

GC STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020

“Complexity should not be admired; should be avoided.” Unknown author.

GOD FIRST

Vision:

For every church member to establish the habit of putting God First in every area of life.

Mission:

To help leaders and members develop habits necessary for spiritual growth and faithful stewardship.

Focus:

Recognizing that Christian Stewardship is a very broad and important concept that reaches into all aspects of a life dedicated to Christ—from family relations and giving patterns to health habits, from time management to the care of the environment;

Recognizing that to promote commitment and faithfulness in all those areas would be too great a task for only one department;

Recognizing that, differently from many other denominations, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has assigned other departments to deal with almost each one of those aspects of Stewardship (for example, Health Ministries, Youth Ministries, Sabbath School & Personal Ministries and Family Ministries);

The Stewardship Ministries department will therefore work mainly, but not exclusively, on the task of promoting [1] trust in the Lord, [2] faithfulness and [3] a missionary mindset through financial stewardship, using the following approaches:

OUR GOALS

ACTIVITY

RATIONALE

METHOD

EVALUATION

CENTER STAGE: IN CHURCHES

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

To facilitate 25% of church members to renew their commitment, this quinquennium, via the God First Commitment Card, at any time but especially as official part of the Stewardship Sabbath in December.

Developing spiritual habits, personal, family and communal worship. How to develop personal prayer and Bible study habits (using “Revived by His Word” and “Believe His Prophets”), family worship and church attendance.

Research has shown that those who have the habit of returning a faithful tithe are generally the same ones who regularly attend church, also pray regularly, study the Bible and the Sabbath School lesson (McIver, 2016), and are probably also more inclined to be involved in missionary effort.

End each stewardship educational event with a commitment call, using the Commitment Card (See the “Promise Card”).

The percentage of members reached by the commitment renewals.

GROWING IN NURTURE

To grow the number of regular tithers by 5% within this quinquennium.

Pursue a visitation program where pastors and church elders will carry out their spiritual responsibility and encourage members who have yet to experience the blessings of putting God first.

As the habit of tithing and giving offerings can be an indicator of spirituality, not tithing or not giving offerings may be considered an indicator of potential apostasy. Visitation is the method indicated by God through the Spirit of Prophecy to encourage a comprehensive spiritual growth.

i) Holy Convocation events will be held to teach and motivate pastors and elders to engage in a regular purposeful visitation program.
ii) To visit all church members with the “Visitation Agenda,” beginning with those who for some reason are not tithing.
(See <https://adventiststewardship.com/holy-convocation-resources>.)

To collect clear statistical data on the tithers in every field and analyze the growth curves showing the percentage of regular tithers.

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE

To see that the average level of liberality of each church member reaches 5 percent (5%) of the member’s income (Promise) in offerings by July 2020.

Teaching concepts of trusting in the Lord, faithfulness and generosity, with a focus on regular and systematic (percentage-based) offerings (Promise¹).

Offerings represent the compliant end of the systematic benevolence spectrum. The reality shows us that not every tither is a Promisor (i.e. not all tithers also practice the systematic giving of offerings). However, Promisors² (persons who give percentage-based offerings systematically) are also generally faithful tithers. Therefore, if our emphasis is on the Promise, we may expect that both tithe and systematic offerings (via the Promise concept), will grow.

Sermons by local pastors, Family Finance Seminars, Stewardship Conventions, Stewardship Certifications.

Making use of the Generosity Factor to determine growth in liberality of offerings.

Main evaluating initiative:
The Generosity (or Liberality) Factor.

1. The translation of this word to Spanish and Portuguese is “Pacto”.

2. The translation of this word to Spanish and Portuguese is “Pactuante”.

1. Annual Continuous Education Program run by Stewardship Ministries department leaders, in every local field (Mission/Conferences), involving pastors, local church elders, Stewardship Ministries directors and treasurers.

2. Regular Reports by each administrative level (down to the local church) to demonstrate spiritual growth through the Generosity Factor. The following should be sent regularly to each division Stewardship Ministries director:

- a) Generosity Factor
- b) Percentage of regular tithers
- c) Percentage of regular offering-givers
- d) Tithe per capita
- e) Growth since last report in each of the above

3. Transparency and Accountability (Organizational Renewal):

- a) To Integrate efforts with Treasury, Global Mission, Sabbath School, Adventist Review, Adventist World, Ministry Magazine, Elder's Digest, Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, Communication Departments to provide regular accountability (reports about what has been done) and transparency (incoming resources and their administration).
- b) Use of media and social media to regularly share financial and mission reports.
- c) To establish a pattern for accountability and transparency (how to deal with and record income) following the income from the local church offering plate to the GC Treasury.
- d) To motivate the adoption of the envelope, online and other giving options, and encourage accountability on the part of the local church treasury, including the giving of receipts.
- e) To motivate church members to identify their contributions in order to receive a receipt.

4. Platform for Giving:

In this above environment, to provide an integrated (all departments and initiatives together) and simple platform for giving, motivating worship and mission. (Development of E-giving online and via apps or contextual technologies in all local regions).

5. Offering Plan:

To motivate the use of the Combined Offering Plan by the divisions explaining the plan and showing its advantages.

6. Stewardship Events:

Summits, Conventions or Congresses: Motivating Stewardship Summits, Conventions, Congresses or Symposiums to be held at each administrative level in this quinquennium.

7. Curriculum and material development:

For Certifications in Stewardship to be made available for pastors through continued education, at academic levels for seminary and other students, and in an attractive way for Youth, Pathfinders, Women's Ministries, and members.