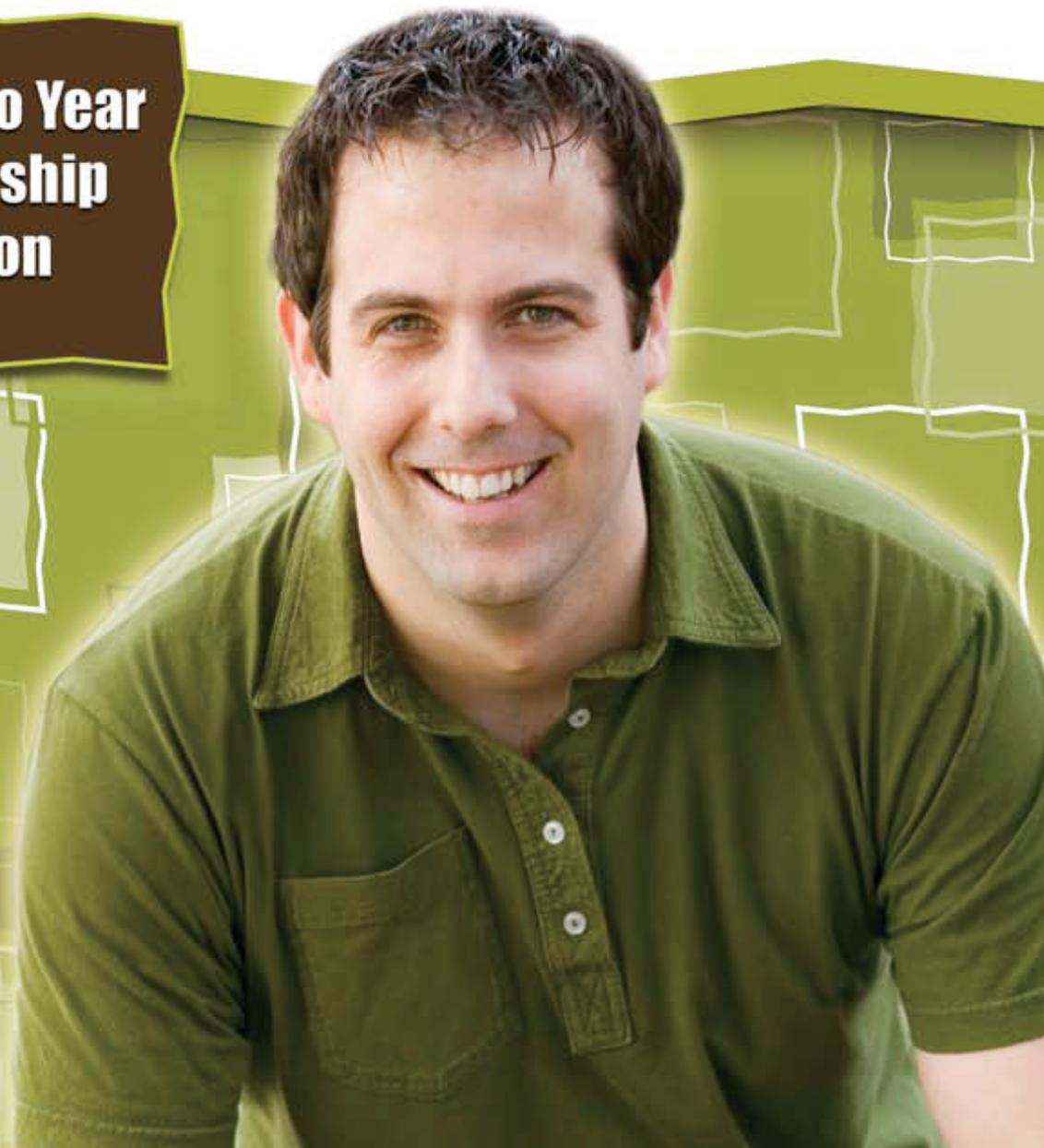


PRACTICAL *Ideas*

**For a Two Year
Stewardship
Promotion**





Stewardship Development Association

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Written by Clarence E. Hackett.

Introduction

I.	The Role of the Pastor	2
	How to Measure Progress.....	2-3
II.	Rationale for the Biblical Basis/Theology of Stewardship	3
III.	Distinctives of a Christian Steward.....	4

Two-Year Plan of Stewardship Ideas/Suggestions

IV.	Practical Ideas for Year-Round Stewardship Promotion – Year One	5
V.	Sample Calendar for Monthly Stewardship/Missions Activities.....	6
	Optional Education Activities.....	7
VI.	Biblical Stewardship Challenge: preach-teach-celebrate-apply	8-11
VII.	Practical Ideas for Stewardship Promotion – Year Two	12-15
VIII.	Twenty-Five Ways to Improve Giving in Your Church	16-17
	Become Familiar with Stewardship & Cooperative Program Resources	18
	Conclusion	18

I. The Role of the Pastor

Each church is responsible to lead, develop, and teach its members the meaning of Christian stewardship in the context of the mission and ministry of a church. In developing a ministry of stewardship, the pastor and members of the church stewardship committee or team must accept the responsibility to set the example and expect church members to become the kind of Christian stewards God wants them to be.

One of the best approaches to stewardship education is a Christian financial planning emphasis. Jesus emphasized the management role of Christians in the parable recorded in Luke 12:41-48. Stewardship or management is a great responsibility held in trust. The parable provides the basic elements, themes, and reason for a model of Christian stewardship. The elements of the parable are the master, the servant, and the estate. The themes are faithfulness and accountability. The reason is management of property by the steward for the owner. The parable provides several lessons for Christian managers:

1. Life is a stewardship trust.
2. All people face a day of accounting.
3. We are not saved by works but we are judged by them.
4. Leaders are more responsible than followers.

How to Measure Progress in Stewardship Education

How can we tell if we are going forward?
Are we making progress in developing
Christian stewards?

You can measure progress if there is:

1. An increase in understanding and acceptance of the biblical concept of stewardship.
2. A willingness by church members to give testimony of their personal growth.
3. A willingness to serve in the church's organization related to stewardship/missions.
4. An increase in the number of persons giving to the church.

II. Rationale for the Biblical Basis/Theology of Stewardship

Stewardship has different meanings to different people. For some, it is the total responsibility for all of life. For others, it is giving as the offering plate at church is passed. Most students of the Scriptures agree that stewardship centers in a person's relationship to God and in his or her God-given charge to care for the material world.

Stewardship is a major biblical theme. It is a truth of first magnitude in the revealed plan of God. Scripture tells of God's plan for a special relationship between people and God. God richly bestows upon all of His people life, personality, abilities, opportunities, and possessions. God makes each person responsible and accountable. The word stewardship best describes this special relationship between God and humanity. Stewardship implies trust, partnership, and responsible management.

The Bible tells us about...

- God's wonderful plan for human beings as His representatives.
- The awesome trust of responsibility for God's creation.
- The privilege of being entrusted with management.
- The privilege of reflecting a special likeness to God as a Gracious Giver.

We will do well to focus on the great biblical themes that provide the framework and foundation for stewardship.

5. An increase in the number of persons growing in their giving.
6. A regular use of stewardship resources to assist your church in planning, promoting, and evaluating its stewardship activities.

Conclusion:

A church's ministry of stewardship will include creative approaches for developing individual stewards and challenging methods for practicing good stewardship as a congregation. All suggestions are designed to strengthen your church. Additional Christian growth and commitment are needed by all age groups. Call on your State Baptist Convention, Stewardship Department for assistance.

III. Distinctives of a Christian Steward

What is the rationale for making “Distinctives of a Christian Steward” a vital sign for stewardship ministry in your state? This quote from *How to Specialize in Christian Living*, (C. Ray, 1982), best describes the answer to the above question.

How a Christian lives, his lifestyle, shows with undeniable clarity whether his faith is genuine. The Christian’s lifestyle demonstrates whether his faith is a trivial or a central factor in his life. Christians who are serious about being Christian shape their style of life by Christian standards.

Living a Christian lifestyle is difficult. Secularism appeals, entices, and even pressures every person to shape life by its ways. One does not drift into the distinctive style of life called Christian. A Christian lifestyle must be adopted and followed through a clear, purposeful commitment.

All who decide to follow Christ must take seriously his direction on how to live. The call to become Christian specialists in living applies to all. The key principles for living will work for people in every culture, economic position, and governmental system.

Every Christian is expected to learn to live as a Christian in his economic, social, cultural, and governmental setting. In some instances it will be more difficult than in others, but still the expectation is clear.

A Christian also is expected to witness of Jesus Christ and His way of life. Christ’s people will seek diligently to change their society, but they will continue to live as faithful examples no matter how others respond.

The special life of a Christian steward brings hope and fulfillment to living in a world such as this one. Although the new life in Christ is not a new message, it is as fresh and as applicable to this day as if Jesus had just spoken it today.

THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD ...

- Makes Christ Lord of his or her life
- Acknowledges God as Owner/ Redeemer and self as manager
- Seeks to discover God’s purpose for every material possession
- Pursues God’s purposes while...
 - Reflecting Christ’s control in acquiring possessions
 - Giving testimony of personal love for Christ in spending
 - Demonstrating a redeemed life in giving/tithing
 - Expressing obedience to Christ in saving
 - Extending Christian stewardship through estate planning

IV. Practical Ideas for Year-Round Stewardship Promotion - Year One

A Stewardship Education promotion team or committee should provide leadership for the whole church family during the entire year. Adapt these suggestions to your congregations needs.

August: Involve your Church Stewardship Committee/Team in a prayer retreat, begin developing a calendar for the entire year, incorporating all plans for stewardship education and training. If you have a separate finance committee, involve them in this retreat. Consider going through *Living Life for the Highest Purpose* by Robert Simms, published by the Stewardship Development Association.*

September: Begin budget planning and set calendar. Select a theme for the year and order resources.

October: Sponsor a Budget Fair, showcasing all major ministries of the church, involving as many members as possible. Promote the Cooperative Program ministries.

November: Adopt the Budget; use tracts or bulletin inserts. Use the three-Sunday emphasis entitled *Be an Encourager: Tithe*.*

December: Assist, as needed, in promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and International Mission Emphasis.

January: Observe "Make a Will Month."

February: Hold one-day Christian Financial Planning seminars for all adults and older youth.

March: Use testimonies and tracts as an insert in the Sunday promotion of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Enlist two to three members for stewardship testimonies.

April: Host a training session for all members and staff who receive offerings, handle, account for or disburse church funds. Use Robert Welch's new book *Church Administration: Creating Efficiency for Effective Ministry* (See Chapter 6, "Administering Financial Resources" on pages 147-176).

May: Study the materials in *A Believer = A Steward: What Kind of a Steward are You?* by Doug Laird.

June: Promote the Vacation Bible School – Cooperative Program offering.

July: Use four PowerPoint Offertory Emphases or four dramas.

* Visit the Stewardship Development Association (SDA) website at www.stewardshipdirect.com

V. Sample Calendar for Monthly Stewardship/Missions Activities

A Stewardship Education promotion team or committee should provide leadership for the whole church family during the entire year. Adapt these suggestions to your congregations needs.

- JANUARY:** Provide a tract on Christian stewardship in bulletin.*
January is "Make Your Will" month.
Conduct a Christian Financial Planning seminar for your adults.
- FEBRUARY:** Preach a sermon on Christian stewardship.
- MARCH:** Promote the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.*
- APRIL:** Promote the Cooperative Program (Cooperative Program Day).*
- MAY:** Promote Association Emphasis Week. (Obtain materials from your Association Office.)
Conduct a Bible study on Christian Stewardship through the Sunday School.
- JUNE:** Enlist a testimony by someone who is growing in stewardship development.
Preach a sermon on responsible management as faithful stewards.
- JULY:** Train your church stewardship committee or stewardship ministry team.
- AUGUST:** Provide a bulletin insert with a stewardship message.*
Request the drama team to perform a stewardship drama.*
- SEPTEMBER:** Promote your State Mission Offering.*
- OCTOBER:** Promote the Cooperative Program (Cooperative Program Fall Emphasis).*
- NOVEMBER:** Preach two or three sermons on Christian stewardship as a part of the budget emphasis.
Focus on a steward's attitude and accountability.
- DECEMBER:** Promote the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.*

*Promotional Materials available at no cost from your State Convention Office.

Optional Educational Activities

A church must consistently address these seven areas of stewardship ministry:

1. Missions of the Church
2. Biblical Basis (theology)
3. Individual and Corporate (church)
4. Organization (Church Stewardship Committee or Team)
5. Planning (Stewardship Calendar)
6. Church Ministry Budgeting
7. Accounting Procedures

A number of suggestions would fit equally well into each of these areas, but instead of duplicating their use, it was decided to make a special section and list uses that could be applied wherever the user chooses.

Following are some ideas that will be helpful in the process of stewardship education for your church:

1. Testimonies
2. Posters
3. Tracts
4. Films and Slides
5. Videos/DVDs
6. Bulletin and Bulletin Inserts
7. Stewardship Newsletter
(mail with offering envelopes or financial statements)
8. Sermons
9. Devotionals and Worship Programs
10. Commitment Cards
11. Responsive Readings
12. Dramas
13. Bible Studies (Personal)
14. Bulletin Board Displays
15. Interest Centers
16. Special Education Features
17. Offertory Emphasis
18. Mission Emphasis
19. Conferences/Seminars

VI. Biblical Stewardship Challenge: preach-teach-celebrate-apply

Annual Promotion Ideas

WEEKLY:

- Use Offertory/Offering statements in worship service, bulletins, newsletters, and PowerPoint announcements. These comments support missions and encourage stewardship development.

MONTHLY:

- Use illustrations and other information on giving in newsletters and bulletins.
- Display/distribute posters, leaflets, bulletin inserts related to giving.
- Use ministry progress reports, verbal/written, focusing on how God is working through this ministry, thanks to members' giving.

QUARTERLY:

- Have giving testimonies in Sunday School/worship services.
- Preach sermons on various areas of stewardship. Every sermon does not need

to focus specifically on money. A sermon on Christian lifestyle can illustrate how a Christian's standard of living will influence giving, but sermon's focus would be on lifestyle.

- Include a thank-you note with contribution celebration statement mailed to each member. List an event which has happened or is about to happen for which congregational giving is used.

ANNUALLY:

- Conduct a budget emphasis using budget development and promotion program. Present attractive, challenging budget proposal.
- Provide a money management conference for adults & youth.
- Celebrate what God is doing in the life of the congregation.
- Conduct a Stewardship Revival in your church

JANUARY:

- Provide a financial discipleship study for small groups.
- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a "Stewardship Thought" prior to the offering.
- Have a testimony on what this church means to me and why we give our tithes and offerings through this church.
- New Year's resolutions offer an opportunity to conduct a personal money management seminar.
- Publish the previous year's Contribution Analysis in the newsletter or use as a bulletin insert. (Names are not used)
- "Leave a Legacy" by participating in Make Your Will month.

FEBRUARY:

- Conduct a major stewardship emphasis including sermons, testimonies, and personal giving commitments.
- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a "Stewardship Thought" prior to the offering.

- Conduct a conference on personal money management dealing with basic budgeting, debt reduction, retirement, financial planning, and estate stewardship.
- Use ministry progress reports, verbal and written, focusing on how God is working through this ministry, thanks to members' giving.
- Use bulletin inserts, offertory statements, newsletter articles, posters, PowerPoint presentations, videos, and personal testimonies to encourage others.

MARCH:

- Have a tithing testimony in the worship service.
- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a "Stewardship Thought" prior to the offering.
- Personal Money Management—Tax season forces families to study personal finances. Teach biblical principles for handling money wisely. Offer a personal money management course as an outreach tool for the community.
- Emphasize estate stewardship by promoting "Tithing Your Estate." Christians never die, so why should their giving?
- North American Missions: During March and April, encourage support for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, and the Week of Prayer for North American Missions.

APRIL:

- Have a testimony in the worship service relating to the giving of time and talents.
- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a "Stewardship Thought" prior to the offering.
- Use ministry progress reports, verbal and written, focusing on how God is working through this ministry, thanks to members' giving.
- Cooperative Program Day is an emphasis which helps people recognize the value of ministries supported through the many mission channels of the Cooperative Program.
- Mail the quarterly contribution celebration statement to all youth and adults who have a contribution envelope. Enclose letter of encouragement and thank you. Emphasize a ministry event which is made possible because of tithes and offerings given back to God through the local church.

MAY:

- Have a "sacrificial giving" testimony in the worship service.
- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a "Stewardship Thought" prior to the offering.
- Have a ministry group share how God is working through this particular ministry.
- Consider a *Prove the Tithe* Sunday to encourage members to remember blessings received when they give obediently.
- Could your church benefit from an Endowment?

JUNE:

- Have a “giving to missions” testimony in the worship service.
- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a “Stewardship Thought” prior to the offering.
- Use ministry progress reports, verbal/written, focusing on how God is working through this ministry, thanks to members’ giving.
- Encourage giving through tithes and offerings. The tithe does not get a vacation. It helps to support year round ministry of your church.
- Vacation Bible School: Teach children and adults how missionaries are using Cooperative Program money to help people all over the world. Encourage pupils to give through the Cooperative Program to support missionaries.

JULY:

- Have a tithing testimony in the worship service.
- Mail quarterly contribution celebration statement to all youth and adults who have a contribution envelope. Enclose letter of encouragement and thank you. Emphasize a ministry event which is made possible because of tithes and offerings given back to God through the local church.
- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a “Stewardship Thought” prior to the offering.

AUGUST:

- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a “Stewardship Thought” prior to the offering.
- Use ministry progress reports, verbal/written, focusing on how God is working through this ministry, thanks to members’ giving.
- Provide a financial discipleship study for small groups.
- Catch-Up Sunday – Since the summer slump often affects giving, plan a make-up day. Schedule a picnic and call it “Hamburger and Catch-Up Sunday.”

SEPTEMBER:

- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a “Stewardship Thought” prior to the offering.
- Consider the use of stewardship Sunday School lessons, testimonies, and tracts.
- Train the Stewardship Development Team.
- Have tithing tracts distributed in each Sunday School class for members to discuss during first 15 minutes of class.
- Have a tithing testimony in the worship service.
- Conduct a Stewardship Revival in your church

- State Missions: Encourage support of your State Missions Offering, and the Week of Prayer for State Missions.

OCTOBER:

- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a “Stewardship Thought” prior to the offering.
- Conduct a Blessings Through Giving emphasis which encourages non-cash giving.
- Focus on church ministries to be accomplished during the coming year.
- Send thank you notes to faithful givers. This is in addition to the quarterly contribution celebration statements.
- Use ministry progress reports, verbal/written, focusing on how God is working through this ministry, thanks to members’ giving.
- Mail quarterly contribution celebration statement to all youth and adults who have a contribution envelope. Enclose letter of encouragement and thank you. Emphasize a ministry event which is made possible because of tithes and offerings given back to God through the local church.

NOVEMBER:

- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a “Stewardship Thought” prior to the offering.
- Focus on commitment of members to support ministries of church through prayer and giving of tithes and offerings.
- Conduct a Budget Fair or other event to display ministries which are funded through church Financial Ministry Plan.
- Use bulletin covers emphasizing stewardship.

DECEMBER:

- Pastor, deacon, or other leadership gives a “Stewardship Thought” prior to the offering.
- New Congregation Financial Ministry Celebration Event.
- Emphasize year-end giving. Use bulletin inserts to call attention to importance of giving to local church ministry.
- Use ministry progress reports, verbal/written, focusing on how God is working through this ministry, thanks to members’ giving.
- Prepare year-end contribution celebration statement for all youth and adults who have a contribution envelope. Mail this in early January with enclosed letter of encouragement and thank you. Emphasize ministries which were made possible during previous year because of tithes and offerings given back to God through the local church.

VII. Practical Ideas for Stewardship Promotion – Year Two

JANUARY: Emphasis: Estate Planning

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Business meeting, report on auditor process/time line.
- Mail year-end contribution statements, with thank you note.
- Order Sunday School stewardship lessons (children-adults) for use in February, determine usage date, notify teachers.
- Select & order stewardship bulletin insert for use on same Sunday as stewardship Sunday School lessons in February.

FEBRUARY: Emphasis: A Christian Lifestyle

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Distribute Sunday School stewardship lessons.
- Stewardship lesson in Sunday School (children – adults)
- Bulletin insert: Stewardship tract.
- Review/revise the financial procedures manual.
- Order materials for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.
- Sunday evening worship service on the relationship of things/possessions for a Christian.

MARCH: Emphasis: North American Missions – Annie Armstrong

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Determine dates to use Annie Armstrong clip art, promo pieces, goal and receipts in newsletter.
- Insert Annie Armstrong bulletin inserts.
- Review audit.
- Business Meeting: Report on audit.
- Select and order the tract to be inserted with the April quarterly giving statements.
- Sunday evening service emphasis: Church mission programs.
- Invite a leader to conduct a Christian Financial Planning seminar in a May evening service.

APRIL:

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Order Associational and Children's Home Bulletin inserts for May.
- Mail the quarterly giving statements with stewardship tract.
- Order Sunday School stewardship lessons (children – adults) for use in May, determine usage date, notify teachers.
- Select & order a stewardship bulletin insert for use on same Sunday as stewardship Sunday School lessons in May.

MAY:

Emphasis: Associational Missions and Mother's Day Offering for Children's Home

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Promote the Christian Financial Planning seminar in the newsletter and worship services.
- Promote Vacation Bible School in newsletter, slides, etc.
- Clip art in newsletter about Mother's Day Offering.
- Bulletin Inserts: Mother's Day Offering for Children's Home (Sunday before the Offering).
- Conduct a Christian Financial Planning seminar in the evening service.
- Promote Associational Missions Week in newsletter and slides.
- Bulletin Inserts: Associational Missions
- Distribute Sunday School stewardship lesson.
- Teach Sunday School lesson (children – adults).
- Bulletin Insert: Stewardship tract.

JUNE:

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Promote Vacation Bible School in newsletter, slides, etc.
- Hold Vacation Bible School.

JULY:

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Mail the quarterly giving statements with a thank you note.
- Order Sunday School stewardship lessons (children – adults) for August, determine usage date, notify teachers.

- Select & order stewardship bulletin insert for use on same Sunday as stewardship Sunday School lessons in August.
- Select and order a stewardship tract on tithe catch-up as a bulletin insert for a Sunday in August. Set usage date.

- AUGUST:**
- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
 - Distribute Sunday School stewardship lesson.
 - Teach Sunday School lesson (children – adults).
 - Bulletin Insert: Stewardship tract.
 - Order materials for September State Missions Offering promotion.
 - Initiate budget planning and development of a budget/stewardship education program for the coming year.
 - Promote in newsletter, slides, several worship services date in September that will be Catch-Up Sunday. Use same info in Catch-up tract bulletin insert.

- SEPTEMBER:**
- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
 - Newsletter: promote State Missions with information on goal.
 - PowerPoint slide: promote State Missions goal in morning Sunday service.
 - Select and order giving pamphlets to be included with the October quarterly giving statement.
 - Select clip art and info snippets for use in promoting the Cooperative Program in October.

OCTOBER: Emphasis: Cooperative Program

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Determine which October newsletters will include clip art and info snippets for promoting the Cooperative Program.
- PowerPoint slide: Promote Cooperative Program in the morning service.
- Order stewardship Sunday School lessons (children – adults), select a usage date, and notify teachers.
- Select & order stewardship bulletin insert for use on same Sunday as stewardship Sunday School lessons.

- Order quantities of the four Family Bible Study pamphlets for use in November.
- Solicit at least 4 brief tithing testimonies to be used during the month of November.
- Select clip art for newsletter to promote budget, using clip art that goes with theme Stewardship Committee has chosen. Set usage dates.
- Mail quarterly giving reports with selected pamphlet.

NOVEMBER: Emphasis: Budget

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Put clip art and snippets about budget presentation and business meeting in newsletter.
- Insert the Family Bible Study pamphlet in the bulletin each of the Sundays in November.
- Order Lottie Moon promotional material.
- Mail Budget to church members.
- Distribute Stewardship Sunday School Lessons.
- Teach Stewardship Sunday School Lessons.
- Bulletin insert: Stewardship tract.
- Announce special called business meeting for Budget adoption.
- Budget presentation and discussion at evening service.
- Special called business meeting for proposed budget.
- Report on budget vote in newsletter and slide in morning service.

DECEMBER: Emphasis: International Missions – Lottie Moon

- Select dates for stewardship clip art/snippets in newsletters/bulletins. Determine need/dates for other promotional materials.
- Throughout December use clip art, etc., to promote *Lottie Moon* in newsletter with goal & amount received to date.
- Insert Lottie Moon bulletin inserts.

VIII. TWENTY-FIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE GIVING IN YOUR CHURCH

Select the ideas that will be of assistance to your church's stewardship and Cooperative Program needs. For the suggested activities, you will be able to get materials from the Stewardship Development Association. (www.stewardshipdirect.com)

1. **Develop** a personal theology of stewardship and teach the church members how to do the same.
2. **Teach** the biblical concept of stewardship so church members will know what the Bible requires of a steward.
3. **Exemplify** Christian giving: pastor, church staff members, and church leaders (deacons, committee members, Sunday School leaders, Discipleship Training leaders, etc.). Important: These leaders should be able to give a positive testimony of their growth in giving that speaks of the blessings of God, but not a "prosperity theology."
For example, a good testimony may involve:
 - (a) How I started giving;
 - (b) What I am doing now; and
 - (c) How I plan to grow as a giver.
4. **Teach** stewardship lessons regularly. (Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, etc.)
5. **Preach** regularly on stewardship themes and let stewardship ideas appear in regular sermon material when the scripture allows for it.
6. **Establish** a church stewardship committee/team; train the committee/team; develop the committee/team so that it becomes involved in all the prescribed functions of Education, Budget, Accounting and Estate Stewardship.
7. **Develop** a clear, concise statement of the mission of the church and help all church members to be aware of this mission statement and to understand its ministries.
8. **Build** a sound, effective ministry budget that adequately supports the important ministries designed to aid the church in accomplishing its mission.
9. **Call** for all members to make an annual commitment to support God's work through his church.
10. **Conduct** a new member stewardship training class with a maximum of six to eight sessions of which two sessions are used to go over the budget and instruct the participants in the basic New Testament concepts of giving and the church.

11. **Visit** in the home of ALL new members. Deliver a new member packet to each person who has just joined and explain the use of envelopes in giving to the church.
12. **Prepare** regularly for the offering time in the morning and evening services of the church. Be innovative and let the giving of the offering become a genuine worship experience.
13. **Use** scripture, Missionary Moments, and/or offertory emphases during the offering time.
14. **Provide** a two- or three-minute testimony sermon, illustration, etc. This can be done by the pastor, a staff person, or a church member. It **MUST** be well prepared and have a good message. It should be discussed with the pastor and staff in preparation for use.
15. **Give** some statistics about church member giving. Are we meeting the budget, last Sunday's giving totals, special reports of outstanding accomplishment in giving, etc. **VERY SHORT – VERY INFORMATIVE.**
16. **Use** the envelope system from time to time, encourage its use. Consider moving from the boxed envelopes to quarterly mailing or monthly mailing.
17. **Give** envelopes to children who are in the home of church members. Encourage parents to instruct the children in their use as a growth in giving experience. Put the children's name on the envelopes.
18. **Plan** instruction of children on the importance of following God's commands to give.
19. **Use** tracts regularly—in the bulletin, mail out as letter inserts, reprints in church paper, etc.
20. **Examine** all phases of the accounting process the church uses, from receiving to disbursing on a regular basis.
21. **Keep** good records of member giving and share this information (monthly, quarterly, annually).
22. **Conduct** an annual audit.
23. **Purchase** a position bond. Be sure all the persons who handle the church's money are listed, not by name but by position.
24. **Lead** Christian Financial Planning conferences periodically to encourage single and married young adults to be spiritually free, not in financial bondage.
25. **Conduct** an annual Estate Stewardship conference.

Become Familiar with Stewardship & Cooperative Program Resources

1. Visit the Baptist Convention website in your state to learn about stewardship and Cooperative Program resources available to you.
2. Visit the Stewardship Development Association website at www.stewardshipdirect.com to learn about additional resources.

Increase Giving In Your Church is a PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed at www.stewardshipdirect.com

3. Visit the SBC Executive Committee Cooperative Program and Stewardship website at www.sbc.net/newday to discover available resources.

Conclusions

This resource is designed to provide a practical guide for pastors, church staff, and church committee/team members whose responsibility it is to plan and implement a stewardship education plan in their church.

Few topics arouse such interest in churches as Christian stewardship. Churches are increasingly financially dependent upon the seniors (born 1926 and earlier) who are getting smaller in number. The younger generations born from 1946 on (Boomers and Busters) are giving less to the church and have much more personal debt than the seniors. By not preaching and teaching stewardship, the church is faced with many financial challenges and is focused on surviving rather than thriving. How can your church grow and have more money for ministry, develop faithful stewards and fulfill its mission?

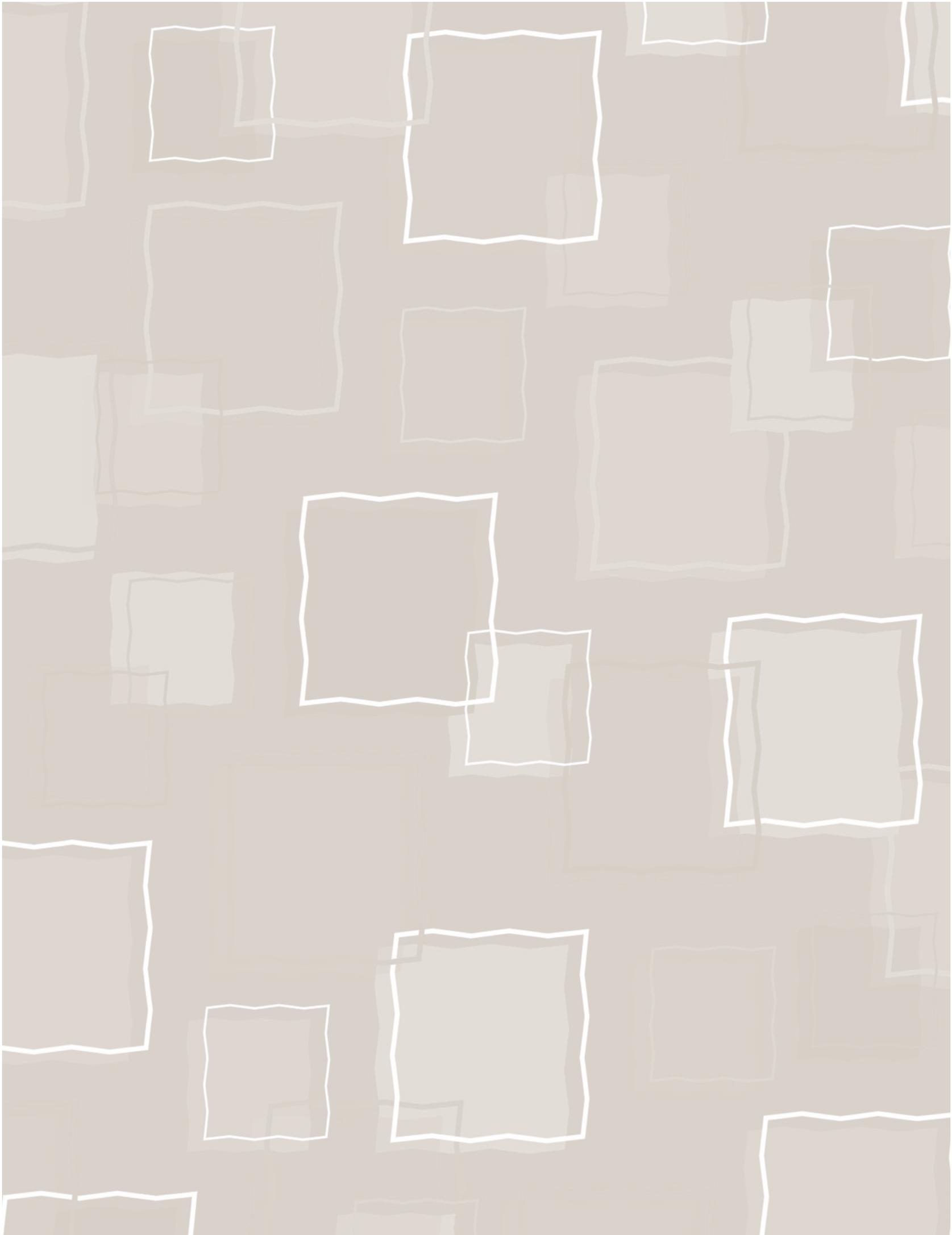
Preaching and teaching biblical stewardship in the church can produce positive results such as changed lives, reordered priorities and a fresh commitment to put God first in all areas of life (Matthew 6:33).

Every church member should desire to see their church grow numerically, financially, and spiritually. Most pastors believe the Lordship of Christ demands faithful stewardship, especially in the areas of finance and spirituality.

Practical Ideas for a Two Year Stewardship Promotion is presented with the following purposes:

1. Refocus the vision;
2. Rejoice in what possibilities you have;
3. Remember greed's destruction (Luke 12:15); and
4. Respond with dedicated disciples/stewards who are advancing the church's mission.

May God richly bless you and your stewardship leaders as you lead, develop, and teach members the meaning of Christian stewardship in the context of the mission and ministries of your church.





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