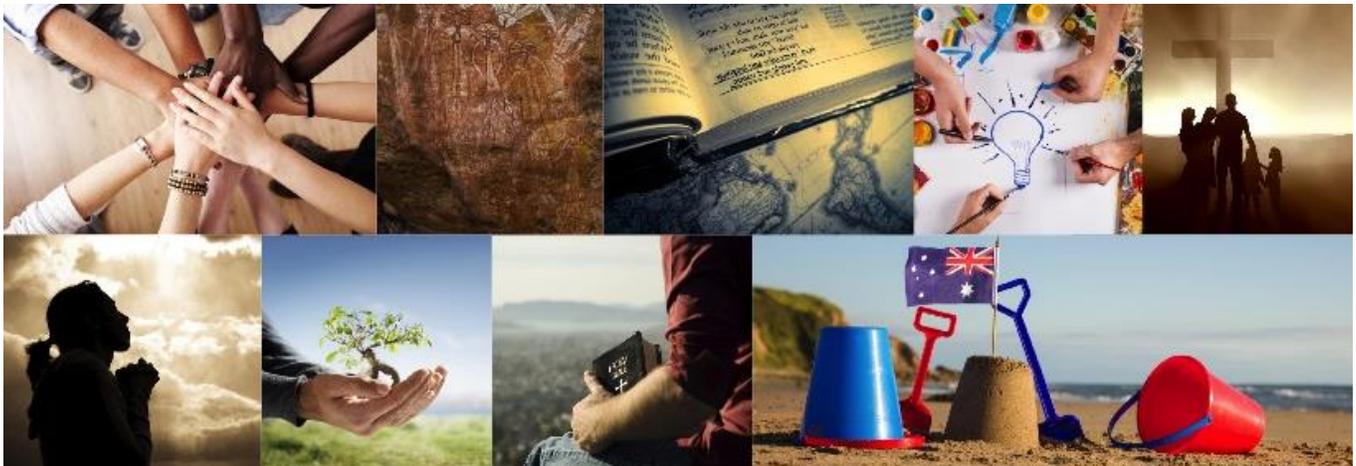




Offering Announcements

2nd Quarter 2017



Welcome...

Welcome to the 2nd quarter offering resource that has been developed to assist you and your church in being better informed about upcoming offerings. It also includes key thoughts, Bible texts, an appeal and prayer. It is also intended to be used as a resource to assist those leading worship to make the offering time a more inspiring and meaningful experience. If you are a leader in your church I encourage you to use it as much as possible throughout the quarter. Each week photocopy a week in advance and distribute to members and place in their pigeon holes, e-mail it in the church news, pin it on notice boards and share it from the front during the offering time. You may also like to head to our conference Facebook page where each week the relevant weeks offering information will be upload so you can share it with your church group and friends.

We really want you to feel resourced and informed so please if we can be of any assistance to you don't hesitate to contact us here in the Stewardship department of the Administration and Resourcing Centre and we will seek to help you as best we can.

Your generosity and faithfulness in the giving of tithes, offerings and resources supports the mission and vision of not only your local church in its community but the church in South Queensland, Australia, the South Pacific and the world. Praise God that we belong to such a dynamic disciple making worldwide missional movement!

Thank you for being a part of the South Queensland church family and may God bless you abundantly this quarter.

Pr Greg Pratt

Stewardship Director

South Queensland Conference



2017 South Queensland Conference 2nd Quarter Offering Calendar

APRIL

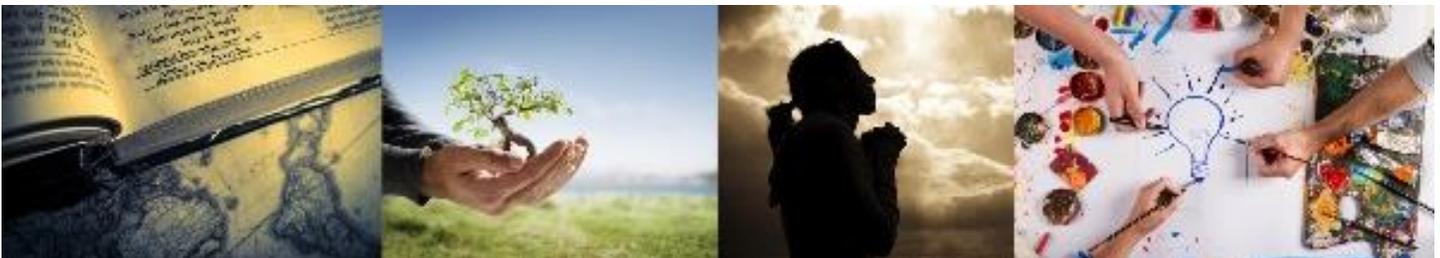
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01
APR

Local Church Budget



Psalm 50:12: "If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it."

Since God owns everything, He doesn't need our money, but we need to give. We don't give because He is poor; we give in obedience to Him.

Giving to God helps us to keep our lives in focus and to remember who He is and who we are. He instructs us in Proverbs 3:9, 10 to "honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops, then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

Giving is a key to unlock God's blessing in your life! Although God doesn't need our money, money is useful to the work of His kingdom here on earth. When we give to Him, we are helping to extend His kingdom through His church.

This Sabbath you have the opportunity to give back to God and support your church in its mission of bringing hope and meaning through the revelation of Jesus Christ to where you live. The offering you give will support the various ministries, evangelistic initiatives and the day to day operations of your church.

Appeal

As we return God's tithe and give our freewill offerings today, let us not give grudgingly but with a cheerful heart, knowing that we are storing up for ourselves treasure in heaven by investing in His work.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, accept and receive these tithes and offerings. Use them to Your glory for the advancement of Your work. Amen.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.

World Mission Budget

08
APR



Matthew 28:19, 20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Did you know that there are approximately 16,500 people groups in the world population of 7.4 billion? Did you know that 3.1 billion people in 6,700 of these people groups (or 42% of the world population) have almost no Christian presence?

Twice a year the offering taken during our church service goes to support mission work around the world, and today is one of those days.

It helps fund missionaries, hospitals, clinics, schools, and churches. It also helps print literature and prepare broadcasts so that people who may otherwise never know of Jesus can hear or read about Him in their own language.

Appeal

Today we have a special opportunity to help share God's words of hope and love. Your help is appreciated. Thank you for supporting the World Mission Offerings in order to reach a world in need.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the privilege of knowing You. Accept our offerings of gratitude today and may their effect be multiplied in your mission field. Amen.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.

15
APR

Education



Every day thousands of children are entrusted into our care for up to 6 - 8 hours a day. We are blessed as a church to have an outstanding team of hundreds of teachers, chaplains and staff led by a wonderful team of Principals seeking to connect and introduce these students into a relationship with Jesus.

Further to this we have thousands of parents, grandparents and family who are also connected to our schools through their children who also may not yet know Jesus. What a fantastic opportunity to witness to these families in being the Christ Centred Church community every day!

Today you have the opportunity to support our schools here in South Queensland through the giving of your offerings. Further still why not think about how you could support our schools with your time, effort or skills. Maybe you could send a simple card of encouragement to the principal and staff, maybe you could support a family you know to attend one of our schools or maybe it is intentionally offering up the school in prayer knowing through your support, your schools are changing lives every day!

Appeal

May we realise that we are stewards of one of the greatest mission fields in our care, our schools and through your support together we are able to empower our schools to be the living and breathing expression of Jesus every day!

Prayer

Lord today we offer up our schools throughout our conference to you, we pray that you may bless and empower our principals, teachers, staff and students as they meet together each day and that you may continue to be lifted up through our schools to our friends, family and community amen.

Note: Be sure to read the South Queensland Conference Focus magazine, our website and join our conference Facebook site where you will find the latest news and stories of education throughout our conference to share with your church when announcing the offering.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.

Local Church Budget

22
APR



Psalms 24:1, 2: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it on the waters."

In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus taught that God owns everything that we have. He entrusts possessions to us for a time to bring about an increase. Luke 12:42-48 further teaches that our role is that of a steward, or manager, who takes care of the owner's possessions on behalf of the owner. The steward should always handle the possessions with the goal of doing whatever the owner desires to be done, in anticipation of the owner's return. He asks himself/herself, "What does the owner want? How would He use this resource?"

When we begin to see the things we have as God's but entrusted to us for a time, we will begin to approach life from a totally different perspective. As you give today know that your offering supports the mission of your church in fulfilling the great commission of Matthew 28 through the resourcing of the various ministries, outreach initiatives and day to day expenses allowing your church to be a church in the community.

Appeal

The realization that we are stewards of God's possessions is a big step toward faithfulness. It shifts our goal from getting rich to desiring to glorify God with whatever we have.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to be more faithful as managers of what You have entrusted to us. Teach us to begin to value the things that You value. Amen.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.

29
APR

Local Church Budget



Matthew 6:24: "You cannot serve both God and money."

Placing our security in possessions rather than in God is very dangerous. Money can quickly become our security in life, and in that way it becomes our god. No wonder Jesus warned that we need to serve one or the other.

Either God or money will occupy the supreme place in our lives. God's desire is that we find our sense of security in Him alone. However, our human tendency is to feel secure only when we feel that we have enough money or material possessions.

When we try to find security in material things, we will always be disappointed. Countless people throughout history have tried it and discovered in the end that money doesn't satisfy the deepest needs in the heart. That is why Solomon could say in Ecclesiastes 5:10, "Whoever loves money is never satisfied with their income." He also said in Proverbs 11:28, "Those who trust in their riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf."

If you read Acts 2: 42 - 47 you experience a community of believers who place God first and through their time, talents, possessions and resources seek to serve others with the love of Jesus through intentionally meeting needs. By your act of giving today you are placing God first with your money and supporting your church in sharing the Good News of Jesus in your community. Never underestimate the significance your act of sacrificial giving has in changing lives both now and for eternity. The person sitting next you may be there as a result of your generosity!!!

Appeal

Let us not place our security in possessions but in God. "You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24). God or money will occupy the supreme place in our lives. Let us be the missional expression of church as in the book of Acts seeking to meet others needs in order that they may know and experience Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, in plenty and in little, help us to put our trust in You and be Your expression of love to our community Amen.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.



ADVENTIST RECORD

Adventist Record is the official news and lifestyle magazine for the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Providing roughly 24,000 copies to Seventh-day Adventist church members in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, *Adventist Record* was established in 1898.

As a member or attender of the church in South Queensland you are a part of a world wide missional movement and through reading the Record you capture the awesomeness of what the Lord is doing through you, your friends, fellow church members and attenders along with the various ministries and initiatives people just like you are involved in day. From Africa to America, Tonga to Tasmania, Switzerland to the Solomon Islands Adventist Record keeps you informed of all that is happening in your church.

Through your generosity today you will support the ongoing ministry and mission of this magazine and assist it in reaching more people with the news of how our church is fulfilling its mission.

Appeal

May we give today to support the ministry and mission of Adventist Record as it share news and stories of discipleship from both here and around the world

Prayer

Lord, today we once again dedicate the Record to you knowing our support enhances its ongoing work in our community. Amen

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MAY

Education



Week of Worship is a highlight for our schools, these special events are a time when the school intentionally puts aside time each day apart from the daily worships for the students to come and have a time of spiritual emphasis. They usually include enjoyable ice breakers and challenges, worship through music and song, times of prayer, dramas, testimonies and a message, often delivered by a guest speaker.

These special weeks are not only a spiritual high for the schools but they are also a time when we see the spirit move powerfully through the School community as decisions for Jesus are made with hundreds of students making a stand for Jesus and even baptism. It is also not uncommon for parents and even teachers to also make a stand for Him at these events. What a wonderful missional opportunity! The challenge is are we as a church faithfully following up these decisions?

It is through your support of our schools that events like these are even possible because it is when we work and do discipleship united together in our church, school and home that we see a wonderful discipleship movement arise that is growing more and better disciples for His kingdom.

Today as you give know that your offering changes lives and grows disciples both now and for eternity!

Appeal

May we give today to support the ministry and mission of our schools as they grow disciples

Prayer

Lord as we give today we ask that you may build up our schools to further your mission in South Queensland, we pray that as a church we may faithfully disciple the children within our care to be followers of You. Amen.

Note: Be sure to read the South Queensland Conference Focus magazine, our website and join our conference Facebook site where you will find the latest news and stories of education throughout our conference to share with your church when announcing the offering.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.

South Pacific Division Strategy - Comprehensive Health Ministry

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MAY



If ever there was a time the world needed a health ministry it is now. You don't have to look very far to see a tv program, movie, shop, magazine or organisation that is trying to sell the benefits of health and yet as a church we have had health and it's benefits as a blessing to us for years!

The time has come for us as a church to further this work and intentionally promote the wonderful missional initiatives the Lord has blessed us with in regards to healthy lifestyle. From Chip to Recipe Clubs, Live Chef and health related programs, events and seminars we have the opportunity to grow more and better disciples through the enhancement of our health ministry in our church, conference and division.

There are some exciting health initiatives being launched in the coming months and today as you give, you are supporting this vitally important ministry of our church in being missional to the community.

If you would like more information regarding the Comprehensive Health Ministry or the Health Ministry in South Queensland Conference be sure to contact our Health Director, Neil Marks in the Administration and Resourcing Centre on 07 3218 7777.

Appeal

May we give today to support the ministry and mission of the various health initiatives.

Prayer

Lord as we give today we ask that you may build up our Health Ministry in South Queensland to further your mission. Amen.

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MAY

Local Church Budget



1 Samuel 16:7: The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

To value riches more than character is one's worst choice. The world usually judges people by how much they have materially, and character flaws in wealthy persons are easily overlooked. God, on the other hand, judges us not by our wealth but by our character.

How do we judge ourselves? How do we judge others? What do we pray for when we pray for ourselves-material things or the development of character?

When one starts thinking more about what one has than who one is, one is valuing riches more than character. Proverbs 3:13-16 says, "Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour."

As you give today, know you are giving beyond yourself to a greater cause. Know you are supporting the work of your church in being the hands and feet of Jesus in your community, showing His love, care and support to others without judgement.

Appeal

Wisdom is better than riches and experiencing His love is greater than anything in this world. May we consider this as we worship the Lord in tithe and offerings today!

Prayer

Lord, please give us wisdom and develop our character to be like you. Amen.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.



"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:13 – 16

Today you are being a change agent, as you give you are empowering your church community to permeate the world by leaving the shaker behind and being Jesus hands and feet to the community. Your resources are the fuel to equip the church to shine on the stand, reflecting His love and grace to your city. Through living beyond your means you are enabling your church to bring love, life, meaning and purpose to those who are not a part of your church family.

Appeal

Lord, may we be salt and light with all we have to our friends, family, neighbours and community.

Prayer

Lord, please give us a heart for those who are not here yet. Amen

10
JUN

Pacific Adventist University



1 Kings 17:15, 16: "She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah."

The story of the widow of Zarephath teaches us many lessons about the blessings of faithful stewardship. The Master in His powerful sermon cited her exemplary faithfulness, which is worthy of emulation! "I assure you that there were many widows in Israel.... Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon" (Luke 4:25, 26).

The fact that this peculiar woman was not even an Israelite and thus ignorant about all the oracles of God makes her faithfulness stand tall in the faith honour roll. It is for that reason that Jesus singled her out as an object lesson of faithfulness. We must note that God did not send Elijah to those with means, but to a poor widow. This should be a rebuke to us who excuse our refusal to give to the cause of God on the basis that we are in dire economic straits.

Today you have the opportunity to support that work of Pacific Adventist University as it continues to grow more and better disciples. Be sure to read the Record for more information about the work of PAU.

Appeal

Like the widow of Zarephath, God will bless us in ways that transcend our imagination if we make Him first in our lives and Lord of our possessions.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to be faithful regardless of our financial situation. Amen.

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.



Matthew 6:19: "Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal."

On his way to New York City to seek his fortune, William Colgate met a godly canal-boat captain who defined success in the following terms: "Be a good man, give your heart to Jesus, pay to God all that belongs to Him." When he established a business, Colgate remembered that advice. He gave to God one tenth of the first dollar he earned and ever afterward he considered ten cents of every dollar as sacred to the Lord. As the Colgate business increased, so did the man's generosity. Eventually, he would regularly give over half of his income to religious work. His success story is attributed to his faithfulness in returning tithe and devoting a percentage of his income to God's work. He was generous in all things. He invested in God's work before material things.

William Colgate took on the challenge in Malachi 3:10 and found that the floodgates of heaven were indeed opened. He found that tithing was the investment of a lifetime (www.nairaland.com/1456683/successs-stories-tithers-add-, accessed 8/29/16).

Today you have the opportunity to not only follow the example of William Colgate in giving but you also have the opportunity to support the mission of our church here in South Queensland as you support your school in being Jesus to the community. Your generosity really does change lives, families and homes for His Kingdom. Thank you for your support of our wonderful Schools in South Queensland.

Appeal

Let us respond faithfully to God's instructions in Malachi 3:10.

Prayer

Thank You, Father, for Your abundant generosity. Help us to share in the joy of generosity and be faithful stewards supporting the mission of our schools. Amen.

24
JUN

Local Church Budget



And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

How is your church growing disciples? How are you supporting this commission? Who are you investing your life in in order to grow them to be a disciple of Jesus? Today your giving supports the discipleship endeavors of your local church in growing more and better disciples. It assists your church in the day to day running of its various Sabbath and weekly initiatives while also providing evangelistic resources such a Bible studies to assist you in growing disciples and supporting the various ongoing costs and expenses of supporting the mission of your church in your community.

Appeal

Today as you give know you are supporting the mission of your church in leading your community to Jesus

Prayer

Lord may we give to support Your mission in our city. Amen

LEARN MORE. LIVE MORE. LOVE MORE.