



# GOD FIRST

ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

June 2018  
Hedonism



## Editorial - Hedonism

When I decided to get married many years ago, the only answer to the question: 'Why was I getting married?' was because 'I wanted to be happy.' Having been a bachelor for quite a long time - spending my life in loneliness and solitude, I said to myself, "I need someone to be by my side, and maybe, if I got married, I would be happy." ...

[READ MORE](#) Article written by Dr. Hiskia Missah, Editor - God First

## Stewardship Soup Idea



## Australia Union Vows to Implement the God First Plan

The Australian Union and all 10 Conferences in Australia have agreed to promote the God First theme, a key item in our strategic plan for the quinquennium. They have supplied over 15,000 Promise Cards to date and will print another 250,000 to re-supply all four Union offices.

They plan to: ...

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## Putting God First by Dr. Carlton Byrd

WATCH HERE



Breath of Life TV: "Put God First" sermon by Pastor Carlton Byrd. Pastor Byrd, teaching about God's Love Letters to Man, admonishes us to Put God First. God wants to have a relationship with us; He created us and redeemed us from sin. We cannot fully obey the rest of the nine commandments given man if we refuse to acknowledge the first: "Thou shalt have no other god before Me." Exodus 20:3 KJV



This 13% increase, Jan.-Apr. 2018 compared to Jan.-Apr. 2107, is attributed to the division's efficient use of the 2018 1st Quarter Sabbath School Lesson Study.

## East Central Africa Division Puts God First

Ever since the GC Stewardship Ministries launched the God First initiative, ECD Stewardship Ministries has walked with the same to many church locations.

The Stewardship Ministries of ECD has conducted many seminars to this effect, mostly targeting, the local church pastors, elders, deacons and deaconess, stewardship secretaries, youth and women leaders, and finally the entire church membership. In all churches we have visited, we have emphasized that in all that ....

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## Sermon Illustrations on Hedonism

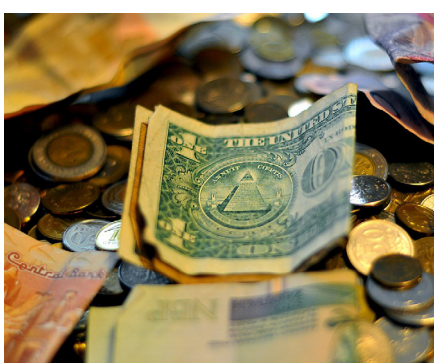
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### Discipline of Our Possessions

In her book, Discipline, the Glad Surrender, Elisabeth Elliot reveals four meaningful lessons to be learned from the discipline of our possessions: "The first lesson is that all things are given by God... Because God gives us things indirectly by enabling us to..."

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### Where Your Treasure Is

George W. Truett, a well-known pastor, was invited to dinner in the home of a very wealthy man in Texas. After the meal, the host led him to a place where they could get a good view of the surrounding area. Pointing to the oil wells punctuating the landscape, he boasted,...

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World's Highest Tithers +60% Hungarian Union Conference

TEACH HER THE VALUE OF GIVING in 5 quick steps...

- Download and Print: the Great Mission Offering Bank coloring page from [adventistmission.org/mission-offering-bank](#).
- Cut: trim the edges using scissors.
- Color: ask your child to use some fun colors to do the coloring.
- Wrap: the finished coloring page around a tin can or similar container, using sticky tape. Be sure there are no sharp edges.
- Save: encourage your child to place their dollars and pennies into the can.

When the can is full, help your child count the money, and then write and mail a check to Adventist Mission.

Office of Adventist Mission  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA

[adventistmission.org/mission-offering-bank](#)

## Suggested Resources

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### Family Finance Seminar

The Family Finance Seminar is an upcoming stewardship resource that emphasizes Biblical principles in money management, and is deeply rooted in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. It can be used during a stewardship weekend program in a local church, ending with a Promise Ceremony, enabling seminar participants to renew their tithe and percentage-based offering commitment with God. Send us an email if you would like to receive the seminar once published.



### 13 Lesson Study Videos

Explore weekly insights into the 3rd quarter 2018 Sabbath School on the book of Acts presented by 13 different pairs of ministry partners across the South Pacific Division. In addition these videos can be used as small group conversation starters when studying the book of Acts or training on church planting and discipleship. They will be made available each week, one video per week, on our social media accounts: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). You may also view them on [Vimeo](#) and [YouTube](#).

Book of Acts Sabbath School Study Series QTR 3

Special Announcement

For Local Church Leadership, Pastors, Sabbath School Teachers, Elders, and Church Social Media Coordinators.

13 short videos aligned to each topic of the lesson series will be available at:

- YouTube** - [discipline.org.au/resources/acts-or-disciple.org.au](#)
- Vimeo** - [https://vimeo.com/gpddk/169149448](#)

- Pray** for the Holy Spirit to guide the lesson study series to be a life-changing encounter with the methods of Jesus in church making and the ministry of the apostles - missionaries, planting and church planting.
- Share** items on your Church Facebook page to engage your Church with the lesson.
- Show** items in Sabbath School time. Includes ideas for discovery Bible teaching and group discussion.
- Watch** how the Holy Spirit led the church in growing the movement of Holy Acts.

Order Holy Discovery Bible Reading Bookmarks from your union.

- APAC - [adventistbible.org.au](#)
- AMC - [adventistbible.org.au](#)
- TRC - [adventistbible.org.au](#)
- PLACAM - [mauc.com.au/adventistbible.org](#)
- CC - [firstfruitsadventist.com.au](#)



## Who's In Control?

Summary: When Jesus is control of your life, you totally depend on Him for ALL things. Yet this is not a dependence that makes you weak; this dependence makes you strong because Christ is in control. Willingly, I have entered into a very serious relationship that is beyond my control and beyond my wildest dreams. It all began when I let Jesus be lord of my life. My life has now taken on new meaning all because of Him—and it's exciting!

Article written by Carol Barron and previously published in the January–March 1998 issue of the Dynamic Steward Magazine on Partnership.

[READ MORE](#)

## God's Plan of Systematic Benevolence

Should all whom God has prospered with earth's riches carry out His plan by faithfully giving a tenth of all their increase, and should they not withhold their trespass offerings and their thank offerings, the treasury would be constantly replenished. The simplicity of the plan of systematic benevolence does not detract from its merits but extols the wisdom of God in its arrangement. Everything bearing the divine stamp unites simplicity with utility...

Article previously published as a brochure by the Department of Stewardship and Development.

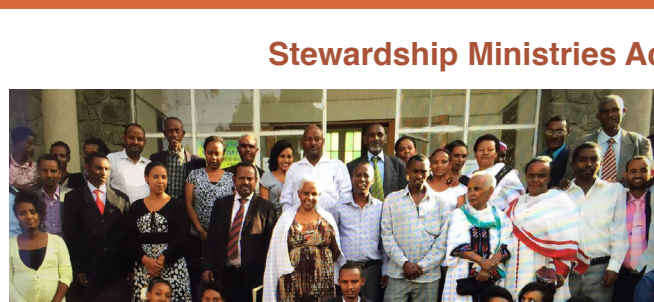
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Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

"Complexity should not be admired; it should be avoided." Author Unknown

## Division News (View More)

### Stewardship Ministries Activities for the Month of June.



God First Initiative in Ethiopia



Stewardship Directors at the CBUC in Sao Paulo, Brazil, during a Holy Convocation program, showing new resources.



Elder Biaggi presents a stewardship seminar in Romania.



SSD President, Saw Samuel, giving the keynote address during divisionwide stewardship convention



David Neal (TED) presents a seminar for the leaders of the Hungarian Union Conference.



Elder Missah presenting a seminar in Ghana.

Please send us stories, photos, and videos of stewardship events in your region or innovative stewardship ideas. You could be featured in future newsletters! SUBSCRIBE to the monthly God First newsletter via email.

## Monthly Adventist Stewardship Newsletter

GC Stewardship Ministries | 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Connect with us at [www.adventiststewardship.com](http://www.adventiststewardship.com)

