

Local Church Budget

February 7, 2026

John Paul Young's song "*Love Is in the Air*" became a worldwide hit in 1978. Its opening lines declare: "*Love is in the air, everywhere I look around. Love is in the air, every sight and every sound.*"

Long before this song was written, Christians have been singing about love in the beloved hymn "*Love at Home*," composed by John Hugh McNaughton in 1860. Its opening words remind us, "*There is beauty all around when there's love at home; There is joy in every sound when there's love at home.*"

Reflecting on love in 1 John 4:19, the Apostle John writes, "*We love because He first loved us*". Love truly fills the air because God loved us first. While many express love through flowers and gifts, Christians are reminded that the greatest act of love came from Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for a world He loves without end. The Apostle Paul affirms this when he writes in Ephesians: "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*". Christ's love, demonstrated on Calvary, is unmatched. Its effects are eternal, securing salvation for humanity and restoring the universe.

Today, as we enter God's loving presence and return our tithes and freewill offerings, let us receive His love with grateful hearts and commit to sharing that love with others.

Adventist TV Ministries Evangelism

February 14, 2026

The Bible records different methods of spreading the gospel, and in today's society, media plays a vital role in fulfilling that mission.

For many years, the North American Division has partnered with life-changing ministries such as *It Is Written*, *Voice of Prophecy*, *Breath of Life*, *Faith for Today*, *La Voz de la Esperanza*, *Jesus 101*, and *LifeTalk Radio*. These ministries cast the net far and wide, reaching people who might never set foot in a church. Many of the souls they touch become interested leads for local churches to nurture and bring to Christ. Jesus illustrated this principle in Matthew 13:47-48, "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore."

Adventist Television Ministries are modern-day fishers of men, casting the gospel net into cities, homes, and even the "concrete jungles" where traditional methods may not reach.

Ellen White emphasized this work on page 32 in the book *Evangelism*, over a century ago, "Again and again I am instructed to present to our churches the work that should be done in our large cities. There is a great work to be done, not only where we have churches already established, but also in places where the truth has never been fully presented."

We are all called to be fishers of men. Today, through our offerings, we can support Adventist Television Ministries as they continue to spread God's message of salvation. Let us give generously.

Local Church Budget

February 21, 2026

Children are a heritage from God and should be included in the call to respond to Him through stewardship. They, like all of us, are beneficiaries of God's grace. So, how are children to be involved in the call to be faithful stewards? The instruction to Israel gives an example. Deuteronomy 6 says, "These commandments that I give you today, are to be impressed upon your children", in the home, outside of the home, and even when you are resting. Like Israel, as a church, we are to model and teach the concepts of stewardship to our children. Help them to understand what it means to use God's gift of time to worship and build a relationship with him, to take care of their mind and body, to use their talents and abilities to witness to others, to be caretakers of our environment, and also to return their tithe and freewill offering to the Lord.

We are encouraged as parents to teach our children by example what it means to show their love for Christ, and to bring their offerings to the Lord. In *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 293, Ellen White writes that, "their gifts would be as little rivulets or streams, which when united and set flowing, would swell into a river".

Today, let us all be stewards by returning our tithes and offerings, modeling for our children what God desires of us all.

Combined Youth Ministries

February 28, 2026

The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates many educational institutions, at the elementary school, academy, college, and university levels in the conferences of the North America Division territory. These schools are supported financially by a number of sources. For example, generous donors, organizations, subsidies from local conferences, union conferences, and—importantly—local church members, who believe in the educational philosophy of our church. The philosophy says true education is redemptive in nature, and does not only focus on academic learning, but also on helping students to develop faith in God and a commitment to serve others.

Ellen G. White supports this view in *Education*, page 30, when she says, “In the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one”. That is to say, both the effort to share Christ with students and the mission to present Jesus to the world have the same purpose of rebuilding the image of God in His children. The wise man Solomon in Proverbs 9 states it best, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”.

Our children and future generations will call us blessed because we faithfully support our education system, giving them an opportunity to learn about Christ at their most impressionable age. Let us give to support Combined Youth Ministries today.