

# Trans-European Division Stewardship Ministries

## Vision and Plan - 2017 – 2020 (draft)

At the heart of the biblical belief in Christian Stewardship is a growing and maturing faith in Christ. The outcome for the believer is one in which Christ the Saviour, becomes more and more, Christ the Lord. Paul expresses it best in Galatians 2:20. *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (ESV)*

The Lordship of Christ is about allowing - more of Christ - to control or manage the life of the Christian, every area of life, including time, talents, technology, finances, witness, health and environment. The result is the ‘faith-full’ member, living a life brimming with the grace of Christ, exercising spiritual gifts to build up the church, return a faithful tithe, and witness by whatever means. As former TED President, Dr. Walter Scragg once described, the faithful member uses, “person, personality, purse (pay-check), privilege and position to benefit the message and mission of the church.”

### 1. Faithful Stewardship is not a merely optional Christian grace

The primary role of TED Stewardship Ministries is to re-awaken the biblical principles of what it means to be a Christian Steward, with the outcome of inviting God to be our life manager (manager of time, work, skills, health, resources, recreation, temperament etc.). How does Christ my Saviour, become ‘Lord of My Life’?

Action:

***Create a bright, joyful grace centered, gratitude focused, TED Stewardship presence. Use online media (blog, website, Facebook, development of electronic newsletter) to raise the Stewardship conversation in the TED context.***

Monthly Blog with ‘continue conversation’ section  
Promote new & existing resources (books, seminars, sermons, video clips) Links to the best Stewardship Ministries from around the world  
Human interest – members sharing the joy of Christian living with God as manager  
Highlight and promote examples of excellence

Outcome:

***Stewardship principles, well preached, well known, and well-practiced in each TED Union.***

### 2. Cultivate a culture of pastoral ministry excellence in growing faithful members

The key person responsible for growing the faithfulness of members – is the local church pastor. When pastors serve with excellence – the faith of members grow! This is the top priority in making the wider vision a reality. The nature and vision of Stewardship Ministries works best effect when naturally connecting and collaborating with other Departmental Ministries, including Treasury.

Action:

***Run training seminars in each TED Union and Conference specifically to support the ministerial team, as invited. Core elements of training could include:***

The Pastor – Leading by Example  
Balanced but Passionate Adventism  
Preaching and Teaching with Excellence  
Why are We Here?  
Member Visitation  
Making Good Worship Better  
Spiritual Gift Training  
Trust and Accountability  
Tithes, Offerings and the joy of Giving  
The Spirit of Prophecy and a Growing Faith for These Times

Outcome:

**Pastors serving with excellence, members growing in faith, practicing Spiritual Gifts for fully supporting the operation of the local church in its mission (Total Member Involvement). A naturally occurring benefit sees increase in tithe return and offerings.**

### **3. Foster the priority and urgency of the sharing of the Gospel**

Action:

***Train members to use person, personality, purse (pay-cheque), privilege and position to benefit the message and mission of the church. Core elements of training could include:***

- 7 Habits of a Visitor Friendly Church
- Becoming a Contagious Adventist
- Creation Health Outreach
- Small Groups as Growth Groups
- Habits of a Visitor Friendly Church
- The Dublin Evangelistic Adventure

Outcome:

**TED members connecting with the community, awakening trust, building friendships, providing the 'invitation to respond', and experience both baptismal and spiritual growth.**

### **4. Provide an easy and convenient plan for members to return a faithful tithe and give generously**

With the rise of electronic banking and payments, has the time come to help and support members with a convenient way to return tithe and donate funds to the church? Could electronic transaction help secure a more consistent, and even more faithful tithe return? Is there a model already in use that TED Unions and Conferences could easily adapt for use? The plan is to provide transactional convenience, while ensuring no loss to the spiritual action.

Action:

***Consult with South-Pacific Division Stewardship Ministries in development of e-GIVING (or like) plan for TED.***

Outcome:

**Trialing of e-GIVING plan (or like) in one or more Union. If successful, work towards wider implementation in TED Unions that would like to adopt plan.**

David Neal, TED Stewardship Ministries – Autumn 2016