

Local Church Budget

November 1, 2025

“Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years” says Deuteronomy 8:4.

When the Israelites trusted in God for their needs and were faithful to Him, He always came through. Imagine clothes and sandals that did not wear out over 40 years of use! Now that’s the miracle of God. That’s a testimony of His love and care of His children.

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

In our family, my wife and I remind ourselves that everything we own belongs to God! The first microwave we purchased as a married couple became a living testimony of God’s faithfulness.

This microwave, after ten years of usage, became a topic of discussion. My wife said, “Any time now, I want to replace this microwave when it stops working!” One morning, the microwave stopped working! My wife rejoiced at the thought of a replacement. I didn’t know anything about fixing appliances. Well, as I was visiting a church member that afternoon, he heard of our dilemma and offered to look at the appliance. In two minutes, he said, “Pastor, here’s the problem. I replaced the fuse and it’s now working!” The cost of the fuse? Twelve cents. That microwave continued to work for a total of 21 years—to my wife’s dismay— until we finally donated it to a family member!

Our God is always good! Let’s see how God will take care of our needs today. Our offering today is for the local church budget.

Annual Sacrifice for Global Mission

November 8, 2025

In 1857 David Livingstone was invited to receive a tribute and speak to students at Cambridge University in England. He had left behind a prosperous life in Europe to devote himself to preaching the gospel on the African continent. As he stood in front of the students, he uttered the following words,

People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God, which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought! . . . I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk, when we remember the great sacrifice which HE made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us.

Today, we continue our tradition for every member of the Adventist church to give sacrificially so the General Conference can continue with the endeavor of Global Mission.

Local Church Budget

November 15, 2025

A recent article by McKinsey & Company noted that nearly two-thirds of US-based employees who were surveyed said that COVID-19 has caused them to reflect on their purpose in life. Nearly half said that they're reconsidering the kind of work they do because of the pandemic.

The research stated that people who live their purpose at work are more productive than people who don't. They're also healthier, more resilient, and more likely to stay with the company. When employees feel that their purpose is aligned with the organization's purpose, the benefits expand to include stronger employee engagement, heightened loyalty, and a greater willingness to recommend the company to others.¹

God gives us the privilege of partnering with Him in His kingdom work. It's incredible that He gives us the joy of giving, and in doing so we find our purpose in life.

God could have accomplished His mission of saving sinners without the aid of mankind. However, He knew that we couldn't be happy without being part of the great work that would cultivate in us self-denial, compassion, kindness, and goodness—in other words, the Fruit of the Spirit.

Today, let's practice our purpose in life by partnering with God in Kingdom work. Our offering for today is for the local church budget.

¹ (McKinsey & Company, April 5, 2021, article, "Help your Employees find Purpose -or Watch them Leave.)

Combined Youth Ministries

November 22, 2025

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

I remember the moment when my wife and I said, "I do" on our wedding day. We made a covenant promise and pledge before God that we would love and be faithful and true to each other. We expressed this covenant of love with words, actions, and gifts to each other!

The day each of us accepted the Lord, we also made a covenant of love with Him. We honor Him when we take time to worship Him and share His love with others by acts of kindness.

But another way we develop our relationship with God and honor and glorify Him is when we return our gifts of time, talents, and our tithes and offerings to Him.

In *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 77, it states, "The Lord made a special covenant with men, that if they would regularly set apart the portion designated for the advancement of Christ's kingdom, the Lord would bless them abundantly, so there would not be room to receive His gifts".

God has given us this opportunity to enter into a partnership with the Ruler of the universe who is not only interested in the orderly operation of the great galaxies of heaven but also interested in every detail of our lives.

Have you set aside your gifts for Him today? Please include Combined Youth Ministries in your systematic giving. Through your financial support, we can make an eternal difference in the lives of God's children.

Union Adventist University

November 29, 2025

During their wanderings in the desert, the wilderness transformed into a unique classroom where God imparted life's essential principles to the children of Israel. Each day, He sent manna from heaven, teaching them invaluable lessons in reliance and gratitude.

God could have effortlessly created a river to quench their thirst or provided an excess of "natural" food for months of sustenance. However, He chose instead to instruct the Israelites to trust Him for their daily needs. For forty years, they depended on God to provide food and water.

In contrast, we have the convenience of turning on a faucet to get a drink or go to our pantry where there is enough food to last for days. It becomes challenging to rely on God when our basic survival needs are easily met.

However, in Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God". Jesus is speaking beyond the needs of the human body. He is referring to the needs of a human being consisting of a body, soul, and spirit. The words of God are the source of nourishment and life for our soul and spirit which only God can provide.

So, how can we learn to trust and depend on Him today? The answer lies in our faithfulness to dedicate our time, talents, and treasures to God for the advancement of His kingdom.

Today's offering is designated for Union Adventist University in Lincoln, Nebraska. Professors are working at Union Adventist University to bring a message of hope to the students they teach, serve, and encourage. Please give a generous offering to support this educational entity.