

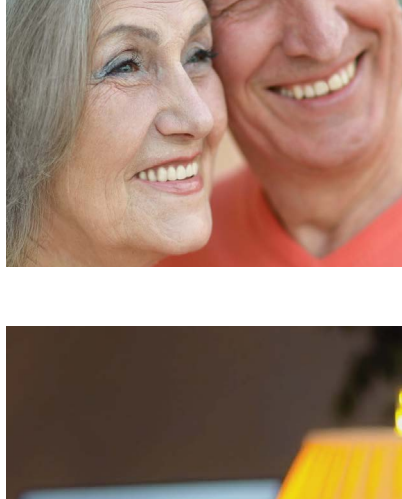


GOD FIRST

May 2017

VOWS

Editorial - Dare to Make A Vow



Remember some forty-three years ago, standing before the officiating pastor with anxiety as I solemnly uttered my wedding VOWS to my bride, "Today, before God and these witnesses, I promise to love you unconditionally, . . . until death do us part . . ." At that point I was apprehensive and overwhelmed with concern: "What if I could not keep my VOWS; what if I could not fulfill the promises...

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Newsletter Staff

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Bible Verses About Vows

Ecclesiastes 5:4-6, KJV:

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

Deuteronomy 23:21-23, KJV:

When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.

Numbers 30:2, KJV

If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

Acts 5:1-11, ESV

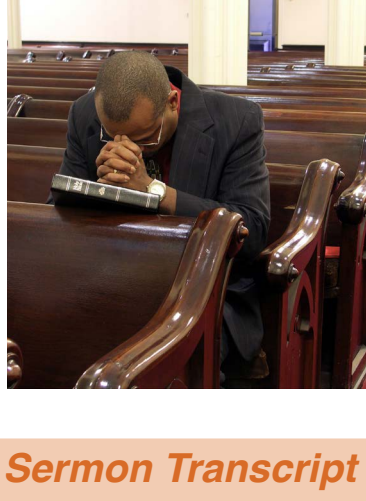
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The State of the Storehouse - Elder Juan Prestol-Puesan, General Conference Treasurer, gives an update on the financial state of the church today.

[WATCH](#)

Vows to God – Why make them?



My desire was to be used by God. I told Him that I wanted to speak only the words He wanted me to speak and to only do the things He wanted me to do. I wanted to be a vessel that was emptied of myself and full of Him. I wanted to be walking in the Spirit all of the time. I wanted to grow spiritually and become more sensitive to God's voice. I wanted people to see Him in me.

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Sermon Transcript of Elder Ted Wilson "No Turning Back"

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Good morning and happy Sabbath, GYC! I'm glad to be with you and am grateful to the GYC leadership for inviting me to speak to you today. What a blessing it is to worship with such a large group of committed Seventh-day Adventist youth! Hearing literally thousands of young people singing praises to God and seeing so many youthful faces radiant with a spirit of Christian unity is incredibly encouraging!

However, as grateful as we should be for the continued numeric growth of GYC, we must always be mindful that its real success is not to be measured in numbers. The true measure of GYC's success is nothing other than its unwavering devotion to Jesus Christ and by extension its unflinching commitment to the mission and message of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

[GYC 2010 Audio Verse Sermons](#)



Repentance and Rashness

Promises are a problem! We are in trouble if we don't keep them, but sometimes we are also in trouble if we do keep them. Making a rash promise, which should not have been made in the first place, can result in a no-win situation. This was the predicament in which Jephthah found himself. He vowed, but it never occurred to him that his daughter's future was at stake! Here's the entire week's lesson on that topic from a previous quarter's lesson-study guide.

Published with permission from General Conference Adult Bible Study Guide.

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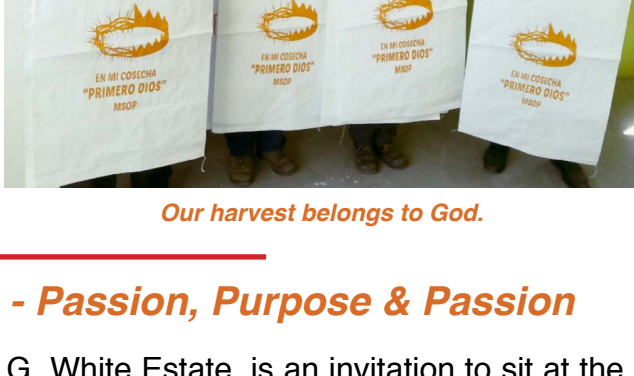
GC Stewardship Strategic Plan (2017 - 2020)

<p>GC STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020</p> <p>"Comply should not be advised; should be avoided." (William Arthur)</p> <p>GOD FIRST</p> <p>Vision: For every church member to establish the habit of putting God First in every area of life.</p> <p>Mission: To help leaders and members develop habits necessary for spiritual growth and faithful stewardship.</p> <p>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 case management to the care of the environment. Recognizing that to promote commitment and faithfulness in all these areas would be too great a task for only one department.</p> <p>Recognizing the differences from many other denominations, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has assigned other departments to deal with almost each one of these aspects of Stewardship (for example, Health Ministries, Youth Ministries, Sabbath School & Personal Ministries and Family Ministries).</p> <p>The Stewardship-Ministries department will therefore work mainly, but not exclusively, on the task of promoting (1) love in the Lord, (2) faithfulness and (3) a missionary mindset through financial stewardship, using the following approaches:</p>	<p>CHURCHES</p> <p>GROWING OPPORTUNITIES To include 10% of church members in every church in the United States, Canada, and the Caribbean by the end of 2020.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>Developing general basic personal, family and corporate stewardship habits in every personal group and Bible study using the "Stewardship Plan" and "Stewardship 101" book.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>Set each stewardship committee using the Commission Call using the "Stewardship Plan" and "Stewardship 101" book.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>The percentage of members included in the Commission Call will be:</p> <p>1. 25% of members in the United States and Canada 2. 10% of members in the Caribbean</p>	<p>CHURCHES</p> <p>GROWING IN FAITHFULNESS To grow the number of regular contributors to the church's financial support.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>Place a stewardship program in every church and district and assign a stewardship committee to oversee the program.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>In the light of giving and offering, the church should be able to meet its financial needs and support its ministries.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>Set each stewardship committee using the Commission Call using the "Stewardship Plan" and "Stewardship 101" book.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>Set each stewardship committee using the Commission Call using the "Stewardship Plan" and "Stewardship 101" book.</p>	<p>CHURCHES</p> <p>GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE To see that the average level of knowledge of each church member is at least 75% of the membership's total knowledge by the year 2020.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>Develop a stewardship program in every church and district and assign a stewardship committee to oversee the program.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>Develop a stewardship program in every church and district and assign a stewardship committee to oversee the program.</p> <p>CHURCHES</p> <p>Develop a stewardship program in every church and district and assign a stewardship committee to oversee the program.</p>	<p>CHURCHES</p> <p>1. Annual Continuous Education Program run by Stewardship Ministries department Leadership, every local church member, and every church member, including pastors, local church members, Stewardship Ministries directors and members.</p> <p>2. Regular Reports by each administrative level (down to the local church) to administrative level through the General Conference. The following should be sent regularly to each administrative level: a) Stewardship Report b) Percentage of regular givers c) Percentage of regular offering givers d) Percentage of regular tithers e) Growth over last year in each of the above.</p> <p>3. Transparency and Accountability (Organizational Resources) a) To integrate efforts with Treasury, Global Finance, Sabbath School, Adventist Review, Mission Field, Ministry Ministries, Bible Digital, Hope Channel, Adventist Health, Public Communications Department in providing regular accountability reports about what has been done and how it is being done. b) To use the results of the reports to regularly share lessons learned and improve results. c) To establish a system for monitoring and reporting on the progress of the GYC program. d) To measure the ability of the churches, unions and other giving systems, and encourage responsibility in the part of the local church leaders in leading the giving of offerings. e) To increase church members' identity their contributions in order to receive a response.</p> <p>4. Position for Change In the above environment, to provide an integrated set of administrative and resource systems, and engage pastors for giving, stewardship, tithing and mission. (Development of giving units and to raise or convert technologies in all settings).</p> <p>5. Offering Plan To create the use of the Commission Offering Plan by the churches explaining the plan and allowing for alternatives.</p> <p>6. Stewardship Events To create a Stewardship Program, including Sabbath Schools, Conferences, Conventions or Seminars to be held at each administrative level in the organization.</p> <p>7. Certification and Annual Reporting To create a Stewardship Program, including Sabbath Schools, Conferences, Conventions or Seminars to be held at each administrative level in the organization.</p>
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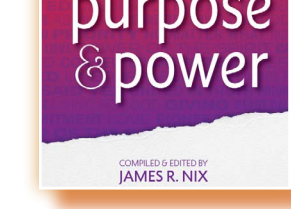
Peruvian Farmers Devote Harvests to God

The Adventist church has a rather unique doctrine and practice with regards to biblical stewardship, compared to other Christian denominations. We recognize that God claims ten percent (10%) of our income as His own, and so we return His tithe to the "storehouse" (Malachi 3:10). The storehouse in the church today has been identified as the local conference, who receives God's tithe as collected by the local churches.

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Our harvest belongs to God.



Recommended Resource - Passion, Purpose & Power

By James Nix, Director of the E.G. White Estate, is an invitation to sit at the feet of our forefathers and listen to their stories. Meet people who gave themselves, so totally and completely, to God's divine plans. Listen to stories that link you to our rich Seventh-day Adventist history. Read a PDF copy of the book by clicking on read more or purchase a hardcopy [here](#) from Advent Source.

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Division Reports (View More)

East Africa Division - Pastor William Bagambe, Director



Through an Amharic interpreter, Pr. William Bagambe explained Stewardship in line with TMI. The message was that every member of God's Church is to be involved in faithful Stewardship. The event took place in Hawassa, South of Ethiopia Union, during a Stewardship Congress which lasted 5 days, May 9-14, 2017.

South American Division - Pastor Herbert Boger



Stewardship Roots Symposium Temuco, Chile.

Stewardship Roots Symposium in Concepción, Chile and launching of the STW District Teams plan.



Children help lift the Offerings during a Stewardship Congress held in Peru.

Holy Convocation in Uruguay. Pastor Herbert Boger teaching.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division - Pastor Noldy Sakul, Director



Pastor Bomfim and Pastor Sakul preached on giving during the one-day Stewardship seminar in Surapati Church, Denpasar, Bali, May 6, 2017.

Devotional Speakers and Resource Speakers during the SSD Stewardship Ministries Regional-wide Certification program.



Delegates attending the SSD Stewardship Ministries Regional-wide Certification program.

Regional-wide Stewardship Ministries Certification Program participants



Pastor Hiskia Missah speaks about the Use of Tithe.



Pastors Marcos Bomfim and Noldy Sakul hold up a Stewardship certificate for the attendees.

West Central-Africa Division - Pastor Jallah Karbah



Stewardship Seminar participants in Port Harcourt, East Nigeria Union Conference

Northern Nigerian Union Conference Stewardship Ministries Advisory Participants

Monthly Stewardship News

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

Connect with us at www.adventiststewardship.com

