



GOD FIRST

ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

*“Complexity should not be admired;
it should be avoided.” Author Unknown*



Seventh-day
Adventist Church

VISION

For every church member to establish the habit of putting God First in every area of life.



MISSION

To help leaders and members develop habits necessary for spiritual growth and faithful stewardship.



FOCUS

- Recognizing that Christian Stewardship is a very broad and important concept that reaches into all aspects of a life dedicated to Christ...



FOCUS

... from family relations and giving patterns to health habits, from time management to the care of the environment;

Recognizing that to promote commitment and faithfulness in all those areas would be too great a task for only one department;

FOCUS

- Recognizing that, differently from many other denominations, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has assigned other departments to deal with almost each one of those aspects of Stewardship (for example, Health Ministries, Youth Ministries, Sabbath School & Personal Ministries and Family Ministries);

FOCUS

- The Stewardship Ministries department will therefore work mainly, but not exclusively, on the task of promoting [1] trust in the Lord, [2] faithfulness and [3] a missionary mindset through financial stewardship, using the following approaches:





STAGE FRONT

(Churches)



1. GROWING SPIRITUALLY (Putting God First)

a) **Developing spiritual habits—** personal, family and communal worship. How to develop personal prayer and Bible study habits (using “Revived by His Word,” “Believe His Prophets” and Sabbath School Quarterly), family worship and church



1. GROWING SPIRITUALLY (Putting God First) (cont.)

b) **Rationale:** Research has shown that those who have the habit of returning a faithful tithe are generally the same ones who regularly attend church, also pray regularly, study the Bible and the Sabbath School Lesson (McIver, 2016), and are probably also more inclined to be involved in missionary effort



1. GROWING SPIRITUALLY (Putting God First) (cont.)

c) **Method:** End each stewardship educational event with a commitment call, using the Commitment Card (See the “Promise Card”).



1. GROWING SPIRITUALLY (Putting God First) (cont.)

d) **Our goal:** That at least 25% of church members will renew their commitment, during this quinquennium, to put the Lord first by means of the Commitment Card. This commitment call may take place at any time, but it should officially become part of the annual Stewardship Sabbath—the first Sabbath of December.

1. GROWING SPIRITUALLY (Putting God First) (cont.)



e) **Evaluation:** The percentage of members reached by the commitment renewals.

2. GROWING IN NURTURE (Nurture and Retention Program)



a) To nurture members before and after baptism – by teaching thoroughly all the truth to every new member before the baptism (CS 104-107) and by visiting them regularly after they join the church. Pastors, elders and lay evangelists will encourage members to experience the blessings of putting God First in all areas of life.

2. GROWING IN NURTURE (Nurture and Retention Program)



b) **Rationale:** As the habit of tithing and giving offerings can be an indicator of spirituality, not tithing or not giving offerings may be considered an indicator of potential apostasy. Thorough education before baptism, and visitation after it, are the methods indicated by God through the Spirit of Prophecy to encourage a comprehensive

2. GROWING IN NURTURE (Nurture and Retention Program)



c) Method:

- i) To include **tithe and offering studies** in every evangelistic series of Bible Studies.
- ii) **Holy Convocation** events will be held to teach and motivate pastors and elders to engage in a regular purposeful visitation program. (For details, see <https://adventiststewardship.com/holy-convocation-resources>)
- iii) To visit all church members with the “**Visitation Agenda**,” (see the above link) beginning with those who for some reason are not tithing.

2. GROWING IN NURTURE (Nurture and Retention Program)



d) **Our goal:** To grow the percentage of regular tithers by 5% within this quinquennium.

e) **Evaluation:** To collect clear statistical data on the tithers in every field and analyze the growth curves showing the percentage of regular tithers.

3. GROWING IN GENEROSITY

(Education on Generosity - Promise Concept)



a) Teaching concepts of trusting in the Lord, faithfulness and generosity, with a focus on regular and systematic (percentage-based) offerings (**Promise**¹). Main evaluating initiative: The Generosity (or Liberality) Factor

¹ The translation of this word to Spanish and Portuguese is "Pacto".

3. GROWING IN GENEROSITY

(Education on Generosity - Promise Concept)



b) **Rationale:** Offerings represent the compliant end of the systematic benevolence spectrum. The reality shows us that not every tither is a **Promisor**² (i.e. not all tithers also practice the systematic giving of offerings). However, those who are Promisors (persons who give percentage-based offerings systematically) are also generally faithful tithers. Therefore, if our emphasis is on the Promise, we may expect that both tithe and systematic offerings (via the Promise concept), will grow.

² The translation of this word to Spanish and Portuguese is "Pactuante".

3. GROWING IN GENEROSITY

(Education on Generosity - Promise Concept)



c) **Method:** Sermons by local pastors, Family Finance Seminars, Stewardship Conventions, Stewardship Certifications.

d) **Our goal:** To see that the average level of liberality of each church member reaches 5 percent (5%) of the member's income (Promise) in offerings by July 2020.

e) **Evaluation:** Making use of the Generosity Factor.

Main evaluating initiative: The Generosity (or Liberality) Factor



BACK STAGE

Administrative Levels



1. Annual Continuous Education Program

Annual Continuous Education Program run by Stewardship Ministries department leaders, in every local field (Mission/Conferences), involving pastors, local church elders, Stewardship Ministries directors and treasurers.

2. Reports

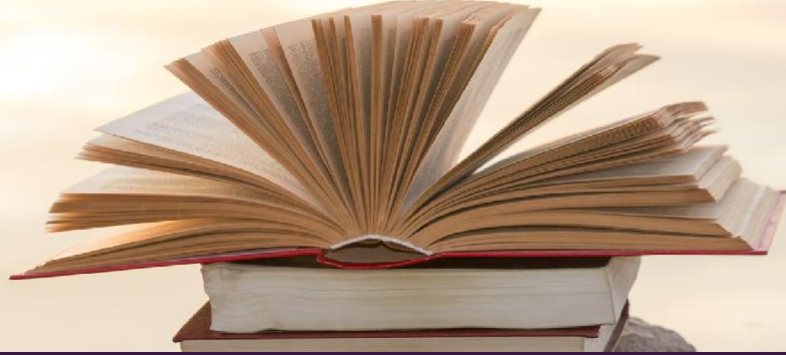
Regular Reports by each administrative level (down to the local church) to demonstrate spiritual growth through the Generosity Factor. The following should be sent regularly to each division Stewardship Ministries director:



2. Reports

- a) Generosity Factor
- b) Percentage of regular tithers
- c) Percentage of regular offering-givers
- d) Tithe per capita
- e) Growth since last report in each of the above

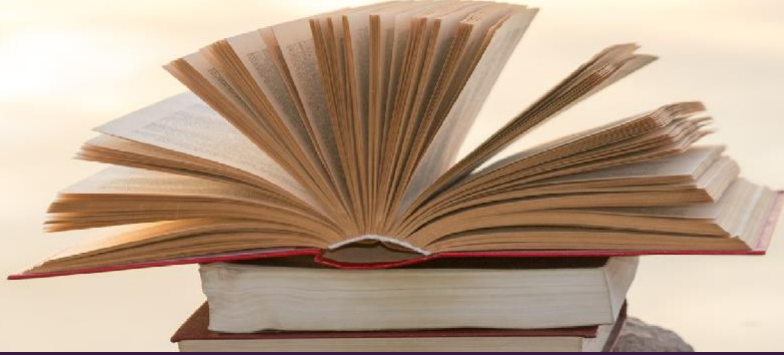




3. Transparency and Accountability (Organizational Renewal)

a) **To Integrate efforts** with Treasury, Planned Giving and Trust Services, Global Mission, Sabbath School, Adventist Review, Adventist World, Ministry Magazine, Elder's Digest, Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, Communication Departments to provide regular accountability (reports about what has been done) and transparency (incoming resources and their administration).

b) **Use of media and social media** to regularly share financial and mission reports.



3. Transparency and Accountability (Organizational Renewal)

c) To establish a **pattern for accountability and transparency** (how to deal with and record income) following the income from the local church offering plate to the GC Treasury.

d) To motivate the **adoption of the envelope**, online and other giving options, and encourage accountability on the part of the local church treasury, including the giving of receipts.

e) To motivate church **members to identify their contributions** in order to receive a **receipt**



4. Platform for Giving


In this above environment, to provide an integrated (all departments and initiatives together) and simple platform for giving, motivating worship and mission. (Development of E-giving online and via apps or contextual technologies in all local regions).



5. Offering Plan

To motivate the use of the **Combined Offering Plan** by the divisions explaining the plan and showing its advantages.

6. Stewardship Events Summits, Conventions or Congresses

A group of diverse young people, including a woman in a white shirt and a man in a teal shirt in the foreground, are seated at desks in a classroom. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame with attentive expressions. The background shows other students in a line, slightly out of focus.

Motivating Stewardship Summits, Conventions, Congresses or Symposiums to be held at each administrative level in this quinquennium.



7. Certifications in Stewardship

Certifications in Stewardship to be made available for pastors through continued education, at academic levels for seminary and other students, and in an attractive way for youth, Pathfinders, Women's

8. Stewardship Theology Curriculum

Stewardship Theology Curriculum to be compiled for use by Adventist seminaries, giving academic credits.



9. Produce Materials

Produce materials to support each one of the above initiatives.

General Conference Stewardship Ministries Strategic Plan 2017-2020

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issuu.com/Dynamicstewards or vimeo.com/user10937457/videos

GOD FIRST

I PROMISE:

- To **SET APART** the first moments of each day to commune with the Lord through **PRAYER**, the **STUDY** of the Bible, Spirit of Prophecy and the Sabbath School lesson, and in **FAMILY WORSHIP**.
- To **IMPROVE** my **RELATIONSHIPS**: growing in faithfulness, forgiveness and loving by principle.
- To **ESTABLISH** one new **HEALTHY HABIT**, to better serve the Lord with my mind: _____
- To **OFFER** one day (or evening) each week to **WORK** for God, spreading the good news to others through Bible Studies, small groups, etc. (TMs).
- To **KEEP** the **SABBATH**, preparing for it accordingly on Friday, keeping its limits, right thoughts and activities.
- To **FAITHFULLY RETURN** the Lord's **TITHES** (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

PRIMERO DIOS

MI PACTO:

- SEPARAR** los primeros momentos de cada día para la comunión con el Señor mediante la **ORACIÓN**, el **ESTUDIO** de la Biblia, del Espíritu de Profecía y de la lección de la Escuela Sabática, y a través del **CULTO FAMILIAR**.
- MEJORAR** mis **RELACIONES**: creciendo en fidelidad, perdón y amor por principio.
- FORMAR** un nuevo **HÁBITO SALUDABLE**, para servir al Señor de mejor manera a través de mi cuerpo y mente.
- OFERECER** un día (o una noche) cada semana para **TRABAJAR** para Dios, compartiendo las buenas nuevas a otros a través de Estudios Bíblicos, Grupos Pequeños, etc. ("Mi Talento, mi ministerio").
- GUARDAR** EL **SÁBADO**, preparándome debidamente para él en el viernes, respetando sus límites y manteniendo pensamientos y actividades apropiados.
- DEVOLVER FIELMENTE EL DIEZMO** al Señor (10% de mis ingresos).
- DEDICAR** un porcentaje regular de mis ingresos (____%) como una ofrenda al Señor (pacto).

DIOS MEDIANTE: _____ FECHA: _____

MAYORDOMÍA CRISTIANA

PRIMEIRO DEUS

MEU PACTO:

- SEPARAR** os primeiros momentos de cada dia para comunhão com o Senhor através da **ORAÇÃO**, do estudo da Bíblia, do Espírito de Profecia e da Lição da Escola Sabatina, e através do **CULTO FAMILIAR**.
- MELHORAR** meus **RELACIONAMENTOS**: crescendo em fidelidade, perdão e amor por princípio.
- ESTABELECE**R um novo **HÁBITO SAUDÁVEL**, para melhor servir ao Senhor com minha mente.
- OFERECER** um dia (ou noite) cada semana para **TRABALHAR** para Deus, espalhando as boas novas a outros através de Estudos Bíblicos, Pequenos Grupos, etc. ("Meu Talento, Meu Ministério").
- GUARDAR** o **SÁBADO**, preparando-me devidamente para ele na sexta-feira, respeitando seus limites e mantendo pensamentos e atividades apropriados.
- DEVOLVER FIELMENTE** o **DÍZIMO** ao Senhor (10% da minha renda).
- DEDICAR** uma porcentagem regular de minha renda (____%) como oferta ao Senhor (Pacto).

COM A AJUDA DE DEUS: _____ DATA: _____

MORDOMIA CRISTÃ

الله أولاً

إِنِّي أَتَّيِّدُ:

- أن أبقي الحظات الأولى من كل يوم للفرحة والتواصل مع الرب من خلال الصلاة، دراسة الكتاب المقدس، وأقراء كتابات روح النبوة، درس مدرسة السبت، وحين خلال فترة العبادة العائلية.
- أن أحسن عيالي، أسوي في الله والمغفرة، وأن تكون المحبة متدفقة.
- أن أبتغى عادة صحية جديدة لأجسد، مثل: أفضل، بدني: _____
- أن أقدم يوماً واحداً أو ليلية واحدة كل أسبوع للعمل من أجل الله، وذلك بأن أشترك في العمل التطوعي مع الآخرين من خلال الإشتراك في دروس الكتاب المقدس، المجموعات الصغيرة، إلخ أو ما أبتغى بالخدمة كالتأليف، أو خدمة التبشيرية.
- أن أحفظ السبت، فتجسد أسلوباً من يوم الجمعة وفقاً بما يتناسبون بين احتياجات وأهمل وأتسقة عائلتي.
- أن أكون بآمانة فني (10%) من دخولي كالتالي: _____
- أن أكون نسبة منتظمة (____%) من دخولي كتقدمة طوعية للرب.

بمساعدة الله _____ التاريخ _____

خدمات الوكالة المسيحية