire that my daughter develops a deep personal connection with Jesus. I simply wasn't aware of just how much my silent witness of waking up early impressed on her.

Whether this is your first time at church, or your family built this church, if you look around, it's likely that you will see someone whose spiritual journey with God you can learn from. Today's offering goes to our local church budget. In order to keep our church ministries functioning, we depend on the generosity of members returning that faithful offering to support our local church.

Hope Channel International

April 13, 2024

Give hope through your offering today.

The impact of Hope Channel is evident in the inspiring stories of God's children like Pastor Ross and baby Aurora. Ross overcame drug addiction to become an ordained Seventh-day Adventist pastor after discovering Hope Sabbath School. Following baby Aurora's brachial plexus injury at birth, she was miraculously healed thanks to our most watched *Let's Pray* program and prayers on her behalf from our global community.

With your offering today, Hope Channel can continue to share the transformational love of Jesus Christ with people all over the world by producing high-quality Christian content to reach new audiences in innovative ways.

Our Hope.Study platform is online and offers Bible studies on a range of topics. So far, over 300,000 people started taking these courses – just one year after the platform went live! People are hungering for Bible truth.

As we read in Proverbs 11:25, "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." By faithfully supporting Hope Channel International, you are not only blessing others but yourself as well by bringing hope to those who need it most and by telling them of the love of Jesus Christ.

After celebrating 20 years of Hope Channel and reaching over 80 countries with the Adventist message, let's make 2024 the most impactful year yet in sharing hope in Jesus with people everywhere.

Combined Youth Ministries

April 20, 2024

A definition of Evangelism is: “the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ.”

Today’s offering for Combined Youth Ministries supports two of our Iowa-Missouri Conference evangelistic ministries; the Youth department and K-12 education. Our youth ministries are Adventure and Pathfinder clubs, Camp Heritage, elementary schools, and Sunnydale Adventist Academy. Youth ministries are thriving and alive in Iowa and Missouri! Each year a large number of children participate in Adventure clubs, Pathfinder clubs, summer camp, and Seventh-day Adventist schools. Through the Iowa-Missouri youth ministries we are able to connect our children to Jesus.

In Child Guidance, page 493, it says, “The spiritual training should in no case be neglected. Let us teach our children the beautiful lessons of God’s Word, that through these they may gain a knowledge of Him.”

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

Thank you for supporting the spiritual development of our children with your offerings. Please include Combined Youth Ministries in your systematic giving. Together, through your financial support and the hours invested by teachers, camp, Adventure and Pathfinder staff, we will make an eternal difference in the lives of God’s children and ‘Spread the Gospel Message’ throughout the world!

Conference Evangelism

April 27, 2024

As we sang our closing song for worship that night, I knew this week would be a special one I would remember forever. I was in high school, and I signed up to work at FLAG Camp, which stands for Fun Learning About God. It is a day-camp based at Andrews University in Michigan, and before the summer even began, we as staff went to a staff training week where we bonded and learned how to best serve the children who would come to our camp that summer.

Camp, for that summer and several after, served as a key turning point in my relationship with God. Though I was still figuring out my own faith, I saw God use me and my team members in such mighty ways! Children, even our youngest campers, were turning their hearts towards God and giving their lives to Christ.

I still think fondly of my days as a camp counselor, and I credit the confidence I built during that period in my life as the reason why today, as an adult, I am able to freely share the hope I have in the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Today's offering is for our Conference Evangelism. Please know that when you give, your seed of a gift will ripple beyond that amount, and touch people forever.