

## Local Church Budget

# God's Megaphone

Like Noah, Elijah, and John the Baptist, Seventh-day Adventists have been assigned one of the most exciting missions ever. We are the forerunners—those appointed to announce the soon-coming King. And what's our cry? In its purest form, the Three Angels' Messages of Revelation 14 loudly proclaim, "The greatest rescue event in the history of our planet is soon to take place. Be ready!"

The original Greek words describing the 'loud voice' with which these messages are given are basically a megaphone. That's us, God's *megaphone* of love!

The Adventist movement has been entrusted with the privilege of being used by the Holy Spirit to tell the world. We are called to humbly, yet loudly, announce Christ's return through loving acts of kindness, person-to-person sharing, evangelistic campaigns, media ministries, centres of influence, humanitarian service, schools, hospitals, and the list goes on.

John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord by announcing the soon coming of Jesus, calling people to repentance, and helping them to prepare their hearts and characters for Jesus' arrival. So, too, today, those who 'keep the commandments of God,' 'have the testimony of Jesus Christ,' and 'the faith of Jesus' have been invited to be the forerunners who loudly and clearly announce the soon arrival of Jesus.

Appeal: The Seventh-day Adventist Church's system of tithes and offerings is a powerful supply chain that resources God's worldwide mission to announce the Three Angels' Messages. Thank you for revealing your love for God and everyone through your faithful giving today.

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# Old, Poor & Alone

He was surviving the pains of old age, living on a meagre income alone in government housing. He'd read a book on stewardship and wanted me, the author, to visit with him. The only reason he gave me why I should visit was, "I just want to tell you something."

I delayed the visit because I knew in my heart that he'd just ask me for money, but I arranged an appointment anyway, secretly hoping that he wouldn't be home.

After chatting about his old furniture and how he budgets every coin into separate containers to try to pay his bills, he got to the point. He began, "I just want you to know how much your book about material blessings challenged me."

"Really?" I said. I was surprised that a book on affluence, written for wealthy Christians, would have had any impact on a poor old man living alone.

"Yes. I've always returned a 10% tithe to God, but a few years ago, I set a goal to give a regular second 10% of my income for mission projects, and I recently reached that goal. But while reading your book, God convinced me to give a third ten per cent for mission. I just wanted to let you know that I'm nearly at 30%, and God is blessing me so much!"

The tears of joy in his eyes reflected the tears of conviction in mine. He's not old, poor, and alone. He's looking forward to his new pain-free body, rich in the Lord and truly part of God's family.

As I walked back to my car, I asked God to forgive me for hesitating to visit him, for judging his heart by his circumstances, and for being too selfish with the material blessings God had given to me.

Appeal: As we now return God's 10% tithe and give our Promise offerings, let's each consider how God is convicting us to prayerfully and systematically set aside a greater percentage of our income for His mission of saving the lost.