

Offering Announcements

1st Quarter 2020



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7



South Queensland Conference 2020 1st Quarter Offering Calendar

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January

Local Church Budget



It was the church Christmas program that Adam was first invited to and met Jesus as His friend and saviour after the Pastor invited the congregation to make a decision during his sermonette. Throughout the next year he has done bible studies, attended summer camp and become a part of the church and on the afternoon of the 14th of December he was baptised into the Seventh-day Day Adventist church. This is just one of the stories of discipleship from around our churches in South Queensland, there are many more.

Today you have the opportunity to give in support of your church and its mission in your community. As a conference we have a vision of "Shaping for Mission" and this is no more evident than this year as we encourage every church to join in and be a part of Harvest 2020. This year we want to encourage each member and church to intentionally capture our God given mission and prepare, sow, cultivate, harvest and multiply disciples of Jesus in the community around them.

Your offering today will go to support that work, the work of our church right here in our community through providing funds to maintain and advance this kingdom work in our community. Please give generously.

Appeal

As we return our tithes and give our offerings for our church budget today may it continue to support discipleship and mission and allow us to continue to grow your kingdom I our community where we live.

Prayer

Dear God. Through the little that we give may you bless it to have a kingdom impact both here in our local community and in our church around the world. Thank you that we are a part a wonderful world wide movement and are able to resource your work around the world right where we live in this way. Amen



We have the opportunity to worship God through the giving of our tithes and offerings. Today our offering today is for our church right here in our community, it's to resource you and I to be the church in our community and to strengthen our ability to 'Shape for Mission'. Through your giving today you will assist our church in resourcing the various ministries. From children's ministries to various kinds of evangelism, small groups to communication and the production of the bulletin each week, even the bills that need to be paid or assist in purchasing boxes of Bibles, your generosity today assists in supporting your church and our mission right here in our community. Your support is vital to the ongoing health and vitality of our church community both now and into the future. Thank you for being a part of our church as we together prepare for the soon return of our Lord and saviour.

¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. Malacai 3:10

May we give in order that we can continue to grow and build the church and it's impact in our community as we share the love of Jesus.

Appeal

As we return our tithes and give our offerings for our church budget today may resource your work right here in our community.

Prayer

Dear God. Thank you for the opportunity to give back to you're the blessings you have bestowed upon us. We honour and praise you for all you have done in our lives and church and we pray with the amount I give it may have an eternal impact. Amen.



Are you looking for a school to send your son and daughter to? We are blessed in the South Queensland Conference to have excellent schools that are sharing Jesus with our students and their families every day. Our schools not only exist to equip, empower and educate our own children but did you realise that our schools are one of the greatest mission fields with a very large percentage of parents from the surrounding community trusting us as a church with their children 5 days a week?

Thank God for our wonderful principals, teachers, chaplains, and staff who tirelessly go way above and beyond what is expected in order to show our children Jesus each day. From early mornings to late evenings of praying, planning, marking, meetings, camps, after school events and more. Each day our wonderful education ministry team here in South Queensland seek to make a difference in the lives of our children and their friends in order that they may see and experience Jesus.

Today this is your opportunity to support this wonderful work as your generosity assists in the day to day operation of our schools. Thank you for sharing in the bigger picture of being a church community here in South Queensland that stands united with our schools and their wonderful team to bring JESUS to our community each day.

Appeal

As we return our tithes and offerings for education today may we stand united with our education ministry team supporting and resourcing the ministry of our schools and allow us to continue to grow your kingdom in our community each day.

Prayer

Dear God. We ask that as we give today, may our offerings empower the schools to continue to transform the lives as they experience you day by day. Fill our schools with the Holy Spirit without measure. Amen

Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired

25
January



In 1973 Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (CSFBHI) was organised to help the totally and partially blind, and for sighted people who are unable to read normal ink print conveniently due to physical handicaps. CSFBHI is listed by the National Library of Australia in its library services for the handicapped and also in the directory of services for the Australian National Council for the Blind.

All services of the CSFBHI are free to the client and are funded by personal gifts and donations, and the resources of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia–New Zealand. Your offering today will support this important work. Please read on to understand our vision, mission and values.

Our vision

To maximise the potential of vision and hearing impaired people to participate fully in society.

Our mission is to

- Facilitate the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ in both its helping and saving aspects, to visually handicapped, hard of hearing and deaf people
- Provide services to enable vision- and hearing-impaired people to overcome the barriers that inhibit independence and participation in society
- Enable vision- and hearing-impaired people to take charge of their own lives and to enjoy the same rights and responsibilities as their sighted and hearing peers
- Promote awareness of the unique needs of the vision and hearing impaired people to others

Our values

- We acknowledge the value, worth and dignity of every individual.
- We acknowledge that all people have the right to choose how they will seek personal fulfilment and the environment in which they will do so.
- We believe that vision and hearing impaired people have the right to a lifestyle comparable to other members of the community.
- We deal respectfully, honestly, fairly and courteously with members, donors, volunteers, staff members, suppliers and the public.
- We respect the privacy of individuals and comply with all legal requirements when dealing with personal information.

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Local Church Budget

February



How are you shaping for mission? How is your church shaping for mission? What are the plans your church has for reaching your community in the HARVEST 2020 year this year?

If we stop and think about what our church does it is through our intentional efforts, dedication and desire to share Jesus that they even exist. From the usual Sabbath morning Sabbath School to the worship service, lunches, Pathfinders and adventurers, Adra, care and community support ministries, socials and more. We are blessed to be a blessing and it is through being a part of an intergenerational church community that nurtures, supports and loves one another that Jesus is revealed.

Your generosity of your time, talent and treasure supports your church in achieving its God given mission and vision in your town or city and allows your church to not only be a building but a life changing transformational community of disciples that share Jesus love in real and relevant ways.

Know when you give today, you are making a greater impact for His kingdom both now and for eternity.

Appeal

As we return our tithes and give our offerings for our church budget today may it continue to support and resource the work of our church and allow us to continue to grow the kingdom in our community where we live.

Prayer

Dear God. Through the little that we give may you bless it to have a kingdom impact both here in our local community and in our church around the world. Thank you that we are a part a wonderful world wide movement and are able to resource your work around the world right where we live in this way. Amen



Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

As we continue to shape for mission in 2019 how will you fulfil the words of Matthew 24:14 by not only giving of your tithes and offerings but your time and talents? Church we are here on this planet and live right here in our community to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, we are to be the living gospel to our friends, family, neighbours and those we do life with. It is only through being a part of your local church that the greatest impact for His kingdom will ever be accomplished, In fact it only ever has been through the local church!

We must rise up and be a loving community of Christians that through our actions, our life and our testimony of how Jesus Christ has transformed us that our friends, family, neighbours and where we live will experience the love of Jesus through us and ask how they can get to know the same Jesus we do.

When we return tithe and give our generous offerings and gifts, we do so in acknowledgment of God's ownership of all things while allowing ourselves to know that the Lord is able to further build His kingdom through our resources. As you generously give your offering, your treasure this Sabbath know that all you give will support the work you and your church is doing right where you are in building up the kingdom and preaching the gospel to your community.

Appeal

Let us be your hands and feet that those we come in contact with each day.

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for entrusting us with your resources. Help us to be faithful in using them for your glory and for sharing the gospel of your kingdom right here where we live. Amen.



We have all seen the devastation and drought and fires are causing to loved ones across our community in Australia. Families destroyed, loved ones lost, livestock with perishing, whole townships and communities that have completely run out of water. Townships tormented and devastated by the fiery infernos that have raged across this great land and all the while ADRA has been there assisting as best we can to bring support and relief to our fellow Aussies. As some one said, when the going gets tough, Aussies get tougher because we unite as one, band together and help each other out.

Your generosity today will assist in the immediate and long term relief efforts of ADRA Australia. Funds raised through the Disaster and Famine Relief Offering go to ADRA Australia's Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund. This fund is used to provide training to disaster response personnel, to provide immediate response to disasters such as water, food and shelter, and to support the long-term emergency response to help communities to rebuild following a disaster, there have been many over the last few months and we need to continue to be there for one another and our communities, sharing and showing the love and compassion as Jesus did to those who need it most.

Appeal

Lord as we give today may it go to support those who need it most, our fellow Australians who are trying to overcome the devastation that the drought and fires have and continue to cause.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, please send rain, send relief and send us in order that we can be your hands and feet in our devastated communities. Amen



“How can I help you?”

What if every church in South Queensland asked this question to both those within our church and to those in our surrounding community? What difference would it make? Essentially this is what Jesus did as he ministered while on this earth seeking and saving the lost and asking ‘How can I help You?’ From the woman at the well to the Rich Young Ruler, the paralytic to the woman caught in adultery, time after time Jesus was present in the community ready and willing to serve and share His love.

Ellen White writes “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He invited them, “Follow Me.” If we are wanting to have true success in being an influence we need to follow Christ, be a disciple of Him and live as he lived, in and with the community.

So where are we as a church? What is our priority? Are we shaping for mission and being Jesus hands and feet in our community? Are we present the lives of our friends, family and neighbours?

Today’s offering goes to support the mission of our church right where we are. Your offerings will assist our church to cover its ongoing expenses and continue our ministry of influence in our community. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our church.

Appeal

May we give generously to support the mission of our church in our community and may we be the church that has a transformational impact on our friends, family and neighbours as seek to shape for mission and impact our community with His love.

Prayer

Dear God. We give today knowing that our offering supports your church to be in our community and as we shape for mission may we be compelled to love our local community like never before and may they see you through not just our words but also our actions. Amen.

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February

Local Church Budget



"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

Late last year our sister church, Lifeswich experienced the baptism of 14 new disciples into their church community, Lifeswich is situated in Goodna and has had an intentional vision and mission to be a church that is with its community not just for. Through their influence they have been proactive in being Jesus hands and feet, showing his love and radically transforming their community with the love of Jesus. Praise God for this wonderful story of a church actively sharing the good news of Jesus.

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 of love. Your resources are the fuel to equip the church to shine on the stand, reflecting His love and grace in your city. Through your generosity you are enabling your church where you belong to bring love, life, meaning, hope and purpose to those who are not a part of your church family yet.

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



Church members were excited to get back into their newly renovated church building Sabbath 14th December 2019. Additional space, new rooms and updated facilities will add to the fellowship and worship experience for all at Landsborough Adventist Church. The renovations have and will make a big difference in the life of the church and will also allow it to have an even greater influence in the Landsborough community by helping to facilitate outreach programs, events and initiatives.

As a conference we are one church with 109 campuses from Rockhampton down to the Gold Coast and out to Charleville, we exist to grow a thriving disciple making movements in every part of our conference and to influence and transform our communities with the love of Jesus in preparation of the soon return of Jesus.

Today you have the opportunity to support one of our church families as they continue to Shape for Mission in their newly renovated church facility. Your offerings will make a big difference.

Keep an eye in the Focus and online for further information about Landsborough and their recent renovation.

Appeal

Please give generously to support our sister church in Monto and its ongoing ministry to the Landsborough community.

Prayer

Today we pray for Landsborough church, that your Spirit will continue to move in and through our church allowing it to continue to impact the Landsborough community with your love in real and relevant ways.



Slav, who lives in Australia, thought he'd stumbled upon Adventist World Radio by chance in late 2017, but we at AWR believe it was a divine appointment! AWR can be heard on 150 stations throughout Australia and stories like these happen all the time.

Slav had been listening to his usual radio station in his car when he decided he was tired of that kind of music, so he scanned through other local stations and happened upon Faith FM, an affiliate of AWR. He started listening to the Christian topics, and they captured his attention. Pretty soon, Faith FM became his new favorite station.

This came at a critical time in his life, as Slav was jobless and drank heavily to deal with his anxiety and depression. As he listened to AWR's messages, he realized that he could better use his free time to research what he was learning about the Bible.

He also decided to respond to the station's offer for a free copy of Steps to Christ. He anxiously awaited the book's arrival and checked his mailbox often. Then, to his surprise, one day he heard a knock at his door and found Pastor Gavin, from the local Adventist church, standing on his doorstep. The pastor introduced himself and said he'd wanted to drop off the book in person.

Pastor Gavin gave Slav his phone number and invited him to keep in touch, promising he would follow up once he finished the book. A few hours later, the pastor received a text from Slav, thanking him for dropping off the book and letting him know he was already enjoying it.

A couple months later, Pastor Gavin was trekking in the mountains of New Zealand when he received a text from Slav, who wrote, "I think I'm ready to be baptized. When can that happen?"

Pastor Gavin was shocked—in the very best way! He soon learned that Slav had continued listening to AWR, and had quit drinking cold turkey. Slav told him, "I was drinking a lot, but once I made the decision to stop, that was it. God gave me the victory and I've never gone back to it or had the desire to drink."

Pastor Gavin also learned that this wasn't Slav's first connection with the Adventist Church. His father had joined the church in the mid-90s. Back in those days, Slav would overhear his father's Bible studies, but didn't join him. For more than 20 years, his father would talk to him about his faith, but Slav didn't really engage with what his father was saying.

But the seeds that his father planted did finally come to fruition. Slav said, "After listening to AWR on Faith FM, I connected with the message and understood what my father was trying to teach me. That's what really led me to believe and find this truth. My heart was open and I was ready. I developed a special connection with God, and my father was so happy when I told him!"

Please pray for Slav as he continues in his walk with God. His wife, who is Catholic, would not let Pastor Gavin conduct Bible studies in their home, so Slav studied at the local Adventist church instead. However, Slav's wife and their three children have really appreciated the changes they've seen in him. They are thrilled he doesn't drink anymore, and they even surprised Slav by attending his baptism.

Thank you for supporting Adventist World Radio as yet again, through Slav's story, we see how God works on the hearts of men and women to take them from broadcast . . . to baptism!



"...The church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard. While He extends to all the world His invitation to come to Him and be saved, He commissions His angels to render divine help to every soul that cometh to Him in repentance and contrition, and He comes personally by His Holy Spirit into the midst of His church."

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers Pg 15

You and I are that church Ellen White so passionately describes, that living, breathing expression of Jesus Christ in whom His Holy Spirit comes personally, us, we, you and I are the church upon which Jesus bestows His supreme regard. Each and every one of us!

So how are you being the church today? How will you be the church this week? Do you honestly know that you and I enfeebled and defective we may be are the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard? Stop and think about that for a minute!

Today you have the opportunity to support and resource the various activities and ministries we facilitate day by day, you have the privilege to give to a greater cause that is bigger than just ourselves, it is the greatest gathering on the planet, it is the church, your church, my church, our church and the incredible thing is He wants this gathering of his church community to grow, to be a transforming influence to our friends, family and neighbours who do life around us every day. Your generosity can and will change lives right here in our local community so today as you give know you are giving to a greater cause, you are giving to the church in your community.

Appeal

As we return our tithes and give our offerings for our church budget today may it continue to support and resource the work of our church and allow us to continue to grow your kingdom I our community where we live.

Prayer

Dear God. Through the little that we give may you bless it to have a kingdom impact both here in our local community and in our church around the world. Thank you that we are a part a wonderful world wide movement and are able to resource your work around the world right where we live in this way. Amen



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 Spirit-led 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 and invested in the life of 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! There is power when we intentionally connect the home, school and church together in mission and seeking to raise the next generation to not only know Jesus but lead our church forward into the future until Jesus comes.

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.