

Local Church Budget

December 6, 2025

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

In my younger years, my fascination with mathematics, particularly with the concept of multiplication, was immense. I was especially excited learning the principles of multiplication because it was one of the fastest ways to reach a higher total. Multiplication is a mathematical process that adds a number to itself repeatedly a specific number of times.

This mathematical principle later found an analogy in my spiritual journey. I realized that the growth of God's kingdom often resonates better with multiplication than addition. For example, it is better to have five people each doing one ministry and teaching others to do the same, rather than for one person doing five ministries by himself. This is the essence of “disciplers” — disciples who train other disciples.

Another way to step into the realm of such multiplication is through generous offerings to God. When we present our offerings to God, He multiplies them, extending the blessings to many. We need not dwell on the mathematics of our giving or attempt to rationalize the outcomes. Merely giving in faith is sufficient.

Reflect on the promise found on page 371 of the book, *Desire of Ages*, “He will reward honest, simple reliance upon Him. The little that is wisely and economically used in the service of the Lord of heaven will increase in the very act of imparting”.

Let's see how God multiplies the gifts we give to Him. Our offering for today is for the local church budget.

Adventist Community Services

December 13, 2025

There is a video that goes with this offertory reading:

<https://vimeo.com/1137053244?fl=pl&fe=vl>

In Luke 10:30-37 Jesus tells a parable about a priest, a Levite, and a Samaritan who came upon a man who had been beaten and robbed. When the priest and the Levite saw the man, they concluded that their help was optional. They *could* help, but they did not *have* to help, and in the face of competing priorities, they opted *not* to help.

The Samaritan, on the other hand, did not see his help as optional. Not even the hatred between his country and the other man's could overcome his compassion. He saw no alternative but to help.

In Luke 10:37 Jesus tells us all to "go and do likewise." As Christians we see each person in need as a beloved son or daughter of God and we are compelled to help.

Adventist Community Services, or ACS, is part of this response, serving communities in Christ's name. ACS is the Adventist Church—you and me—helping our neighbors in need.

Across the North American Division our offerings go to work, helping the hurting. Whether by providing food, teaching literacy, distributing diapers, organizing job fairs, or opening dental clinics, our help is not optional. It is the extension of God's love to His creation.

Today's offering is for Adventist Community Services. Let's join the ACS team to bring relief and comfort to our neighbors and to make compassion your priority by giving generously to their cause.

Local Church Budget

December 20, 2025

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

My then six-year-old son came up to me and said, “Dad, I need a lot of money, and I need to make it fast!” I smiled and inquired, “Why do you need a lot of money quickly?” I didn’t know what my son was thinking of doing with all this fast cash and why he needed the funds so urgently. I thought maybe he wanted to buy a new toy or bike for himself.

He said, “Well, Mom’s birthday is coming up and I want to buy a nice gift for her!” That sure cheered my heart, and so I gave him the funds!

My son was asking for money, not for selfish reasons but out of love for his mom.

When I think about church offerings, every gift we give should be measured by the unfathomable Gift of heaven. The greatest offering we received from God is Jesus, and there is no way we can measure His love and sacrifice for us. Anything we give would appear as nothing in comparison.

On page 119 of volume 4 of the book, *Testimonies for the Church*, it says, “How vain the endeavor to measure with mathematical rules, time, money, and love against a love and sacrifice that is measureless and incomputable!”.

Let’s return our tithes and offerings in response to the abundance of God’s love for us. Our offering for today is for the local church budget.

Combined Youth Ministries

December 27, 2025

Author Melvin Santos Speaking:

When I was in my teens, I read a powerful promise in the book, *Ministry of Healing*, on page 481, which says, "Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish and a plain path before their feet".

It really was not relevant to me then because my parents provided my food, lodging, and basic needs. But after I got married and had our three kids, many expenses ate our income rapidly. Every dollar mattered. I remembered wishing that our babies would hurry up and get out of the "diaper stage" because every diaper cost money.

It would be easy to rationalize that our children are part of our ministry, therefore, we didn't need to give our offerings for several months.

But that would put me in charge of running "God's business" instead of allowing God to take care for our needs. We learned to step out in faith and depend on Him.

Now that I look back on those days, it's amazing how God came through in thousands of ways to provide for our needs! It was fun to see how He provided all our needs then and continues to do so now.

Today, let's not rationalize our commitment to God. Let's trust God with all our needs by returning our tithes and offerings faithfully. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord is leading you to give. Our offering for today is for Combined Youth Ministries.