



September 5
2015

ADVENTIST MISSION EMPHASIS

Some Suggestions for Specific Offering Promotions

An Outcome of Proper Stewardship

First and foremost, the commitment of one's life to Jesus Christ in response to His grace and love provides the basis for all giving. Christian stewardship lies at the foundation of any approach to fundraising for world missions. To promote mission offerings and sacrificial giving without recognition of God's ownership of all we have, and His claims upon us as Creator and Redeemer is to limit our activity to mere fundraising. The highest motivation for giving to mission or any activity of the church is the compulsion that comes from a personal relationship with God. Our contributions to offerings and any appeal for finance must be in response to what God has done for us. Thus, a vital ingredient of a successful promotion program will be a strong emphasis on stewardship and our spiritual relationship with God. We suggest that any promotion of mission offerings, therefore, be preceded by a clear understanding of Christian stewardship.

A Response to the Challenge of Christ's Mission

Increased giving to mission will also come as a result of a greater sense of the urgency of missions. The commission to take the gospel to every nation, tongue, and people will motivate

and inspire greater sacrifice and giving. A passion for lost souls and the compulsion to reach every village and island will lead people to give liberally and generously. When the needs of a lost world and the reality of "unreached people" weigh upon the heart, there will be an amazing outpouring of benevolence. Rather than "laying up treasure on earth, where moth and rust corrupt," the Christian who is passionate for God's work to be finished will invest in heaven's business and give generously to mission. Thus, any promotion program must be accompanied by a renewed awareness of mission and a greater understanding of our mission to "finish God's work."

The result of Compelling Information

Successful fundraising campaigns are always dependent on good information. Reports on the outcome of previous giving, the hard facts of what is needed and what has already been achieved will do much to strengthen confidence in the project. There should be no shortage of information concerning the mission needs and the methods to be used. Reports at every stage of a strategy or program will greatly enhance the level of interest and the level of involvement. Ongoing updates on mission projects and reports on what was achieved with

**OPENING
HYMN:**
#281 "I gave
My Life for Thee"

**SCRIPTURE
READING:**
Ephesians 5:1, 2

**CLOSING
HYMN:**
#248 "Oh! How
I Love Jesus"

SERMON

mission funds should be readily available. Such information should be factual and not exaggerated or fabricated.

A Reaction to Inspiring Stories of Successful Mission

As much as is possible, share inspiring stories of mission growth to inspire further investment in mission. Nothing breeds success like success, and the encouraging stories of baptisms, church growth, and evangelism will indeed inspire members to more generous giving.

Confidence in Church Leadership and Accountability

Proper accountability and transparency in handling funds along with visionary leadership will inspire confidence that will lead to further giving. Conversely, poor leadership and questionable financial management will be a negative influence that will work against increased giving to mission.

A Response to Intentional Goal-Setting by a Mission-focused Church

A church that intentionally sets offering goals together with a strong emphasis on mission can often provide the best motivation for raising levels of mission giving. Offering goals that are promoted to the whole church suggest a clear strategy and intention on the side of leadership that will inspire sacrificial giving. So, do not be afraid to set offering goals and targets for Sabbath School classes or the church as a whole. An Offering Goal chart is available from the Signs Publishing Co. (ordered through the ABC) or as a PowerPoint from the SPD website www.mission.spd.adventistconnect.org.

Sabbath School Offerings

1. Always emphasize the global focus of the church and our contribution to the World Mission Budget through weekly Sabbath School offerings. These offerings support the total mission program of the Adventist Church

and are what distinguishes our church as a world-wide family with a global mission.

2. Set some offering goals for the Sabbath School or for individual classes and report regularly on the Sabbath School's achievements. A large offering chart is available from the ABC/Signs that includes blanks for recording Offering totals and goals each week.
3. Use the Mission News Quarterly to share inspiring mission stories with the members each week. Rather than just "reading" the story, tell or act them when appropriate. Use the additional Mission Story PowerPoint that is available on the GC Adventist Mission website www.adventistmission.org
4. Regularly show segments of the Adventist Mission DVD with inspiring video stories of mission. These DVDs are available FREE from the Conference/Mission Sabbath School Department. Some segments are 7-10 minutes in length; others are short 2-3-minute mini-features.

13th Sabbath Offerings

1. 25% of the 13th Sabbath Offering goes to specific projects in world divisions featured each quarter in the Mission News. During the quarter, your Sabbath School could feature interesting aspects of the culture or country receiving the project. Use the offering chart to set a goal for the 13th Sabbath Offering and encourage members to reach this goal.
2. The Adventist Mission DVD particularly features video reports of the projects for each quarter. Show these segments to emphasize the needs and purposes of the offering.

Birthday/Thank Offerings

1. In your Sabbath School, feature the opportunity to give a special "thank offering" for God's blessings or for the celebration during the week of a birthday. Apart from acknowledging God's blessings in our lives, this is an opportunity to worship through giving. Birthday/Thank Offerings are directed to the World Mission Budget. They can be collected during a second hymn

or at the end of Sabbath School when birthdays and blessings are acknowledged.

If there is time, this segment can provide an opportunity for members to give a personal testimony of thanks to God. It also provides leaders with an opportunity to acknowledge birthdays and special events in the lives of their members, affirming them with a small Bible promise or gift.

Investment

1. Twice a year, your Sabbath School can launch an Investment project and collect an offering. This allows individual members to engage in small business enterprises or projects that will produce an income for mission. Allow members to explain how God has blessed their small investment as they enter into partnership with Him. Investment funds can be collected on the seventh Sabbath of a quarter.

Other Mission Projects

1. Sabbath School members may be involved in other mission projects, such as “Partner in Mission” visits, Fly-n-builds, VIA sponsorships, and other independent mission projects that will provide classes with a particular focus for other fundraising. Although these projects should not compete with or replace the regular Sabbath School Offerings, involvement in these projects will enhance commitment to mission in your church. Partner in Mission Sabbath Schools will be able to provide a special focus of outreach needs for prayer support. Foster these contacts as a means of raising mission awareness in your church.

The Office of Adventist Mission, IAD