

Script DSA- GC 2021 Report

In 2020, through the power of God and with the support of His people, the South American Division of the Adventist Stewardship Ministry has achieved some truly amazing things.

In 2020, the "Stewardship is Discipleship" online course was viewed over 147,000 times! The primary goal of this course is to train new leaders in the area of Christian stewardship. It consists of 12 classes in Portuguese and another 12 classes in Spanish.

The classes are led by renowned leaders who speak each language respectively.

The program is blessed to have Pr. Marcos Bonfim, Pr. Demóstenes Neves, Pr. Josanan Alves, and Pr. Ben Maxson as speakers for the classes in both Portuguese and Spanish.

Due to the large number of participants, in addition to the Adventist Academy platform, it was necessary to create two websites to handle the demands of the classes in both languages.

But that's not all! During the month of August the main focus of SAD was Stewardship. To that end, "Seeking First the Kingdom", a fantastic book authored by Pastor Josanan Alves, was given to all adventist families within SAD's jurisdiction.

All in all, more than 750 thousand copies of the book were distributed and more than 14 thousand electronic copies were downloaded.

As the books were distributed, the pastors and stewards met with families, prayed together, and encouraged them to become a part of God's Kingdom.

During the third week of August, the South American division of Steward Ministry held a very special event: the Spiritual Revival Week. This event targeted members of the division's local churches who felt called to become stewards of God. From August 15th to 20th, participants had the opportunity to discuss stewardship, among other topics, with special speakers every night. Some of the keynote speakers were: Pr. Marcos Bomfim, Pr. Stanley Arco and Pr. Josanan Alves.

The event was a massive success! During the course of the week the event was viewed over 423,000 times. But that's not all: The Revival Week webpage reached more than 21 thousand unique visitors! And the event's materials were downloaded more than 14 thousand times!

To achieve the maximum impact possible, the Revival Week was broadcast on various social media platforms. On Youtube the broadcast reached more than 214 thousand Portuguese

speakers and 28 thousand Spanish speakers. The Facebook broadcast reached more than 103 thousand Portuguese speakers and nearly 77 thousand Spanish speakers. In addition to the impressive number of views, the event's Facebook page reached an additional 17 thousand plus Portuguese speakers and 3 thousand plus Spanish speakers.

In addition to the nightly events of the Revival Week, the week's activities also included The Holy Convocation Project, a special project prepared for pastors with the objective of furthering their knowledge of stewardship.

The Holy Convocation Project was sponsored by both SAD and Unions. Together the groups put on the event for their pastors.

The Holy Convocation Project was very well received! There were more than 24 thousand people who accessed the event's page and more than 18 thousand people who participated in the course. The project included a special broadcast on three different days. There were over 16 thousand Portuguese speakers and over 7 thousand Spanish speakers who tuned into the special transmission.

The Revival Week was not the only successful event sponsored by the South American Division of Adventist Stewardship Ministry. "Prove and See", an audiovisual project started in 2015 that focuses on telling real stories of faith, reached hundreds of thousands of individuals in 2020.

In 2020 alone more than 13 thousand DVDs were distributed in churches. But that's not all: more than 16 thousand people downloaded the material in Portuguese and an additional 7 thousand people downloaded the material in Spanish.

This material was also made available in Brazilian Sign Language better known as LIBRAS, to ensure accessibility for the hearing impaired.

In 2020, SAD also organized the distribution of the Dynamic Steward magazine. In the course of the year, the publication was downloaded more than 2300 times: 782 of which were in Portuguese and 1579 of which were in Spanish.

In addition to the distribution of the Dynamic Steward Magazine, SAD also managed an app which provided church members with the opportunity to electronically give their tithes and offerings. During the pandemic this app was used by a record number of users. This application enabled members to remain steadfast supporters of our ministries, even when all the temples were closed.

Let's look at the numbers:

Using the 7ME App, we can compare 2020's tithes and offerings to the previous two years. A simple glance at the graphs and it's easy to see there was a significant increase in tithing via the app. In addition, a study was conducted to understand on which days of the week members use the app most to return their tithes and offerings.

In general, Friday saw the highest number of users logging on to the app. Interestingly, Mondays and Saturdays were tied for second place. Regardless of the day of the week people logged on, the app surely had a huge impact on the amount of funds which were collected via electronically.

During the pandemic, the Brazilian government made available two subsidies: one worth R\$600 developed and the other worth R\$1200. When those funds were made available, there was a simultaneous and noticeable increase in the contributions of R\$60 and R\$120.

According to data collected by the 7ME app, from 2019 to 2020 there was a significant increase in both the use of the app and the tithes given via the app.

In other words, the app gave members a platform to continue supporting the Church's growth, even through a pandemic.

2020 was a challenging year. But even in the face of adversity, God's kingdom continued to grow stronger with the help of SAD and its members. God has been infinitely merciful with his church in our territory and the gospel has advanced.

“Humility, self-denial, benevolence, and the payment of a faithful [590] tithe, these show that the grace of God is working in the heart” (CH, p.590 Ellen White)