

Religious Liberty Campaign - part 1

The annual Religious Liberty Campaign in the Seventh-day Adventist Church begins in January and ends in March of each year. You may receive Religious Liberty offerings any time through the year, but January through March are the months that you will see them most.

The following link will help you learn more if you wish, but it is not necessary to doing your part of the campaign.

<https://www.religiousliberty.info/2024-english-resources-bundle.pdf>

Religious Liberty offerings are a bit different than other offerings but I will try to simplify it as much as possible. This is how it works.

1) Special envelopes are passed out to the members, which they can choose to use. Or, they may just give Religious Liberty offerings with their regular tithes and offerings or through Adventist Giving.

You will post these donations to the Conference Fund #50087 – Religious Liberty.

2) If they wish, donors can order a subscription to Liberty Magazine along with their donation, using the special envelope. The value of their **personal subscription** (\$7.00 per year is the special campaign subscription price) will need to be posted to a Local Fund called “Liberty Magazine - NTD” (which should be set as Non-Tax-Deductible in Maintenance/Edit Accounts.)

If you do not already have such an account, you will need to create it. If you need assistance, let me know.

Note: All of the money that a person donates to the Religious Liberty campaign will be passed on to Religious Liberty Magazine as a donation. The (temporary) change we are making **for the subscription part of the donation only, is solely for accounting and IRS purposes**. The local church is not “keeping” any of the money.

Since a person is not supposed to get a tax receipt for a donation when he/she receives a benefit in return for their donation, you will pass the subscription part of the donation through a local account, in order to mark it as non-tax deductible to the donor.

I repeat! Nothing is being “taken” from the Religious Liberty money, just temporarily diverted and then brought back into the remittance flow, to satisfy the tax code. If there had been an easier way to do it, we would have, but unfortunately, there is not.

3) When you receive the special envelopes (called “Bonds”) in the offering plate, you should look to see if the donor is ordering a personal subscription. If **not**, treat them like regular tithe envelopes.

- Open them and verify their contents.
- Make sure each envelope is dated with the current Sabbath date.
- Deposit the cash and/or checks with your regular Sabbath deposit.
- Post the donation to Acct #50087 – Religious Liberty

4) If any donor **has** requested a subscription, do the same. Except post the value of one subscription (\$7.00) to your local Liberty Magazine – NTD account and post the rest of the donation to Acct #50087.

5) If your church has a Religious Liberty Secretary, ask them if they want to see all the “bonds”, or just the ones that contain a donor subscription. Then you can choose just one of the following options:

- A. Make copies for them of the ones they want to see, and you keep the originals with the tithe envelopes.
- B. Show them the “Bonds” and let them copy down the information that they need right there on the spot. You keep the originals with the tithe envelopes for that week

Note: *the Religious Liberty secretary must record the names and address of the donors who have requested a subscription, and send it on so the donor receives their magazines.*

If you do not have a Religious Liberty secretary but a donor has ordered a subscription, speak to your pastor or an elder and ask them what to do.

Jewel will automatically send the Religious Liberty donations to the Conference along with your monthly remittance in February and March but will temporarily hold the subscription funds in your local NTD fund.

At the beginning of April, after the Liberty Campaign is over, (so you only have to do it once,) you can follow the instructions in Liberty Magazine Campaign – part 2. (*Tutorial #6062*) This will show you how to Transfer the “NTD” subscription funds out of your local account and into the Conference remittance for March.

In the meantime, just let them sit there in your local account. Don’t transfer them or spend them.

For more tutorials on GCC-DENOMINATIONAL POLICIES-GUIDELINES, see section 6000 on the gccsda.org auditor webpage.

*This information has been brought to you by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Audit Team
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