2018
Offering Calendar
As we manage His resources we can share His blessings when we recognise that God gives through us. Our greatest blessing is to worship God by returning to Him the best of what He has placed in our hands.
Dear Church Leaders.

You hold in your hands a publication that is intended as a resource to those who promote offerings each week – this could be an Elder, Bulletin Editor, Website Administrator or any other person that has a creative way to promote offerings. Each non-local offering will have a short description that can be shared to with your congregation so they are aware of the purpose of the offering.

Thank you once again for the work you do in your local congregation, and for sharing the information in this booklet so we have better informed local churches.

Matthew Brown
Senior Accountant, North NSW Conference
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Our offering today supports local church congregations across North NSW build and renovate church facilities.

Our conference is aggressively pursuing a church planting strategy which will result in many new congregations being raised up within our cities and towns. As new church plants grow they often seek permanent buildings to facilitate community services and a place of worship.

In addition to assisting new church plants acquire a building for the first time, money provided in the offering today will also help existing churches renovate, extend, update signage and relocate to alternative sites.

Each of these church buildings represents a light in the community and a place of refuge, so please give generously.
Of the 35 recorded miracles of Jesus, 27 involved Him healing someone with “special needs”—the blind, the Deaf, and the intellectually or physically disabled.

Following Jesus’ example, the Church also reaches out to this people group through its Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired (CSFBHl) ministry. This service is for both the support of and outreach to those with special needs—the some 350 million Deaf in the world, of whom just 1 per cent are Christian or attend church.

Currently CSFBHl funds the free delivery of denominational audio books and print resources to the sight impaired, while for the Deaf it funds signers for weekly televised worship services; it is also building awareness of and inclusivity of those with special needs—helping to make our churches more open and welcoming to all of God’s children, for all are gifted, all are needed, and all can contribute in God’s kingdom, given the opportunity.

“It is in the providence of God that widows and orphans, the blind, the deaf, the lame, and persons afflicted in a variety of ways, have been placed in close Christian relationship to His church; it is to prove His people and develop their true character. Angels of God are watching to see how we treat these persons who need our sympathy, love, and disinterested benevolence. This is God’s test of our character.” (Ellen White, Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 3, p. 511)

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www-adventist-org-au.adventistconnect.org/CSFBHI
Today we take up the ADRA Disaster and Famine Relief Offering. ADRA stands for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, and is the part of our church that cares for people in need.

This offering is a crucial part of ADRA Australia’s ministry in responding with aid and compassion in the wake of disasters, both here and overseas.

Over the years, ADRA has responded immediately to natural disasters and emergencies around the world. In Australia, ADRA has been allocated the task of organising emergency accommodation at these times, and has done this recently at times of storms, floods and fires.

More than 600 churches across Australia are supporting ADRA today so that when disaster strikes, ADRA can instantly be there to help with food, shelter, medical assistance and other basic needs.

Be assured that whatever you give today will make a real difference in peoples lives. Please give generously.
The offering today goes to support Adventist World Radio. Adventist World Radio, using AM or FM radio and internet broadcasting, provides an opportunity to reach people where all other means are impractical or even impossible.

Many countries of the world are closed to traditional methods of evangelism. Talking about God is prohibited or severely restricted. Punishment for those caught can be severe.

Radio waves know no boundaries, and stories frequently emerge from these isolated countries where people who have stumbled across an Adventist World Radio broadcast in their own language and have become committed Christians.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has established a network of radio stations that now reach most parts of the world. The challenge is to provide sufficient content in as many different languages as possible. Please give generously to this vital ministry.

www.awr.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION
BULGARIA — Antonia and her sister Silvia of Sofia, Bulgaria, have long dreamed of creating a nonthreatening setting where they could reach out to people and make friends for Jesus.

Inspired by Jesus’ command to be the salt of the earth, they launched the Salted Café in their home city. It combines a café, juice bar, and bakery with a Christian library and bookstore and a venue for social events. Beautiful posters share Bible texts that encourage and inspire customers while a pastoral team presents Bible topics, cooking classes, and relationship seminars.

“We want to follow Jesus’ example of mingling with people and meeting their needs and only then inviting them on a journey with God,” said Silvia. Openly Christian and friendly, the Salted Café is listed on major tourist websites for vegetarian and vegan food. It is also a doorway for clients to taste and thirst for more of the gospel.

Appeal

Urban Centres of Influence, like this café, serve as a platform for putting Christ’s method of ministry into practice. Our faithful offerings today for the World Mission Budget will help more people around the world meet Jesus through Urban Centres of Influence.

Prayer

Jesus, we know that all heaven is smiling when we put into practice Your method of ministry. Inspire us to give generously to help fund more Centres of Influence around the world.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
am.adventistmission.org/mission-offering
Our offering today will help provide every church member with a copy of the Adventist Church’s news and information magazine, the Record.

The Record keeps us in touch with people and church activities in Australia and worldwide, and contains articles with interesting spiritual insights and comments.

Your support today will assist in the costs of publishing the Record for church members on a regular basis.
For more than 150 years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has promoted the importance of good health. The Bible says, “whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The Bible encourages us to find balance in the physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual aspects of our lives. This is supported by The World Health Organisation and other major health bodies, who recognise that true health means a total state of wellbeing.

Two major health initiatives that are used in the North New South Wales area are CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Project) and the Nedley Depression and Anxiety Recovery program. These are helping hundreds of people every year enjoy better health and therefore, a better life.

The money given today will go toward the assistance of local churches that are running these programs. We appreciate your support of these programs and encourage you to also promote them through your own participation.
Our offering today is for Avondale College of Higher Education, the largest of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s tertiary education institutions of higher education in Australia. Avondale offers a broad range of undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational courses. Its educational programme seeks to develop the whole person. The two campuses (Cooranbong and Sydney) provide safe and pleasant environments where students may enjoy Christian friendship while receiving a quality education.

Avondale’s graduates are widely sought after by employers. Many Avondale graduates have progressed to master and doctoral degrees at Australian and overseas universities, with an outstanding record of achievement.

Let’s be generous in our giving today.
CHINA—Lai and Ping are church planters in rural China where many villagers are steeped in local traditions. They met Mei, a local woman, who asked them, “Who is Jesus, and what is a Christian?” Lai and Ping patiently taught Mei about the Creator God who loves her and came to earth to save her from her sins. Mei’s heart rejoiced to learn about God’s love. But her husband objected to her desire to worship God. He hit her, yelled insults, snatched her Bible from her, and blocked the doorway to prevent her from going to a worship service. Mei prayed that God would soften her husband’s heart. Just then a man came to the house to see her husband, and Mei hurried out the door to worship with the small group of believers.

Mei’s husband is still strong in his traditional beliefs, but he now allows her to worship God. Meanwhile, others in the village have joined Mei in accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour.

Appeal

Adventist frontline workers such as Lai and Ping often work under difficult conditions. Faithfully returning God’s tithe and giving regular, percentage based offerings on our income will help take the message of Jesus’ love to the unreached corners of the world. Today’s offering is for the World Mission Budget.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for faithful frontline missionaries. Bless them and those they can introduce to Jesus because of the offerings we give.
The Union Global Partnership Offering is a joint partnership, at the request of the General Conference, between established Unions and developing mission fields. Australia has been invited to partner in supporting mission and development in Timor-Leste and Laos.

In Timor-Leste, which has a population of 1.26 million, there are 536 Adventist Church members and just one church. In Laos, a country of 7.1 million residents, there are four

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is already working in both of these countries with a focus on providing clean drinking water and sanitation.

Funds raised from today’s offering will support mission trips with Australia teams who will assist with evangelism programs, community health and wellbeing initiatives, building and service projects, children’s ministries and much more.
Today’s offering supports Adventist Media, the communication arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church based in Sydney.

Adventist Media operates under two brands: adventist.com.au to communicate internally with those already a part of the church, and hopechannel.com.au for the general public. The strategic plan of Adventist Media is to provide excellent content that is distributed to people in a number of ways, but increasingly in a digital way. They want to make the good news of the Gospel within an arm’s reach of everyone.

It’s an exciting ministry, reaching people where they are in a contemporary way.

Please support the work of Adventist Media with your giving today.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
adventistmedia.org.au
Mamarapha College is a tertiary Christian Bible College owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church offering Certificate II up to Advanced Diploma in Indigenous Studies (streams of Ministry Bible Work and Lifestyle Health Promotion).

Set in the beautiful bush surrounds of Perth’s orchard region, Mamarapha is a quiet, peaceful place where each year dozens of indigenous students connect with God and discover how to share Him with their communities in a culturally sensitive way.

Mamarapha College graduates have made positive, life-changing differences in the lives of thousands of indigenous Australians through lifestyle programs, community service, public evangelism and personal faith sharing initiatives.

Your offerings today will support Mamarapha’s ongoing work of making disciple makers for the indigenous community throughout Australia.

www.mamarapha.adventist.org.au
The main offering today is to support the world-wide Global Mission Outreach Program coordinated through the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in Washington DC. All Seventh-day Adventist churches in the world will collect this offering today and the money raised will be used to fund “unique opportunities” as they occur during the year.

Generally the money is used to support worship groups and church plants in unentered, heavily populated areas of the world where the Adventist message of hope has never been heard.

This offering is called the Annual Sacrifice Offering because church members are encouraged to sacrifice the equivalent of one week’s income in order to provide a greater financial support base for the world mission program of the church.

Whether you give a week’s wages or ten cents, you can be assured that it will all go to spreading the Gospel to people that have not yet heard the good news. We really appreciate your support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
am.adventistmission.org/mission-offering
A ministry of a number of churches in the North New South Wales Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is having members of the church volunteer to teach Scripture in local public schools. There are more than 50 people registered and accredited across the northern half of NSW to engage in this ministry. They are going into public schools each week with a set curriculum to teach students that otherwise may never have any positive religious engagement in their lives.

Many great testimonies are shared by these volunteers of the conversations they have with the students and the questions they are able to answer, shining light into the hearts of the children.

There are two ways you can support this ministry. Firstly, by giving generously to the offering as the collection is made here in the church today. Alternatively, the NNSW Conference has set up a tax-deductible fund specifically to support scripture teaching public schools. You can contact the NNSW Conference or go to the e-Giving website and choose Religious Instruction in Government Schools requesting a tax-deductible receipt for your contribution.

Thank you for your support of this vital ministry.
We are part of a worldwide church. Today we have the opportunity to join with other Seventh-day Adventists around the world in giving to the World Mission Budget offering.

The money you generously give has the ability to help spread the Gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15). With a presence in more than 250 countries, the Adventist Church is constantly striving to share the news of God’s great love with a world that needs it so desperately.

Your offering today can help carry a message of hope in Jesus to all areas of the world.

Thank you for your generosity in worshipping God in this way.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
am.adventistmission.org/mission-offering
For the first time in history, more than half the population of the world lives in cities. Approximately 200,000 people a day are now moving from rural communities to urban communities seeking opportunity. This creates incredible challenges and opportunities for the spread of the Gospel.

Mission to the Cities is a strategic five-year initiative for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to specifically target the largest cities in the world for Jesus. The initiative shares strategies for urban evangelism, and provides resources for local churches to become centres for discipleship and training. It also provides one-off grants to local churches to do evangelistic programs that can often be expensive to runs in large cities.

Jesus said that the “harvest in plentiful, but the labourers are few, therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into His harvest.” These prayers can be supported by your sacrificial giving today. Eternity will only reveal the fruit of your giving.

Thank you.
Where do my other offerings go?

**Sabbath School:** offerings given in Sabbath School go to mission programs and projects all around the world. These funds are administered by the Church headquarters in Washington.

**13th Sabbath offering:** 25% of the funds received for 13th Sabbath offering go to nominated World Mission Projects as shown on the back of your quarterly lesson pamphlet. The balance is used for World Mission Budget (which is described in this booklet).

**Local Church offering:** used for the running costs of the local church. What is given will be used for the maintenance of the church buildings, equipment and grounds. It also provides the money required to run the programs of the church and reach out to the local community.
One of the great strengths we have as a church is that we follow the biblical model of tithing by bringing all our tithes to the storehouse, so that we can support the advancement of the Gospel message to this generation. One of the challenges we face today is unity, and if we stand together and support the church under the biblical storehouse model, we will remain strong. As soon as we fragment and every member gives tithe to whatever cause they may personally choose, our movement will lose momentum.

What is the highest and best use for our tithe according to the Scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy?

The graph above illustrates how our conference has been distributing tithe received from members in recent years. Note that the significant portion is for Gospel workers, ministers and evangelism, which we believe is the highest and best use of our tithe according to our understanding of the Word of God. Also, we have recently restructured our tithe spending to ensure we can put at least 55 per cent of our tithe to front-line Gospel workers and evangelism.

Finally, as leaders of God’s church, we must always thank and acknowledge the faithfulness and commitment of our church members at every opportunity — including the offering announcement — in returning their tithes to the storehouse.
Your church’s e-Giving site can be found at <https://egiving.org.au>. More and more members prefer to use this option of giving their tithes and offerings. The e-Giving site has a number of positive features that make the process very user-friendly, with simple steps to making a payment. One-off donations can be made without using the “Log-On” provision — but if you wish, you can “Log-On” securely to create an account where you can manage, edit, change your donation details, or setup a regular donation.

BPAY and direct debit functionality is also available on the e-Giving site. Information on how to setup a new account and a recurring deduction is also available under the e-Giving drop down menu on the conference site (nnsw.adventist.org.au).

e-Giving is an extension of the Tithes & Offerings Online Reporting System (TOORS), and treasurers who use this programme enjoy automatic recording of all tithes and offerings coming through e-Giving.
The Church Treasurer’s Manual is a valuable source of information on the role and procedures for treasurers of Adventist Churches around the NNSW Conference. It is reviewed and upgraded regularly to ensure it remains relevant and up-to-date.

The manual is divided into sections with information about the duties and responsibilities of the local church treasurer, how to process transactions, managing risk, budgeting and reporting, applying for grants and loans, and recording and reporting online.


The interactive online training facility, aimed at developing and improving the skills and knowledge of our local church treasurers and their assistants, is ongoing and will be modified to match each new edition of the manual.

Each of the six modules will take around 15 to 20 minutes to complete. On successful completion, the participant will automatically receive a certificate of completion.

Church treasurers, assistants and others wishing to register for this free course can start the online training immediately by going to the conference website <http://nnsw.adventist.org.au/treasury>.
WE INVEST IN OTHERS.

Local Church Support Services Contacts

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nsw.adventist.org.au/treasury
GIVING IS A REFLECTION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD