



# A Quick Start GUIDE

# SABBATH SCHOOL INVESTMENT

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# Introduction

There is no direct mention in the Bible concerning the Investment program. Nevertheless, it has roots in the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). "The talents which God has entrusted to us, whether they be large or small, whether they be money or strength or time, are talents for which we are responsible and we should invest them. As we do, God will multiply them for the finishing of His work" (Nash and Parker, *Investment: The Miracle Offering*).

Investment is not simply another offering; it is a plan whereby an individual invests money, time, or effort in a faithful partnership with God for the purpose of supporting His world mission. It is a contract bound by faith. Above all we should remember that God is the senior partner in any Investment project. As we invest with God as a partner we will be laying up treasures in heaven. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Even though your best-laid plans may not seem to materialize just as you might desire, and the return from your Investment seems small, be true to your work and God will surely reward your efforts.

"However small your talent, God has a place for it. That one talent, wisely used, will accomplish its appointed work. By faithfulness in little duties, we are able to work on the plan of addition, and God will work for us on the plan of multiplication. These littles will become the most precious influences in His work" (Ellen G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*).

## DUTIES OF THE INVESTMENT LEADER

The ministry to which a person is called when he or she becomes an Investment leader will include the following duties:

**Promote investment at all age levels.** You, or someone you designate, should promote Investment in each division on a regular monthly schedule. Ideally, the presentations would begin in January and conclude in November. Choosing the same Sabbath each month makes it easy for the division leaders to plan and remember. Possibly the second Sabbath of each month would be appropriate.

**Investment materials.** Plan far enough ahead so you can have the Investment leaflets and goal devices in hand the Sabbath you introduce your Investment plan. Leaflets can be ordered from your local conference.

**Setting goals.** At the beginning of the year, you should meet with the Sabbath School leaders to plan for the year's activities. In consultation with the previous Investment leader and the current division leaders come to an agreement on a suitable goal. Keep a goal chart in a central location to show the funds being raised and the percentage of members participating.

**Keep records.** Meet with the church treasurer on a regular basis to keep track of the money being turned in for Investment. Give progress reports in your monthly

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### Pointers for Investment Leaders

By Thurman C. Petty, Jr.

- Spend much time in prayer, asking that God will bless the various projects of your members and draw His Investment stewards into a closer partnership with Him.
  - Have a project yourself. The Investment engineer needs to be on board or the local mission train won't even get out of the station.
  - Share positive, true Investment stories to warm the hearts of God's people.
  - Lead meekly. Don't pressure people to participate against their will, or make them feel guilty if they abstain.
  - Some congregations like to set church goals to provide motivation and direction. Others feel that goals and charts destroy the spirituality of Investment. It's important to know how your members feel, and to lead them in a way that they will follow. But even if your church has no Investment goal, you need to have one in your own mind and work toward that objective.
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presentations to the divisions. It is also your responsibility to gather the information from your various division leaders regarding the number of health food labels received. Send this compiled report to your local conference Stewardship or Investment Director for the refund.

**Communicate.** It is your responsibility to keep the church members informed as to the progress of the Investment plan, and what the funds are used for. Keep the needs of world mission before the congregation and show them how the Investment plan makes a specific, significant contribution. It is also appreciated when Investment leaders send success stories and accompanying pictures to the church ministries department of the local conference to be used in conference newsletters and union papers.

*Responsibilities in the Local Church*, by the Church Resources Consortium, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventist Church. Available from [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org).

## Investment Insights

By G. Edward Reid

Stewardship Director, North American Division

How is your investment portfolio? This is a common question in the minds of many today. Where can we find a safe and productive investment? Today, many with these questions are concerned primarily with their own personal situation. But over the years we have been counseled to also make it a high priority to invest our means in the never-failing bank of heaven by helping others and helping to advance the cause of God. Please note the following encouragement to get involved in investing:

“Every believer should be wholehearted in his attachment to the church. Its prosperity should be his first interest, and unless he feels under sacred obligations to make his connection with the church a benefit to it in preference to himself, it can do far better without him. It is in the power of all to do something for the cause of God. There are those who spend a large amount for needless luxuries; they gratify their appetites, but feel it a great tax to contribute means to sustain the church. They are willing to receive all the benefits of its privileges, but prefer to leave others to pay the bills. Those who really feel a deep interest in the advancement of the cause, will not hesitate to invest money in the enterprise whenever and wherever it is needed” (4T 18).

But the devil doesn't want the work of God to move forward so he offers an alternative. “It is the purpose of Satan to make the world very attractive. He has a bewitching power which he exercises to allure the affections of even the professed followers of Christ. There are many professedly Christian men who will make any sacrifice in order to gain riches, and the more successful they are in obtaining the object of their desires, the less they care for the precious truth and its advancement in the world. They lose their love for God, and act like men who are insane. The more they are prospered in material wealth, the less they invest in the cause of God” (CS 213).

A little-known fact is that the funds coming in from Sabbath School Investment projects have silently grown into a major factor in the funding of new mission work around the world. In 2003 \$4.3 million came into the church from investment projects. Statistically speaking, as many as one out

of every six converts won through the use of Sabbath School offerings could be credited to the Investment Fund.

Early in our history church members were invited to make an "investment" for missions in some earning project, and to give the proceeds as a special offering. The investment idea was followed as early as the 1880s and 1890s when certain church members dedicated such projects as an acre or more of a crop, some cattle, or some cash to provide camp meeting equipment. In the early 1900s the plan was promoted for various projects in many countries of the world. At the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee of 1925 the plan was named "Investment Fund" and officially given to the Sabbath School Department to promote, with the understanding that the money received would go into the regular mission budget with a special emphasis given to establishing new work. Thereafter the Investment Fund was reported separately. The idea went around the world. In Burma they called it the "Different" offering. In the Solomon Islands they called it "Business belong God."

Some of the first projects were quite interesting. For example, in 1905, in the little town of Hamilton, Missouri, Lottie Lohman gave five pennies to five children. The children bought seeds, planted them, and sold the produce. They also raised chickens and sold them, until the five pennies grew to \$11.52. In another instance, a husband of one of our members, who himself was not yet a member, gave up tobacco and gave his tobacco money to Investment. He also walked to work and gave his trolley expense to Investment. Children gathered newspapers, bottles and junk to sell. Others dedicated a portion of their time, a tree in the orchard, a calf, or part of their garden.

The Mission Investment plan was developed in order to encourage further giving to the mission program and to raise mission funds through various individual or family projects. The Mission Investment plan is alive and well today and is continuing to inspire church members in all age groups to invest in the great mission outreach of the church. Investment is special in that it is an intentional effort to dedicate projects to God's work that allow giving beyond the normal or regular mission giving. Investment projects can be carried out seasonally or year-round. There are no time constraints on when the projects must be done or the funds turned in. All the Investment funds that come in during the calendar year are credited to the Investment Fund. Periodically special promotional appeals are presented in the Sabbath School. Many churches have an investment leader who promotes the plan and encourages members to become involved. But even if your church does not have a leader or any promotion you can still have a special Mission Investment project and turn the funds in at Sabbath School with "Investment" marked on the envelope.

A special formula has been established for the use of the Investment funds. 75% of the Investment funds go directly into the World Mission Fund. The remaining 25% percent is divided between the world divisions of the church for new or frontier outreach projects and large city evangelism. 2.5% of the Investment funds go to the divisions outside the North American Division in proportion to their regular annual base appropriations. The remaining 2.5%

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### **Investment Leader Checklist**

By Thurman C. Petty, Jr.

- Does everyone in my church know I'm the Investment leader?
  - Have I shared with the church how the Lord and I are working together on my Investment project?
  - Do I share my vision: The most exciting thing about being an Investment leader is...?
  - How many people can I name who are doing something for Investment?
  - Have all investors been invited to share their ideas, successes, or unique projects from the front of the church?
  - Do I help non-investors find projects and support their efforts?
  - Do I frequently remind Sabbath School members of the four productive types of Investment projects: sales, service, savings, and self-denial?
  - Have I taken to the Lord the biggest problem I have as an Investment leader?
  - Am I excited enough about Investment that I'm training another person in my church to become an effective leader?
-

goes to the North American Division for use in promoting its special projects. The portion of Mission Investment funds received by the North American Division each year is divided between two unions on a rotating basis.

The projects that are funded in the North American Division are actually chosen almost two years before the projects begin so there is time to advertise the projects to the church membership and that adequate planning time is given for the projects to move forward once the funds are available. For example, the special projects which were promoted for 2005 receive their funding in early 2006 once all the Investments funds have been sent to the General Conference that came in during 2005.

To a man who had invested heavily in mining stock and lost a lot of money, Ellen White wrote, "You have made large investments in uncertain enterprises. Satan blinded your eyes so that you could not see that these enterprises would yield you no returns. The enterprise of securing eternal life did not awaken your interest. Here you could have expended means, and run no risks, met no disappointments, and in the end would have received immense profits. Here you could have invested in the never-failing bank of heaven. Here you could have bestowed your treasures where no thief approacheth nor rust corrupteth. This enterprise is eternal and is as much nobler than any earthly enterprise as the heavens are higher than the earth" (2T 280).

Would you like to invite God to be a partner in your business or project? Why not join thousands of others in becoming involved in an investment project soon.

For information on the projects chosen in the North American Division visit: [www.adventiststewardship.org](http://www.adventiststewardship.org)

## How I Started Investing

*By Cecily Daly*

As my friend emptied his pockets, he picked out the quarters. There were three of them.

"I'll invest these. Want to join me?" he asked invitingly.

"I don't really understand Investment," I answered. "What is the money for?"

That was the first of many questions, all of which he patiently and convincingly answered. Soon I heard myself saying, "I'll give it a try this time. If I enjoy it, I shall always invest."

Over the next few days I knew that I was really infected. Each time he emptied his pockets or when I opened my purse, my excitement ran high. It seemed to me that most of my change came in quarters. This continued until the project was over and we had surpassed our goal. At that time I knew there was no cure for me. Already I looked forward to the next project. That was many years ago and I am still enjoying Investment.

### MY NEXT PROJECT

What could I use next? I chose bad debts. The three people who owed me

cash provided a good launching pad. God kept his promise and strengthened my wobbly feet to His glory.

My prayer was, "Lord, I know I am going to lose those three amounts of money. If you send them to me I'll place them in Your treasury."

Within a short time all the monies came in; not a cent was lost. When the first amount of \$100 came in I couldn't figure out how. For over a year the money was out and suddenly, without a warning, the full amount came in. Within a short time I began to figure out the true reason – Investment.

With that first successful experience, my projects extended to greater adventures in faith and included a piano, the current need in our lives. I received not just any piano, but a clean, shiny one.

Years passed. I even changed countries, but I continued to invest. The current project was furnishing my apartment – without the needed cash. How? Investment. The plan was for each free piece of furniture received, I would give money to the Investment fund, and for each inexpensive piece of furniture bought, the thank-you offering would be a little less. This was when the miracle started. Furniture seemed to come in from all directions free or unbelievably inexpensive. It was most interesting. It was fun. First came a well-needed piano – for free! Then the bedroom set, then the living room suite, the dining room suite – even extras including a filing cabinet, a clothes iron, and plant stands. All my needs and even extra wants were taken care of.

## CONCLUSION

Once an investor, always an investor. The interest never fully dies. Since that first time we invested and saw nearly every coin we received turn out to be Investment quarters, many years have slipped by. I can count the years since I have started Investing, but not the blessings I have received nor the miracles I've witnessed.

Try it for yourself. Experience the blessing of the miracle offering. Enter into partnership with God through an adventure in faith. Prove that He is able to back up every promise He has made and stand on these promises. They will never break. For "He changeth not, and with Him there is no variableness nor shadow of turning" (James 1:17).

## Investment & Spiritual Gifts

By James Zackrison

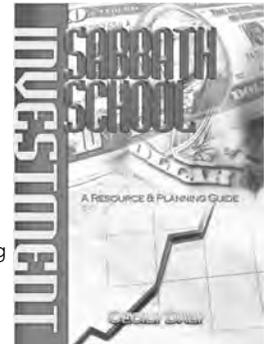
Certain spiritual gifts, as outlined below, are especially useful to Investment leaders. To identify your spiritual gifts, read *Spiritual Gifts: Keys to Ministry* by James Zackrison, available from [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org).

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### Sabbath School Investment

By Cecily Daly (AdventSource)

This book contains the story of Cecily Daly's experience with Investment and how it worked in her church. You'll find proven methods for starting or enhancing an Investment program at your church.



Find tips, guidelines for Sabbath school teachers, visual aid ideas, project ideas, poems and songs, and information you can easily share with others about the mission of Investment.

No Investment leader should be without this resource.

Available from AdventSource at [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) or 800-328-0525.

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## **ADMINISTRATION**

The gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals. 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Acts 27:11; Luke 14:28-30; Titus 1:5.

## **WISDOM**

The gift of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insights into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Acts 6:3, 10; James 1:5-6; 2 Peter 3:15-16.

## **HELPS**

The gift of helps is the special gift that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the body, thus enabling others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:2-8; Romans 16:1-2; Acts 9:36; Luke 8:2-3; Mark 15:40-41.

## **EXHORTATION**

The gift of exhortation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to minister words of comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counsel to other members of the body in such a way that they feel helped and healed. Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:25; Acts 14:22.

## **GIVING**

The gift of giving is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to contribute their material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness. Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7; 2 Corinthians 9:2-8; Mark 12:41-44.

# **Tips for Investment Leaders**

## **GET HELP**

### *Recruit Helpers*

You may wish to organize an Investment team. Delegating responsibilities will ensure that no one becomes burnt out. As you look for helpers, try to find people with diverse skills. And keep in mind that you need to train others to become future Investment leaders.

### *Sample jobs*

#### **Assistant leader**

- ✧ Assist in leader's duties

#### **Secretary**

- ✧ Keep records at meetings
- ✧ Record income

### ***Public relations officer***

- ✧ Publicize activities
- ✧ Send announcements or create inserts for the bulletin
- ✧ Supply information for the church newsletter
- ✧ Make posters and ads for events
- ✧ Supply information for the church website

### ***Activities coordinator***

- ✧ Coordinate group projects
- ✧ Work with the social committee

## **YEAR-LONG INVESTMENT PROGRAMS**

### ***How to begin***

Your Investment program should ideally start in January and end in November or December. Select a Sabbath soon after the New Year and introduce the idea to everyone during the Sabbath School opening program.

Here are some items to include in your Investment introduction program:

- ✧ Define Investment. Explain how it's a "partnership with God."
- ✧ Share the history and how Investment has benefited world missions.
- ✧ Explain how the funds are used.
- ✧ Share a success story or two about Investment.
- ✧ Distribute Investment brochures. \*
- ✧ Challenge members to put God to the test.
- ✧ Distribute a list of potential projects.
- ✧ Ask members to plan a group project, or choose one of their own.
- ✧ Pray for the program's success.

\*You can obtain specific information on Investment fund destinations for each year by ordering copies of the bulletin insert from [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org).

## **PROMOTE INVESTMENT ONCE A MONTH**

Promote Investment at least one Sabbath per month in Sabbath School. This will encourage people and help keep them in sight of your church's goal, plus the overall goal of Investment, which is raising money for evangelism.

Spend time in each Sabbath School unit. Make sure they understand Investment. Help them select projects and set goals. Your segment doesn't need to last very long—five to 10 minutes is sufficient.

### ***Monthly program ideas***

- ✧ Share an idea or an encouraging thought.
- ✧ Ask Investment participants to give updates on their projects.
- ✧ Explain how the funds are used.
- ✧ Talk about special projects and where the funds are going.
- ✧ Highlight children's projects.

- ✧ Interview someone about Investment.
- ✧ See if any world travelers, immigrants, or former missionaries in your church can tell stories about the part of the world being emphasized and if they have any artifacts they can show.

## INVESTMENT GUIDELINES FOR SABBATH SCHOOL LEADERS

*By Cecily Daly*

Encourage your class members to get involved with an Investment project. Give them the example of the Macedonians in 2 Cor. 8:5: "They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will." Investment is more than just another offering. Remind your class to dig down into God's promises and see for themselves how God blesses the extra effort put forth.

- ✧ Encourage your class to first seek Divine counsel
- ✧ Take a few minutes with your class to decide whether or not your class will engage in individual or group projects, or both
- ✧ Record your class's specific plans
- ✧ Set your goal high, but realistic
- ✧ Assign a responsible person to be the class Investment secretary
- ✧ Encourage members of your class
- ✧ Each week record the Investment funds collected and place them in the envelope provided
- ✧ Inform the Investment leader when there is an outstanding experience in your class to share with the Sabbath School

## Preparing to Succeed

*By Thurman C. Petty, Jr.*

### WHERE TO BEGIN

In December or early January the Sabbath School superintendent should ask the Investment leader to present the special feature (10-15 minutes) introducing Sabbath School Investment for the new year. The Investment leader should emphasize positive aspects of Sabbath School Investment. Such expressions as "working together with God," "in partnership with God," and "investing for eternity" help portray that, as stewards, we're working for God, not for prestige or human goals. This basic principle underlies Sabbath School Investment, and we should emphasize it over and over again.

### STEP BY STEP

#### *Suggest Projects They Can Do*

Former/new members may have a hazy idea of Sabbath School Investment—even after careful presentation. So be specific in listing successful past projects. Print a list, hand it to everybody, and post it on the bulletin board. This may inspire some to join who may not have participated otherwise.

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### Investment Texts

*By Cecily Daly*

1. Honor the Lord with thy substance...so shall thy barns be filled with plenty. Proverbs 3:9-10
2. For nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37
3. Put Me to the test and see if I will open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Malachi 3:10
4. Call upon Me and I will answer and show thee great and mighty things that thou knowest not of. Jeremiah 33:3
5. Parable of the talents—Matthew 25:14-30

From *Sabbath School Investment* by Cecily Daly.  
Available from AdventSource at 800-328-0525 or  
[www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org). #556275

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## ***Testimonials Clench the Concept***

Nothing sells an idea like a good testimonial. If someone in your church has a good experience with Sabbath school Investment, or has grown closer to Jesus because of this experience, invite him or her to tell their story...briefly. This will open many hearts to participate.

## ***Ask for Decisions***

Now is the time to get their decision. Have the deacons distribute forms and ask those interested to write down their names and phone numbers. If they've already decided on their project, have them write that down too. Getting names is important, because then you can follow up and encourage them personally.

## ***Keys to Successful Investment Leadership***

Introduction Sabbath is only the beginning. True success will require the leader's yearlong attention.

A few suggestions:

- ✧ Make an Investment presentation every month; keep the subject before the people.
- ✧ Plan at least one church-wide social/Investment function per year to raise money and provide a fun time for church members: e.g. bake sale, garage sale, auction, community banquet, etc.
- ✧ Have a target Sabbath when every project culminates and offerings come in. (This could be the Sabbath before Thanksgiving, or the last Sabbath of the year, etc.)

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### **You must be willing to:**

- Set goals and follow through
  - Visit Sabbath School groups to promote Investment
  - Work with different age groups
  - Provide creative ideas
  - Motivate people
  - Solve problems
- 

## **IDEAS**

When you're looking for a project, think about your skills, interests, hobbies, and resources. You may wish to work alone or with one or more friends or relatives. Look for ways to turn what you enjoy into an Investment project. You'll find that you're more likely to stick with a project about you're excited about.

Investment projects generally fall into five categories:

Sales, Savings, Self-Denial, Service, & Praise.

### ***Sales***

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Baked goods    | Fruits and vegetables |
| Art and crafts | Recycling proceeds    |
| Used books     | Plants                |
| Yard sale      | Freelance work        |
| Unneeded gifts | Sell items online     |

### ***Savings***

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| % of each paycheck            | % of gifts        |
| % of discounts                | Money found       |
| Pennies, nickels, dimes saved | Tax refund        |
| Interest on bank accounts     | Unexpected income |
| Free meals, rides, etc.       |                   |

### **Self-Denial**

Offering for new customers	Devote day's wages
Percentage of overtime pay	Percentage of salary or tips
Bad debts collected	Savings from not buying treats
Savings from walking/car pools	Renting spare rooms
Increase of salary	

### **Service**

Washing cars	Yard work
Housework	Babysitting
Teaching a hobby or skill	Paper route
Catering	Music lessons
Walking dogs	Pet care
Car care	Tutoring

### **Praise**

Miles of safe travel	Weight lost
Birthday or anniversary	Daily blessings
Miles walked/stairs climbed per day	

## **Your Investment Makes a Big Difference**

*By Thurman C. Petty, Jr.*

Investment giving does impact the local church. When members work in partnership with God for Investment, they receive personal blessings. The church finds the collective spiritual interest activities increasing as well. In fact, some report that internal strife fades as matters of contention lose their importance, replaced by the focus on raising funds for missions.

I've talked with dozens of people about what their projects mean to them, and the overwhelming response has been that Investment increases their faith in God.

It seems that many Sabbath School leaders have forgotten about the importance of Investment. Others give Investment unimportant status. "Who cares?" some ask. "The Investment offering never amounts to much anyway." In 2006, however, the total amount of Investment turned in from the world field was \$3,876,016.

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### **How to Start Your Project**

Cecily Daly

- Set your mind on God
  - Meditate on Him until a project comes to mind
  - Pray and dedicate your project to Him
  - Plan to work with a partner or you may
  - Individualize your project
  - Watch for miracles
- 

### **SET A GOAL**

When you have no specific, measurable objective, your efforts may fall short of what they could have been if you'd had a target.

When you go on vacation, you usually have some destination in mind before you start out. Some vacations, of course, are planned around wandering about, seeing the beauties of nature—even that is a goal.

After you decide on a destination, you plan how many miles you want to travel each day and where you will spend your nights

along the way. So by making an ultimate goal and deciding on subgoals, you usually arrive at your intended objective.

The same holds true for Investment. When you decide ahead of time how much you want to raise for Investment, then you can decide how much you need to raise each month in order to reach your goal.

## STAGGER THE GOALS

Of course, some projects receive their payoff at the end of the season—such as garden produce. But even here certain subgoals are helpful—plowing, planting, weeding, cultivating, harvesting.

Many techniques have been used to help the church reach a predetermined goal—in terms of the amount the church wishes to reach. Here are some of the ideas that have been shared with me and suggestions of others that may be of help:

### *Quilting*

A group decides to make a quilt and sell it for Investment. They will set a date when they wish to complete the quilt. They will also set dates to finish certain segments of the project.

### *Sales*

The first goal is to decide what you will sell—everything received or specialty items, such as children's clothes, furniture, white elephants, etc. The next goal is to find a storage area for materials that people donate to the sale. Set a cutoff date for receiving sale items and a sale date. Set a date to review how the project went and a date to report to the church.

### *Loose change*

The first goal is to get the money into a receptacle at home each day. The second goal is to deposit the money into a receptacle at church, perhaps a five-gallon jug. The next goals are set as periodic reports. The final report completes the project.

## UTILIZE GOAL DEVICES

Adult divisions may develop goal devices with or apart from the children's divisions. In designing goal devices, try something interesting: Launch a rocket ship, put leaves on a tree or feathers on a bird, build a church by sections. Try something new each quarter that will spark the imaginations of your members.

Perhaps the staggered goal approach can work here as well. First, have a goal-device-making marathon. Gather all interested parties into an area with chairs and tables. Provide some materials—paper, pens, water colors, etc. Encourage participants to bring additional materials if they'd like. Possibly encourage classes to work together.

You could get enough goal devices to last for a few years. Be sure to affirm all participants and not just those whose projects are scheduled for use. Take pictures while people are working and develop a bulletin board display.

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### Sabbath School Investment Mission

by Cecily Daly

The Sabbath School Investment mission is evidenced by individual participation and focus on:

- Faith in God's ultimate power
  - Community outreach
  - Continuing evangelism
  - Fellowship among believers
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### Closing Program

The holiday season provides a good opportunity to close your program. Plan a celebration for the ending of your Investment program for the year. Determine your total and share it with the congregation. Use this time to recognize participants and have people share their Investment stories.

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Also consider having a talented member provide computer-generated certificates for your participants and give them out as part of your monthly Investment program.

## Investment Requires Teamwork

Anesta Kline

Someone from the back of the room speaks up, "You say you'd like the entire membership to be involved this year?"

"That's the spirit!" another voice chimes in. "Total involvement. I'm all for it! Let's start this week."

"That's easy for you to say," a muffled voice does reach the members' ears. "But what about those of us who have no time, no talent, and only a smidgen of interest?"

Could this scenario have come from your church? You've got everything from totally dedicated Investment supports to discouragers: "You've got to be kidding! I'm not getting involved."

Don't despair, Investment leader. Let's take a few minutes to do some brainstorming about what an Investment leader can do.

1. **Make sure that every member knows about the purpose and the process.** Make your monthly programs educational as well as motivational.
2. **Show them the money—in the bulletin, on the blackboard, etc.**
3. **Get the leaders of other departments to work with you.** Yes, I do mean personal ministries leaders, men's ministries leaders, women's ministries leaders, and the choir director—to mention just a few.
4. **Ask questions.** Ask for time on the Sabbath School Council agenda. Ask council members some questions: Have you or have you not ever been involved in Investment? If you answer yes, tell me about a favorite project or projects of yours. If not, are you willing to make this year your first time?
5. **Listen actively.** How?
  - ✧ Make notes on a whiteboard or flip chart.
  - ✧ Ask questions when you don't understand something.
  - ✧ Give feedback: "Tell me more." "Excellent!" "Amen!" "Praise the Lord!" "Yes!" etc.
6. **Start the ball rolling for a plan.** Start at the top.
  - ✧ "Pastor, would you mind giving a children's story about Investment?"
  - ✧ "Coordinator, will you help me make sure that Investment has a spot in the program the second Sabbath of each month?"
  - ✧ "Class facilitators, would you please take a few minutes each Sabbath and talk to your classes about Investment?"
7. **Keep the ball rolling with questions.**
  - ✧ "Who has never been involved in Investment?"
  - ✧ "Who has an Investment story to tell?"
  - ✧ "Facilitators, what can I do for or with the lower division

classes to promote Investment? Can I count on you to give me time in your program once a month, or will you be willing to make Investment a small part of your program at least once a month?"

- ✧ "When shall we get together and do some planning?" Again take notes, and follow through.
- 8. **Get your church artists and computer people to make a goal device, banner, and bookmark.** Give them the facts and some ideas, such as the Investment acronym in the sidebar to get them started.
- 9. **Start a prayer wheel. Start an Investment prayer group. Or ask your prayer warriors to include Investment in their ongoing list. Give them names and projects to pray about.**
- 10. **Put a note in the bulletin and get a phone team on the lines. Provide a little script:** "I'm part of the Sabbath School Investment team. We'd like you to brainstorm with us about how to raise funds for missions by using our talents and gifts. We have a goal of \$\_\_\_\_. No, you don't have to take it out of your thin pockets. We can brainstorm other ways to meet our goals. I'd like to meet with as many people as possible. If you have had or know of successful projects, please meet with us (say when and where). We'll keep it short and to the point." Be sure also to call some creative kids.
- 11. **Pep up your Investment reports.** Use energetic optimists. Sing the Investment theme song at every month's program. Get the Investment song online at [www.SabbathSchool.com](http://www.SabbathSchool.com).

Reprinted with permission from the August 2007 issue of *Sabbath School Leadership*.

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## I-N-V-E-S-T-M-E-N-T

By Anesta Kline

I—I give my time and talent to hasten Christ's return through this missions offering.

N—Not by my power. I'm working with Him.

V—Victory is mine! Tell others what He does for you. Say, "He never fails!"

E—Engage. Don't be a bystander and never a pessimist.

S—Shout the good news: "He's the winner!" He can use your hands and feet, our brains and our hearts.

T—Try Him! You'll be amazed at what He can do.

M—Meditate on His goodness. Then get up and do something.

E—Enter into partnership with Him. He's trustworthy and has excellent references.

N—No one can outdo God for creativity and consistency.

T—Today is the best day to get started.

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## Worthington Foods UPC/Label Investment Guidelines

Another part of the Investment project involves saving UPC labels from certain brands of Kelloggs foods.

The following information is given for the benefit of local church and conference Investment leaders regarding the Kelloggs reimbursement for UPC – bar code labels from their products.

### PROCESS AT THE LOCAL CHURCH:

1. UPC/Bar Code Labels from **Worthington, Loma Linda, Morningstar Farms, and Natural Touch** are collected by church members (removed from the product wrapping) and brought to your local church to support the Mission Investment Program.
2. The Investment leader counts the labels quarterly and prepares a Church Report Form that is available on the Internet at [www.adventiststewardship.org](http://www.adventiststewardship.org). Click on Investment and you will find the form. This form is sent to your local conference office to the attention of the Investment leader.
3. The labels remain at your church. You no longer have to send the labels anywhere. Kelloggs has asked that the local church keep the labels that have been reported for one year in case any verification is needed. Then, the following year the labels

can be destroyed and the next year's labels saved. Each label that is reported on the form will be reimbursed by Kelloggs for Mission Investment at 5 cents each.

4. If you have questions, do not contact Kelloggs. Instead, contact your local conference office or the North American Division Stewardship Department (301-680-6432).

At the end of each quarter, the representative from your conference will complete a Conference Report Form that summarizes all local church reports, and send that form to Kelloggs. Kelloggs will prepare a reimbursement check that will come to the local conference (so it can be given credit there) and then the conference treasurer will send the funds to the North American Division for use in the selected Investment mission projects.

## A Year's Worth of Bulletin Messages

By Fylvia Fowler Kline

### JANUARY

Dreams are the seeds of great achievements. The success of your Investment project depends on the goal you set right now. Plant a dream! Reap a miracle!

Our Sabbath School Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

### FEBRUARY

Even a turtle doesn't get ahead unless it sticks its neck out. Have you stuck your neck out for Investment? It's not too late to get started. Our Investment goal for this year is \$\_\_\_.

### MARCH

Number of projects reported to date: \$\_\_\_.

"By the streets of by and by one arrives at the house of never" (Cervantes). To reach the house of "Investment Miracle," you must go by the streets of "Get Started." Our Investment goal for mission projects is: \$\_\_\_.

### APRIL

"You won't necessarily get what you want in life, but in the long run you will usually get what you expect" (Dennis Waitley). Church members who expect nothing to come of their Investment project will not be disappointed!

Our Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

Amount raised so far by the Adult Division: \$\_\_\_.

### MAY

At the company's beginning, \$7 invested in Ford Motor Company would be worth more than \$1 million now. What might \$7 be worth in eternity if invested in God's work now?

Our Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

Number of investors in our church to date: \_\_\_.

Amount raised to date: \_\_\_.

### JUNE

Plug in a toaster and get browned bread. Plug in a lamp and receive

light. Plug in a TV and get a picture. Plug into Investment and expect miracles!

Investment is a unique experience with Christ. Are you plugged in?

Our Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

Amount raised so far: \$\_\_\_.

## JULY

Investment is: Our Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

10 percent inspiration The amount raised so far: \$\_\_\_.

90 percent perspiration My personal total turned in so far: \$\_\_\_.

100 percent God's blessing Name:

Total = 1 blessing at a time Phone:

Place this form in the offering plate.

Thank you.

## AUGUST

Invest \$1 for missions. See it multiply like loaves by Galilee.

Our Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

Amount turned in to date: \$\_\_\_.

Number of projects reported: \_\_\_.

## SEPTEMBER

Human extremities are God's opportunities. Your loss might become your profit—if you commit to God.

Our Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

I've turned in: \$\_\_\_.

Name:

Phone number/email address:

Place this in the offering plate. Thank you.

## OCTOBER

"Attempt great things for God; expect great things from God!"  
(Hudson Taylor, missionary to China)

Are you attempting and expecting:

Our Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

Amount raised so far: \$\_\_\_.

## NOVEMBER

Be a great investor: Great investors are ordinary investors with extraordinary determination.

Put something in the tithe envelope this Sabbath for Investment.

Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

Amount raised to date: \$\_\_\_.

## DECEMBER

Wise investors from the East brought profits of their investments to the Savior: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Are you as wise as they?

Investment goal for this year: \$\_\_\_.

All Investment funds turned in after (date) will go toward next year's Investment goal.

Thank you for hastening the soon coming of our Savior by funding mission projects.

Reprinted with permission from *Getting Excited About Global Mission* by Dorothy Watts & James R. Hardin (Review and Herald, 1989).

## NO POCKET IN A SHROUD

Use your money while you're living  
Do not hoard it to be proud  
You can never take it with you  
There's no pocket in a shroud.

Gold can help you on no farther  
Than the graveyard where you lie  
And though you are rich while living  
You're a pauper when you die.

Use it then some lives to brighten  
As through life they weary plod  
Place your bank account in heaven  
And grow richer towards your God.

Use it widely. Use it freely;  
Do not hoard it to be proud;  
You can never take it with you  
There's no pocket in a shroud.

- Author unknown  
Provided by Cecily Daly

## Conclusion

By Cecily Daly

Investment is a miracle offering. With it you share the joys of service in partnership with God, the pioneer investor. He invested His only Son for fallen man on this sinful planet. Try Investment for yourself. Enter into partnership with God.

Gain experience working with Him. You will see some miracles. Then, remember you are His witness. Share your experience. This is a miracle offering and you are a part of the miracle, a part of the plan. You have a chance to enhance your faith in God, to become involved in community outreach, to continue evangelism in world mission emphasis, and to fellowship with believers.

Be an investor. Be a partner with God.

# Resources

Available from AdventSource

[www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)

800-328-0525

*Sabbath School Investment* by Cecily Daly. #556275 US\$8.95

*Sabbath School Handbook* from the North American Division Sabbath School Department. Available in English (#550000) and Spanish (#550005). US\$8.95

*I've Seen Miracles* by Thurman C. Petty. #315505 US\$7.95

Annual Investment project brochures.

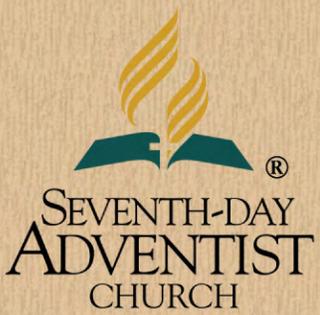
Adventist Mission Quarterly DVD subscription. #465974 Free

# Websites

<http://adventiststewardship.com>

[www.adventiststewardship.org](http://www.adventiststewardship.org)

[www.sabbathschool.com/index.php](http://www.sabbathschool.com/index.php)



AdventSource

