

October 3, 2026 - Local Church Budget

When More Money Didn't Become More Lifestyle

One pastor says one of the greatest financial blessings in his life wasn't getting more money. It was discovering that he didn't need to keep it.

When Rick Warren wrote *The Purpose Driven Life*, he had no idea it would become one of the bestselling nonfiction books in publishing history.

Suddenly, Rick and his wife, Kay, were receiving far more income than they had ever expected.

And that created a decision: Would more money mean a bigger lifestyle—or greater generosity? Rick chose generosity.

After the book's success, he stopped taking a salary from Saddleback Church, repaid the salary the church had paid him during his first 25 years of ministry, and eventually began practicing what he called "reverse tithing"—giving away about 90% of his income and living on the remaining 10%.

But the greatest blessing wasn't that Rick became financially successful. It was that money lost its grip on him.

He could have used his success to accumulate more, but instead he discovered the freedom of saying:

"God gave this to me, so I can use it for His purposes."

Maybe you're afraid that if you give, there won't be enough left for you.

Generosity doesn't guarantee that God will make you wealthy. But it can teach your heart something money never can: Your security isn't in how much you keep. Your security is in the God who provides.

Today's offering is for the Local Church Budget. I invite you to trust God with what He's entrusted to you. You can give here in person or online at AdventistGiving.org.

October 10, 2026 - Union Designated

One Breakfast Changed Her Life

One morning in 2019, a man named Joe sat down for breakfast at a Waffle House. While talking with his waitress, Adrianna, he learned something that stopped him.

She had walked seven miles to work.

She didn't have a car, so she was saving every dollar she could—walking miles just to keep showing up for her shifts.

Joe finished his breakfast and left her a \$500 tip.

That alone would have been extraordinary. But Joe and his wife weren't finished. Later that same day, they returned to the restaurant with something Adrianna never expected:

A 2011 Nissan Sentra they had purchased for her.

And then something beautiful happened. Their generosity started spreading.

A local mechanic offered to maintain Adrianna's car for free. Others were inspired to help another Waffle House employee who was struggling.

One act of generosity became a chain reaction. And that's the incredible thing about giving: You may never know how far one gift will travel.

Do you want to make a difference in this world?

God can take what you place in His hands and use it to bless people you may never even meet.

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October 17, 2026 - Local Church Budget

Who Really Owns It?

David Green started his business in 1972 with just \$600 and a tiny workshop. As the company grew, David and his family made an unusual decision:

They would treat the business as if it belonged to God—not to them.

Someone once asked David why he gave so much away instead of keeping it for himself.

His answer was simple:

“If I own it all, then I have to take care of it. If God owns it, then He has the responsibility.”

So as their resources increased, the Green family gave generously to Christian ministries, Bible translation, education, humanitarian work, and evangelism.

And Hobby Lobby continued to grow.

But David says the greatest blessing wasn't becoming wealthy. It was seeing what God could do through what they gave.

“The joy comes from seeing lives changed.”

That's the beautiful thing about generosity. When you place something in God's hands, you may never know how far He will take it.

Your gift can help someone hear the gospel, strengthen a ministry, or change a life you may never personally meet.

So when we give, we're not simply paying an expense. We're participating in God's mission.

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October 24, 2026 - Combined Youth Ministries

Trusting God When It Costs You

Truett Cathy was running a small restaurant in Georgia when he made a decision that seemed terrible for business. *Close one day every week.*

For a restaurant owner, that meant giving up an entire day of sales—every single week. But Truett believed some things were more important than profit.

He wanted one day a week reserved for worship, rest, and family. And that same philosophy shaped how he treated money.

As his business grew, Truett gave generously—funding scholarships, helping employees, and supporting ministries and communities.

Some people might have expected those choices to limit his success.

Instead, that small restaurant eventually became Chick-fil-A, one of the most successful restaurant chains in America.

But the lesson isn't that honoring God guarantees financial success. It's that Truett refused to let money control his decisions.

He was willing to trust God with his time, resources, and future before knowing how everything would turn out.

Do you ever struggle to trust God when obedience might cost you something?

Maybe you hold tightly to your money because you're afraid there won't be enough. Returning our tithes and giving our offerings is one way we can say:

“God, my security isn't in what I keep. My security is in You.”

Today's offering goes to Combined Youth Ministries. I invite you to trust God with what He's given you. You can give here in person or online at AdventistGiving.org.

October 31, 2026 - Union Designated

When More Wasn't Enough

One of the richest men in history discovered that having more money didn't necessarily bring more peace.

John D. Rockefeller built Standard Oil and accumulated an enormous fortune.

But in the early 1890s, the pressure became overwhelming. He suffered serious health problems, chronic stomach trouble, and lost his hair during what historians describe as a period of extreme stress and overwork.

Rockefeller had actually been giving to his church and charities since he was young. But as his fortune grew, so did his commitment to stewardship.

He increasingly turned his attention from building wealth to giving it away.

He helped establish the University of Chicago, funded medical research and public-health programs, and eventually donated approximately \$540 million to charitable causes.

His giving didn't magically cure his problems.

But his life became increasingly focused on what his wealth could accomplish for others rather than simply what it could provide for himself.

Do you ever hold tightly to money because you're afraid there won't be enough?

God invites us to find our security not in what we keep, but in Him.

Generosity may not change your circumstances overnight—but it can change your relationship with money today.

Today's offering is Union Designated. I invite you to trust God with what He's given you. You can give here in person or online at AdventistGiving.org.