

Sample Script for Offering Appeal
Religious Liberty Sabbath, January 14, 2023

More than two-thirds of the world's population live in countries where there are restrictions of some kind on religious freedom. This morning, we could talk about North Korea, or Iran, or Saudi Arabia. We could talk about Afghanistan, Pakistan, or Northern Iraq—the plight of Yazidis, Baha'is, Christians, and others across the Middle East. We could talk about the brutal treatment of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. We could talk about the challenges of Christians and members of other faiths in China. Or we could talk about the horrific acts of violence against Christians in parts of Nigeria—a brutal campaign that cost almost three thousand lives last year alone.

This morning, in America, we are blessed. We have the constitutionally protected right to come together and worship—openly and without fear. Yet even here, we can't take this blessing for granted. For more than 150 years, our church has taken to heart the words of Ellen White, who urged us to “hold high the banner of truth and religious liberty” in these last days.

The offering we will collect now allows our church in North America to continue defending religious freedom in the courts, to support our church members who face discrimination in the workplace, and to send almost a million copies of *Liberty* magazine each year to lawmakers and thought leaders across our nation.

Please give generously today as together we work to safeguard the precious gift of religious freedom.

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