



GOD FIRST

FEBRUARY 2017



MONEY

Money, Who Doesn't Like It?

Editorial

Who doesn't like MONEY? Who doesn't need it? Although there are psychological and physical things that MONEY can't buy, but MONEY is still needed. Without MONEY, we can do nothing. Without MONEY, we will be starving to death. Without MONEY,

the mission of the church will not be completed. So, whether you say you don't like MONEY, or you don't need MONEY, yet MONEY is significantly important in life and for life.

Can MONEY buy salvation? The answer is absolutely no.

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Quotes About Money

"Not he who has much is rich, but he who gives much." **Erich Fromm**

"If we command our wealth, we shall be rich and free. If our wealth commands us, we are poor indeed."

Edmund Burke

"He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses much more; He who loses faith, loses all."

Eleanor Roosevelt

"When I had money everyone called me brother." **Polish proverb**

"Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man has, the more he wants. Instead of filling a vacuum, it makes one." **Benjamin Franklin**

[More Quotes On Money](#)

Holy Convocation

Revival and Reformation

This one-week Stewardship Ministries program has an emphasis on Nurture and Retention. It is aimed at helping pastors, teaching them how to nurture and keep members in the church. Trainings are done in the mornings, followed by...

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Pastor Bomfim with stewardship leaders from the Caribbean Union during the Holy Convocation week in Bogota, Colombia.

MARK
DATE
IN YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 22, 2017
World Stewardship Leaders
Strategic Planning Meeting



The Bible and Money

Jesus and the Bible both say a lot about money. Several common Bible verses that talk about money include, “For the love of money is the root of all evil” and “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (1 Timothy 6:10, Matthew 6:21) It has been said that Jesus spoke about money more than almost any single topic in the Bible. The word “money” is mentioned around 130 times in the Bible. (KJV).

www.bibleinfo.com/en/topics/money

It is worth noting that money is such an important topic in the Bible, that it is the main subject of nearly half of the parables Jesus told. In addition, one in

every seven verses in the New Testament deals with this topic. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith, and more than 2,000 verses on money.

In fact, 15 percent of everything Jesus ever taught was on the topic of money and possessions—more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined.

www.christianity.com/print/11581312/

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21, KJV.



E. G. White on Money

“From a worldly point of view, money is power; but from the Christian standpoint, love is power. Intellectual and spiritual strength are involved in this principle. Pure love has special efficacy to do good, and can do nothing but good. It prevents discord and misery and brings the truest happiness. Wealth is often an influence to corrupt and destroy; force is strong to do hurt; but truth and goodness are the properties of pure love.” Ellen G. White, [Adventist Home](http://AdventistHome), p. 195.

“Money is not ours; houses and grounds, pictures and furniture, garments and luxuries, do not belong to us. We are pilgrims, we are strangers. We have only a grant of those things that are necessary for health and life.... Our temporal blessings are given us in trust, to prove whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches. If we endure the proving of God, then we shall receive that purchased possession which is to be our own—glory, honor, and immortality.” Ellen G. White, [Adventist Home](http://AdventistHome), p. 367.

Meet the Team



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Division Stewardship News

Holy Convocation - Revival and Reformation

visitations in the afternoons and revival and reformation preachings in the evenings.

Visitation is an essential part of this program. There is a specific way to visit church members and also a specific agenda with 7 points: [1] personal communion, [2] family communion, [3] Sabbath keeping, [4] health reform, [5] healthy relationships (love, forgiveness, faithfulness), [6] TMI, and [7] tithes

and percentage-based offerings.

The high point of the program comes at the end of the week when a commitment call is made to pastors, using the Promise commitment card, which also has the same 7 points of the visitation's agenda. The pastors in turn replicate this commitment ceremony in the churches where they are ministering during the week.



William Bagambe, East Central Africa Division Stewardship Director challenging members to put God First during the Stewardship Thrust 2017..



Praying for 150+ pastors from Colombia and Inter-American Division who committed themselves to the Lord during the Holy Convocation



Roberto Herrera, Inter-American Division Stewardship Director, speaks about "Stewardship and the Church Member" during the Holy Convocation



Fontibon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Bogotá, Colombia where Pastor Bomfim preached during the Holy Convocation.



Pastor Bomfim visited three families in one day during the Holy Convocation week in Bogota, Colombia.



Pastors of the South Colombian Union exercising before visiting and preaching during the Holy Convocation.



District Stewardship Teams in Salvador, Brazil, a strategic stewardship tool in the South American Division.

Monthly Stewardship News

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Connect with us at www.adventiststewardship.com



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Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Ratu, Founder and owner of Prisma Ministry Indonesia (PMI)



The PMI Team members, very active in Evangelistic Efforts

Salvation can only be obtained through Jesus Christ, not through MONEY. However, interestingly a lay evangelist by the name of Johnny Ratu had it proven that with his MONEY, he could bring so many souls to the source of

salvation - Jesus Christ. In 2016, he used his MONEY to sponsor public evangelistic meetings in Indonesia and other Asian countries. His motto is, 'No Day Passes by without Evangelistic Meetings.' Three hundred sixty-three (363) out of three hundred sixty five (365) days in a year, ninety four (94) public evangelistic meetings were conducted, and 1,415 souls were baptized as the result. So obviously salvation for that many people could be gained through MONEY.

Can MONEY buy happiness? The answer is absolutely no. But interestingly Johnny Ratu said that spending his MONEY for sponsoring evangelistic meetings brings happiness and satisfaction to his heart. So obviously, MONEY cannot buy happiness but could bring happiness if used for the mission of the church and for the salvation of many people. Ellen G. White supported this

thought in her writing, "Now every member of the human family is given wholly into the hands of Christ, and whatever we possess—whether it is the gift of money, of houses, of lands, of reasoning powers, of physical strength, of intellectual talents—in this present life, and the blessings of the future life, are placed in our possession as God's treasures to be faithfully expended for the benefit of man. Every gift is stamped with the cross and bears the image and superscription of Jesus Christ." Ellen G. White, [Faith and Work](#), p. 22.

The bottom line is, we need MONEY to accomplish Jesus' great commission in Matthew 28:19, 20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. . ."

Editorial

50 Things Money Can't Buy

1. Respect
2. Well-adjusted kids
3. Work-life balance
4. Natural beauty
5. Manners
6. Common sense
7. A clear conscience
8. Purpose in life
9. Integrity
10. Good friends
11. A long life
12. Close-knit family
13. An open mind
14. A worry-free day
15. Trust
16. A new beginning
17. Clean arteries
18. A great idea
19. An honest politician
20. Peace of mind
21. A good hair day
22. Patience
23. Luck
24. A good epitaph
25. Happy memories
26. Time to relax
27. A strong work ethic
28. A positive attitude
29. A happy home
30. Everything you may want
31. Good karma
32. Appreciation of the simple things
33. True love
34. A new shot at a missed opportunity
35. Peace in the world
36. A golden anniversary
37. Talent
38. A second chance in life
39. Quality time with your kids
40. Wisdom
41. Happiness
42. Humility
43. A good reputation
44. 25-hour day
45. Relationship with your kids
46. Youth
47. Class
48. Justice
49. A proper perspective
50. Selflessness

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A Live Streaming Event

LIVING GENEROUSLY

A COMMITMENT & STEWARDSHIP EVENT

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

SABBATH MARCH 4, 2017

FEATURING:

 DAN JACKSON North America Division President	 JOHN MATTHEWS NAD Stewardship Director	 BONITA SHIELDS NAD Stewardship Associate Director	 SANDY ROBERTS SECC President	 BRIAN NEAL SECC Commitment Director	 GORDON BOTTING Pacific Union Stewardship Director
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WHO: All Conference Stewardship Directors from Pacific Union and Live-streamed for Conference and Union Stewardship Directors

WHEN: Sabbath, March 4, 2017, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm **Pacific Time**

WHERE: Zapara School of Business, La Sierra University, Riverside, CA

LIVE STREAM: www.zsblive.com

REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED FOR SABBATH

Program continues on Sunday, March 5, 2017