



GOD FIRST

June 2017

GENEROSITY

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Editorial - Generosity - A Legacy

What comes to mind when you hear the word "legacy"? Values or goals that someone leaves behind when he or she is gone? Yes. A legacy could also be the memory others have of us: everything we do, say, think, or have. So, when you leave this world, what will your legacy be? Randy Alcorn, a renowned writer, asked a thought-provoking question: "When you leave this world, will..."

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Generosity in the Bible

PROVERBS 11:24-25 NIV YOUR GENEROSITY DEFINES YOUR EXPERIENCE

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

This passage communicates a principle sewn into the fabric of God's world. The more you grasp and hoard, the more you need. Those who give freely and generously find that they're happier, healthier, and experience more blessings.

PSALM 119:36 NIV ESCHEWING SELFISHNESS

"Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain."

MATTHEW 10:42 NIV GOD KEEPS TRACK OF OUR GIVING

And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Again we see a relationship between how we treat the needy and vulnerable around us and our future reward. The Lord is keeping pretty intricate accounts...

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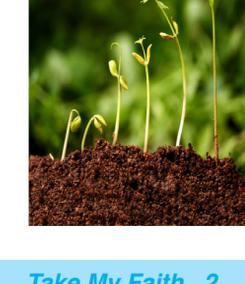


Rodney Brady, Treasurer-SPD

Interview with Rodney Brady, Treasurer of the South Pacific Division E-Giving App

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Stewardship: How I lost It and My Journey Back



The author in this article redefines stewardship as "Obedient ownership." "Many of us have lost our way and our perspective of God's expectations and commands and have become "disobedient owners. The way to get back on course is to acknowledge you need help in this "obedient ownership" journey. God wants us to consider our ways, our lifestyles, our investments, but most of all—our giving patterns.

Article first published in the April-June, 2011 issue of the *Dynamic Steward Journal*.

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Take My Faith...2

"Sorry, I cannot accept your Tithes and Offerings today."

It's worship hour, the tithes and offerings are collected as is custom. With the gentle melody of the organ playing, our reflective thoughts are steered toward heaven. We are waiting to hear a Word from the Lord. Soon, the collection is complete, and the offerings are brought to the front, and we hear

the familiar words in prayer. "Lord, accept these tithes and offerings, for the furtherance of your work, Amen." As we expect the Pastor to lead us on to the next stage of worship, there is a pause and an unexpected announcement; one made in a concerned, almost sorrowful tone of voice.

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20 Cents

Hi, my name is Luana. I'm a lawyer and a missionary and served Amazon Lifesavers Ministry as a volunteer for a year and 4 months. During the training course we did outreach in Puraqueara, which is located in the vicinity of the base, and is one of the most humbleneighbourhoods of Manaus. Due to the fact that I quit my job, and with it my monthly income, I eventually had to cancel my weekly offering plan.

Reprinted by permission from Fernando Borges, ADRA Brazil. Article first published in ADRA Brazil's Mission Blog

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I Promise to Put God First...

GOD FIRST

I PROMISE:

- To SET APART the first moments of each day to commune with the Lord in PRAYER, through the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy, and Sabbath School lesson study, and FAMILY WORSHIP.
- To IMPROVE my RELATIONSHIPS, growing in faithfulness, forgiveness, and loving by principle.
- To ESTABLISH one new HEALTHY HABIT, to better worship the Lord with my mind.
- To OFFER one day for evening each week to WORK for God, spreading the good news to others through Bible Studies, small groups, etc. (T.M.)
- To KEEP the SABBATH, preparing for it accordingly on Friday, keeping its limits, right thoughts and activities.
- To FAITHFULLY RETURN the Lord's TITHE (10% of my income).
- To DEDICATE a regular percentage (____%) of my income as a free will OFFERING to the Lord.

WITH GOD'S HELP: _____ DATE: _____

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

Did you know that you could be participate in the Total Member Involvement initiative through your Tithe and Offerings?

Tithe (10%) and Offering (____%), i.e. Systematic Benevolence:

- Is an indication of spirituality
- Is one of the most tangible ways to experience God!
- Is God's way to fund the mission of the church
- Is a way to practice Jesus' Lordship in your life
- Is a way to worship the Creator God
- Is a way to help those who are in need

Download your copy of the *God First - Promise Card* today to begin your percentage based offering commitment to God.

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Little But the Best

Summary: Giving is a reflection of our relationship with God. Giving shows generosity. It is an act of worship. Gifts of any size are pleasing to God when given out of gratitude and a spirit of generosity. God deserves our very best.

Do you know that prayer is mentioned about 350 times in the Bible? Love is mentioned more that 700 times? Money is mentioned more that 2000 times? Yet, questions about money are still asked, for example: "Why does the Bible put more emphasis on money?" "Does God really need our money?" "Is money more important than salvation?"

Article first published in Jan-Mar, 2007 issue of the *Dynamic Steward Journal*.

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Recommended Resource - Tithe and Offerings Readings

The Tithe and Offerings Readings booklet is published annually, and has 52 readings, one for each Sabbath of the year. These readings are designed to be read before the offering is taken up during the Sabbath service. They are usually concise, include an appeal and a prayer. Each week's reading is also placed on our Facebook page, on Thursdays, for your convenience. Access the current year's readings and archives of previous years.

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Division Reports (View More)

East Africa Division - Pastor William Bagambe, Director



An Adventist farmer takes Stewardship directors to corn farm for prayer and to determine the tithe portion of the farm. Pr. William Bagambe lead out in this occasion, accompanied by Pr. Izungu, director of Stewardship North Tanzania Union Conference and Pr. Ntabindi Ncodemu of South Nyanza Conference in North Tanzania Union Conference.



Stewardship Congresses of the Burundi Union in Ngozi with 350 participants, and of the Burundi Union Mission in Buganda, on May 30, 2017. Theme: "Shepherding the Church of God: A serous stewardship Responsibility" Acts 20:28



Church ministers after the "God First" seminar in Rugombo, Burundi Union. Stewardship Congress of Buganda, Burundi Union. 102 State Officials and Adventist Business Community Members Meeting within the Burundi Union, in Bujumbura on June 4, 2017.

South American Division - Pastor Herbert Boger, Director



"God First" Island Naming Ceremony, in the Lake Titicaca Mission territory, in Puno, Titicaca, Peru in June, 2017. Pr. Michael Ccoa, Mission Secretary, was in attendance.



Leadership Camp Meeting of the Bolivia Union, June 15 -17, 2017. More than 2000 participants attended. The theme is Stewardship (God First) and Small Groups. Marcos Bomfim, GC Stewardship Ministries Director was an invitee.



Pastor Marcos Bomfim visiting the "Floating Church" in the Amazon river, Brazil - a result of your Sabbath School/missionary offerings.



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