

Local Church Budget

The Giving Trade

Famous authors are often quoted, but we rarely hear from their spouses. An exception is James White, the husband of the world's most translated female author, Ellen G. White.

James was also a writer, teacher, and preacher who left us a legacy of wisdom, including this simple but powerful statement about the art of giving:

“Giving is a trade, to be learned just as well as any other trade” (*Review and Herald*, Feb. 17, 1903).

One thing we can learn by listening to people's stories about their charitable giving is that money is often easier to make than to give away wisely. Wise and cheerful giving certainly is an art and a trade that must be learned because the skill doesn't come naturally.

Many regular givers have felt the sting of donating to a cause that looked legitimate but later proved to be a waste. We've given via channels that seemed effective, but later learned of systems that can make our giving dollars go even further. We can learn from our mistakes, but we can also learn from the mistakes of others and, just as importantly, the skills of others.

Let's treat our giving as a God-guided trade as we seek to faithfully and cheerfully manage His resources.

Appeal: As we now return God's tithe and give our Promise offerings to His church, we can be grateful for the robust and worldwide money management system that God has given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. From our local church treasurer to the auditors and finance managers, God has blessed us with a fine team of faithful stewards to carefully and prayerfully manage the collection and use of our gifts to God.

Annual Sacrifice

One Mission

More than twenty-two million people from every walk of life call themselves Seventh-day Adventists. Standing side-by-side, with our arms outstretched and hands joined, we could form a globe-circling human chain reaching from Sydney to Auckland to Santiago to Buenos Aires to Johannesburg to Perth and right back to Sydney!

From the poorest of the poor to multi-billionaires, from people on life-support machines to Olympic athletes, Adventists wear every skin colour known and worship God in more than 900 languages. We are as multi-cultural and diversely assorted as any group of people on earth, yet we are also one.

Our unity is found in Jesus Christ, the One who prayed in John chapter 17 that His followers would also be 'one.' He wants us to be united in joy (v.13), in mission (v.18), in truth (v. 14, 17, 19), in witness (v. 20), in glory (v. 22) and in love (v. 26).

One way that we do this is by faithfully stewarding His global tithe and offering system. Together, we unite our gifts to God, and He uses them to support and grow His work across the planet.

Appeal: Our tithe and offerings today, as always, are given to God through the church—not to the church to meet its needs. All our giving is a love response to God, and He asks us to show our love by giving to Him and His work through His church. Thank you for faithfully giving to God's global mission through your tithe and offerings today.