

September 26, 2020

Local Conference Advance

Living on \$2 a day. Kathryn J. Edin, a distinguished professor of sociology at Johns Hopkins University, and H. Luke Shaefer, an associate professor at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, co-wrote the mesmerizing book *\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*. The book chronicles the journey of nearly 1.5 million households in America in extreme poverty. Nearly 3 million children are part of this demographic.

Imagine extreme measures such as selling your plasma for \$30 to feed a family of four. These are unconscionable circumstances in which Christian empathy and help can mean hope and a better life. In *Toxic Inequality*, Thomas M. Shapiro notes that more and more Americans, especially parents with young children, are left behind in the economic cycle. Such statistical realities can be opportunities for our Seventh-day Adventist Church to provide a lifesaving service to the most vulnerable people of our society.

Many local conferences do exactly that. They operate learning development centers and schools for the local communities. Others aid refugees coming to our country for a better life. Whatever the need, we are called to help. Thank you for being generous. Thank you for empathizing with those who struggle and for whom our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross.