

East Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Stewardship Planned Giving and Trust Services Report 2021 – 2024

Mr. Chairman, Union President Dr. Kern Tobias, the administration of the Caribbean Union, representatives from the Inter-American Division, delegates and delegates-at-large joining us on the virtual platform, and fellow members — it is truly a privilege to present this report on the progress of the work in the departments of Planned Giving and Trust Services, and Stewardship Ministries, covering the period from 01 January 2021 - 31 December 2024.

For the majority of 2021, constituents were still under lockdown due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, so there were not any major initiatives undertaken for that year and the earlier part of 2022.

A significant achievement of the Stewardship Department in 2022 was the Stewardship Revival Week held on 15-22 October 2022, under the theme: “Stewardship Reset, Revival, and Reformation”. The intention was for members to understand that stewardship is not only about money; but a lifestyle of total commitment and surrender to the Lordship of God. A life surrendered to God recognizes Him as the Creator and Owner of everything and that we are His agents or stewards. The main point is that, once God gets the heart, He gets everything; He will get our body temple, our treasure, our time, and our talent.

This concept was developed during the week of revival which featured a number of devotional speakers. President, Pastor Anthony Hall opened the batting with the topic “Stewardship Redefined”. He was followed by the Union Treasurer, Pastor Bertie Henry who presented on the topic, “Why Stewardship?”, a topic which emphasized that stewardship is everything. The third presenter was the Executive Secretary, Pastor Dr. Terence Haynes who looked at the topic “First things first” and emphasized that God must be priority. The Stewardship Week continued with Pastor Raul Jackman on the topic, “Heart Transplant” and the emphasis, again, was once God gets the heart, He will get everything. It was also stated that the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart. Therefore, once the heart is right then the actions will be right.

On Wednesday night the Union Stewardship Director, Dr. Gandalall Samlalsingh dealt with the topic “God doesn’t want your money but your heart” to emphasise the point that God doesn’t have needs.

Thursday night we teamed up with the Children, Adolescents and Women’s Ministries Directors of the East Caribbean Conference and the Caribbean Union, Sis. Deborah Henry and Sister Andrea Hoyte who presented “Child Friendly Stewardship.” Every night there was Stewardship Education for the children using short videos that taught the children the importance of stewardship.

As we came to the end of the week the Friday evening featured speaker was Pastor Micheal Harpe, the North American Conference Stewardship Director who presented “Stewardship is not Ownership”. And on Sabbath, we were blessed by our keynote speaker, Dr. Fillex Cotres, the author of the book *God Will Provide*. He presented on the significance of offerings, where he mentioned that every offering points to the cross.

Also, as part of the Stewardship Emphasis and Revival Week, the Union Stewardship Director, Dr. Gandalal Samlalsingh and I visited Dominica from 15-19 October 2022. During our visit, we conducted a stewardship workshop with all of the Pastors, Elders, Treasurers, Auditors, Stewardship Secretaries, and Deacons and this was held at the Salisbury SDA Church. Also, we did some visitations to a few members’ homes and the Arthur Waldron Seventh-day Adventist Academy.

Caribbean Union Conference- Stewardship Holy Convocation 15-21January 2023

Church Reset Project (RESET= Renewed, Engaged, Support, Empowered and Transformed) was launched in 2023. This theme speaks to the position our church has decided to adopt to nurture our church, its members and the mission.

Rev 3: 15 which states “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot...” is the diagnosis of the current condition of the church. Rev 3:18 which states “I counsel thee to buy...” is analogous to the medical term cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), which is a lifesaving technique that is employed in an attempt to resuscitate the heart when it stops beating. The problem we are having in our churches is a heart problem. The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart. Therefore, “CPR” is the urgent recommendation for the church.

Matthew 6:21 states “wherever your treasure is there will your heart be also...”; if God is treasured above all other treasures, then God will get the heart. And if God gets the heart, He gets everything.

The Stewardship Ministries Department, in alignment with the Conferences’ strategic goals, was able to host two Stewardship Impact and Holy Convocations, in collaboration with the CARU, on Dominica and Barbados. The Holy Convocations were held in Barbados from 15- 21 January 2023, and on the island of Dominica from 29 April - 07 May 2023, under the theme “The Member, The Money and The Mission”.

These initiatives were conducted under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Gandamal Samlalsingh. The objectives of these holy convocations were to:

- (1) Engender growth spiritually by growing members in a surrendered, committed and dedicated relationship with God
- (2) Embrace the mission of the church and also
- (3) Grow the financial resources of the church.

For the Holy Convocation in Barbados 40 representatives from different countries were in attendance. We had representatives from:

- The General Conference:

Pastor Anniel Barbe - Associate Stewardship Director.

- The Inter-American Division:

Dr. Leonard Johnson - Executive Secretary, and his wife, Sister Denise Johnson
 Dr. Roberto Herrera- Stewardship Director.

● The Caribbean Union Conference:

Dr. Kern Tobias- President.
 Pastor Johnson Fredericks- Executive Secretary.
 Pastor Bertie Henry- Treasurer.

● Other union directors and directors, Pastors and Laity from sister conferences.

Caribbean Union Conference- Stewardship Holy Convocation 29 April - 07 March 2023

In Dominica, all of the churches participated in the Holy Convocation, with two preachers assigned to each district. In attendance were 14 presenters, including those representing IAD.

● The Atlantic Union Conference: -Dr. Elias Zabala, Treasurer.

● The Caribbean Union Conference:

Dr. Gandalal Samlalsingh - Stewardship Director.
 Dr. Daphney Magloire - Education Director.
 Pastor Asthon Oniel
 Pastor Royston Philbert - Communication Director.
 Pastor Marvin Smith - Youth and Chaplaincy Director.

● And from our East Caribbean Conference :

Pastor Anthony Hall - President
 Sister Valrica Harrison- Dottin-Treasurer
 Dr. Colin Thorne- Sabbath School Director
 Pastor Maurice Morancie – Ministerial Secretary and Advisor to the President for Evangelism.
 Pastor Roosevelt Haynes - Publishing and Spirit of Prophecies Director.
 Pastor Miguel Denny - Youth Director.

Pastor Jason Peters - Associate Youth Director.

Sister Priscilla Prevost - Health Ministries Director.

Bro.Quincy Deve lde - USC graduate.

Rawl Jackman – Stewardship and Planned Giving Services Director

Stewardship Holy Convocation Impact

Islands	Churches Involved	Persons Visited	Number of Baptism	Conventions
Barbados	32	312	25	7 Zonal
Dominica	31	302	6	7 Districts
Total	63	614	31	14

Year 2024

In 2024 the year was designated the “Year of Evangelism”; the department was active and engaged in making this vision a reality by ongoing stewardship promotion and education. We started the year collaboratively with the conference’s “Year of Evangelism” initiative where a revival was conducted in Barbados and Dominica. The administrators, directors, all of our pastors and some elders moved into action, delivering the word of God as they were assigned to the various churches in our conference. This demonstrated a great effort at work.

The objectives of the revival were to:

- Promote and encourage evangelism as a lifestyle. It is no longer evangelism but “evangelizing.” Everyday we live, we evangelize.
- Help church members recognize the claims of God’s Lordship over their lives.
- Promote and encourage members to understand that soul winning is not

optional nor seasonal, but it is a personal privilege and responsibility that we do every day.

- Promote and encourage members to support the work of God sacrificially by

making use of their talent, time, testimony and treasure.

The messages for the revival were prepared by our Administrators and Directors:

Pastor Anthony Hall

Pastor Terence Haynes

Pastor Maurice Morancie

Pastor Dr. Colin Thorne

Pastor Dayle Haynes

Sister Andrea Hudson- Hoyte

Pastor Miguel Denny

Pastor Rawl Jackman

Edited by: Anthony Hall, Terence Haynes, Maurice Morancie, Dr. Colin Thorne, Dayle Haynes, Andrea Hudson- Hoyte, Miguel Denny, Rawl Jackman, Alcess Letang, Natacy Edwards-Jackman

Friday Evening Stewardship Vespers

These were held every second Friday, provided that there was no major activity happening in the conference during that month. For those months we were privileged to have our vespers, we had some educational sessions on Planned Giving and Trust Services and Stewardship education. Some of our presenters were: Pastor Anthony Hall, Pastor David Beckles, Pastor Everette Howel and Pastor Danforth Francis.

Stewardship Weeks

Stewardship week activities were conducted in Rivere Cirique, Pilgrim Road, Penveille, St Joseph and Melverton churches. Stewardship Emphases and Education sessions week were conducted also in Pastor Grandville Hinds' district, Pastor's Sean Shepherd' district (Southern) and Pastor. Julius Henry's district (Eastern District). The emphasis of Stewardship week was basically to help members to understand that stewardship is not all about money but a lifestyle of total commitment

and surrender to the Lordship of God. A surrendered life to God recognizes Him as the Creator and Owner of everything and that we are His agents or stewards. The idea is that once God gets the heart, He gets everything. He will get our body temple, our treasure, our time, and our talent. Also, in matters relating to managing personal finance, God must be considered first.

Stewardship Advisory

Stewardship advisory meetings were recently held on both islands, led by Dr. Gaindalal Samlalsingh, the Stewardship Director of the Caribbean Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The meetings saw participation from pastors and Stewardship Secretaries from Barbados. The key focus of these advisory sessions was on the concept of the "Three Ms: Members, Money, and Mission".

The emphasis on Members was highlighted as the foundation of stewardship, as they are the ones who contribute to the financial well-being of the church. The advisory stressed that new money must come from new members, who bring fresh resources into the church. However, it was also noted that it is essential to conserve what we have, implying the need to nurture and sustain the existing members.

In the context of a church's financial plan, the individual church member is considered the cornerstone. Therefore, it is vital to provide care and support to them. Visitation was underscored as a key component in this effort, as it strengthens the relationship between the church and its members. Regular visits allow for personal connection, care, and the opportunity to encourage continued support of the church's mission and financial needs.

Stewardship Emphasis Sabbaths

On second Sabbaths and other Sabbaths when the opportunities were given, efforts were made to visit various churches to promote stewardship education. I was able to visit and preach stewardship sermons in 19 of our churches across the conference this year.

The Stewardship Instructors Certification Course

The Stewardship Instructors Certificate Course was conducted by the Caribbean Union Conference SDA from 09 April – 30 July 2024. Fifty (50) persons from the East Caribbean Conference of SDA received certification. The aim of offering this certification was that the

Stewardship Ministries will be greatly assisted in the promotion and education of stewardship within our churches.

Stewardship Blitz

The stewardship Blitz objective was to allow the stewardship leaders from sister churches to provide help and support to the other stewardship leaders in other churches and promote stewardship education in their local churches. So far, we would have conducted stewardship blitz in zones 1 and 4 in Barbados. In Dominica, we have conducted the stewardship blitz program in the Eastern District and Southern districts. Sermons were written by Pastor Rawl Jackman, and were given to the stewardship leaders to present in the churches of these zones and districts. The titles of the sermons were “Stewards: Imaging God” and “An Offering is a Sacrifice.” The highlight of “Stewards: Imaging God” is that we were created in the image of God, to reflect the image of God. It is not merely being like God in bodily resemblance, but in our character and deportment. “Imaging God”, means to love like God, to forgive like God, and more so, to be generous like God.

The highlight of “An offering is a Sacrifice” is that offerings are sacrifices and are made sacrificially. The tithe is a stipulated amount of 10%, but for the offering although it is valuable, there is no stipulated amount, because you cannot place a value on a sacrifice.

The Planned Giving and Trust Services

The Planned Giving and Trust Services Ministries and the Stewardship Ministries organised two Finance Conferences in which members received information and were advised on how to plan for their estate and to include their families and God when preparing their will. The purpose of our department is to encourage members and others to have a plan for their families and to continue to support God’s work through wills, trusts, annuities and special donations.

These are reports thus far for the Stewardship, Planned Giving and Trust Services Ministries of the East Caribbean Conference of SDA. To God be the Glory, praise and the honor.

A financial gift by Marcia Gooding was given to the Mapp Hill and the Six Roads Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) churches. Each church received \$ 20,000 BDS

Conclusion

As we continue to promote stewardship within the framework of evangelism, it remains vital to:

- Actively engage church members,
- Nurture their spiritual growth, and
- Foster a culture of sacrificial giving, personal witnessing, and community support.

The teamwork approach demonstrated through the initiatives in the years highlighted in this report, will be essential for continued success.

This report reflects the department's ongoing efforts to strengthen Stewardship Education while aligning with the broader strategic goals and mission of the conference.

I want to offer a special thank you to Jehovah Rohi — the Lord who has been my Shepherd and Guide. It is by His enabling power, His divine wisdom, and the spiritual resilience He so graciously provided that I was able to serve during this tenure.

In a special way, I would like to thank the Union Stewardship Director, Dr. Gandalal Samlalsingh for his contributions and unwavering support to the Stewardship Ministry over the years.

Special thanks to the administrators of the East Caribbean Conference of SDA — Pastor Anthony Hall, Dr. Terence Haynes, and Sister Valrica Harrison-Dottin — for their consistent guidance and support.

To my fellow directors, thank you for your collaboration and contributions. To the pastors, I am grateful for your continued assistance. To the committee members, thank you for your valuable input and guidance.

To Shelly-Ann Henry, Secretary of the Stewardship Department, heartfelt thanks for your involvement and full support of the work in Stewardship Ministries.

In a marked way, I express sincere appreciation to the Stewardship Secretaries for their commitment and dedication to promoting stewardship education in the local churches.

In addition, I would like to thank the church members for their enthusiastic participation and support of the many initiatives led by the Stewardship Ministry.

Most of all, a heartfelt thank you to my family — my wife Natacy, and our sons, Reuel and Ronael — for playing their part and supporting me in so many ways.

May God's richest blessings be upon you all, as we continue to give our very best in service to the Master.