



# GOD FIRST

July 2017

## CONTENTMENT

### Editorial - Discontent



The Beveridge Paper Company learned that one hundred years ago the average American had 70 wants. A similar survey was done a few years back, and the result showed that their grandchildren had nearly 500 wants on their lists.[1] As people become more and more discontent, they strive to find contentment in material things, position, or social status. What is discontent?

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#### Newsletter Staff

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#### Quotes on Contentment

**E G White, Child Guidance, p.359:**  
"This essential lesson of CONTENTED industry in the necessary duties of life, however humble, is yet to be learned by the greater portion of Christ's followers. If there is no human eye to criticize our work, nor voice to praise or blame, it should be done just as well as if the Infinite One Himself were personally to inspect it. We should be as faithful in the minor details of our business as we would in the larger affairs of life."



**E G White, Prophets & Kings, p.219:**  
"Success depends not so much on talent as on energy and willingness. It is not the possession of splendid talents that enables us to render acceptable service; but the conscientious performance of daily duties, the CONTENTED spirit, the unaffected, sincere interest in the welfare of others. In the humblest lot true excellence may be found. The commonest tasks, wrought with loving faithfulness, are beautiful in God's sight."

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Where does my Offerings go? - The Local Church Budget Offering

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### 7 Secrets of Contentment

Someone once said that life is like travelling on two railroad tracks. One rail is the bad stuff that happens; the other rail is the good stuff that happens. We're constantly riding on both rails. Haven't you seen that in your personal life? You get a raise in pay at work one day and the next day get news that a family member has cancer. Your child wins a scholarship to a prestigious university ...

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### Contentment: The Learned Virtue by Rick Ezell

Historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., observes that our society is marked by "inextinguishable discontent." Our quest is better and what is next. We want a better job with better pay and a better boss. We want better relationships and a better car and a better backhand in tennis or a longer drive in golf. And, we have a propensity to live endlessly for the next thing - the next weekend, the next vacation, the

next purchase, and the next experience. We are never satisfied, never content, and envious of those who have what we have not attained or accumulated.

I. What is contentment? Paul, the apostle, wrote, "I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am" (Phil. 4:11).

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### The Least of These

As we focus on contentment in relationship—learning to cultivate healthy relationships—we are reminded that stewardship is first and foremost about our relationship with God and then with our fellow beings. When we understand who God is, and who we are in relation to Him, i.e. acknowledging God as Creator, Owner, Sustainer, and Savior of the world, it motivates us to improve our relationships with those around us.

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### Let God Manage You

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. Psalm 90:17. God wants you to let Him manage you, that you may be a lovable Christian. The Lord would have the natural and hereditary traits of character come under the pruning knife. Look steadfastly unto Jesus, that you may catch His spirit and cherish the qualities of Christlike character. Then it will be recognized by all who have any connection with you, that you have learned of Christ His meekness, His affection, His tenderness, His sympathy. Never rest satisfied until you possess a loving and lovable spirit. Extracted from That I May Know Him by E. G. White, p. 218



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### I Saw, I Desired, I Took

Research shows that across all wealth categories in postmodern culture, religion and money are connected. Lisa Keister, associate professor of sociology, Ohio State University found that the median net worth of Jews was \$150,890 while conservative Christians were the least, \$26,200. Why? At first glance it could be that conservative Christians look forward to a future life while the Jewish faith does not emphasize the world beyond. The relationship between religion and money becomes even more entwined and complex within the concept of world progress which states that as society speeds up we naturally accumulate more and more stuff. However, the mathematics of the concept of world progress cannot explain our cultures' exponential growth or the speed ...

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### Recommended Resource - Online Video Channels

Watch 24 video seminars by 15 experts on a comprehensive list of stewardship themes recorded live in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese, during the 2014 worldwide, interactive Dynamic Steward Conference.

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## Division Reports (View More)

### East Central-Africa Division - Pastor William Bagambe, Director



ECD Stewardship Ministries directors pose for a photo at the end of their advisory held in Nairobi, Kenya.



ECD Stewardship Ministries directors make the "Promise" at the end of their advisory held in Nairobi.

### Northern Asia Pacific Division - Pastor Kwon Johnghaeng



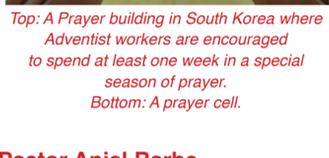
Offering box in the Longhua Seventh-day Adventist Church in Shenzhen, China: left hole for tithe and right for offering. QR code allows electronic payments.



Mongolian Stewardship Congress: offering collection and baptismal candidates.



Top: A Prayer building in South Korea where Adventist workers are encouraged to spend at least one week in a special season of prayer.



Bottom: A prayer cell.

### Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division - Pastor Aniel Barbe



La Reunion Conference of Indian Ocean Union Conference hosted a Stewardship Ministries Retreat at Ephese from June 30 - July 2, 2017. The Theme was "Rediscovering Our Identity as Christians".



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### South American Division - Pastor Herbert Boger



Members from the Pulpera/Velille Church, in Cusco, Perú, bringing from their crops and products, including chicken during a Tithe & Offering Festival.



Peruvian pastoral visitation with church members at 4:30am in -1C degree weather, during a Stewardship Impact.



Members from the Pulpera/Velille Church, in Cusco, Perú, bringing from their crops and products, including chicken during a Tithe & Offering Festival.



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### Southern Asia-Pacific Division - Pastor Noldy Sakul



Pastor H I Missah, GC STW Associate Director preaches during public meetings conducted by Stewardship personnel from the local mission, union mission and General Conference.



Pastor Yance Fina, EKM president welcoming Mr. Johny Ramu, Founder and owner of Prisma Ministry Indonesia (PMI). Since 2016, his foundation has sponsored 363 days of public evangelistic meetings in Indonesia, Philippines and Myanmar, and in 2017 in Indonesia and Rwanda.



Every night more than 1,000 people attended the meeting.



At the end of the meetings 24 precious souls were baptized, adding to the total of 123 souls baptized during that week in East Kalimantan Mission



Choirs and singing groups praising God through their singing every night. What a foretaste of heaven.



Pastor H I Missah preaches about God as the most loving Person in the universe, supplying everything for our needs, we ought to acknowledge His great mercy and love by returning what belongs to Him and live according to His will.

### Monthly Stewardship News

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