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SOUTHERN  
BAPTIST  
PLANS  
OF  
CHRISTIAN  
STEWARDSHIP

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## *Staff*

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION  
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

MERRILL D. MOORE  
*executive director-treasurer*

W. E. GRINDSTAFF  
*director of Cooperative Program promotion*

JAMES V. LACKEY  
*director of stewardship development*



# *From Past to Present*

Southern Baptists have a long history of interest in stewardship development. From the very first our missionary goal has challenged us to do more for Christ.

The modern emphasis on stewardship development began in 1957 with the introduction of the *Forward Program of Church Finance*. This progressive program has since given rise to the *Stewardship Development Program for Baptist Associations*, *Growth in Christian Stewardship*, and *Year-Round Stewardship Development*.

Since 1957, church property evaluation has increased more than one billion dollars, missions gifts have increased twenty-six million and total gifts one hundred and fifty-nine million. Annual per capita giving has increased from \$44.25 to \$53.48. Average church income has jumped from \$12,700 to \$16,700 annually. But we *must* do better.

We have a long way to go. Only thirteen per cent of our members tithe. Our total receipts would multiply four fold to over two million dollars annually if all would honor the Lord with their possessions. Every part of our mission program would double and triple and quadruple its ministry if we would *all* do our part. Decide now to do something great for the Lord. Others have—you can too.

# TESTIMONIES

- (1) Greatest spiritual emphasis we have had. We doubled our budget in eight weeks. Six hundred plus attended Loyalty Dinner and Children's Party. Cooperative Program has now increased several thousand dollars.

—*Reverend N. B. Langford*  
*North Central Baptist Church*  
*Gainesville, Florida*

- (2) Led to the best spiritual and physical growth in the history of the church.

—*Joseph T. Greene*  
*Woodlawn Baptist Church*  
*Atlanta, Georgia*

- (3) We noted a great increase in the amount pledged and in number of tithers.

—*Milton L. Snyder*  
*North Run Baptist Church*  
*Richmond, Virginia*

- (4) We raised our budget from \$71,000 to \$90,000 and oversubscribed it.

—*First Baptist Church*  
*Victoria, Texas*

- (5) Our budget was raised \$1,000 to a total of \$23,500. Our 7th year in budget promotion in a rural church.

—*Arthur C. Bruner, Jr.*  
*Cedar Grove Baptist Church*  
*Maryville, Tennessee*

- (6) We are really "sold" on the stewardship emphasis. We are in a new building on a 12 acre site because of it.

—*Ollin J. Owens*  
*Greenville, South Carolina*

- (7) This church is definitely growing and more people are giving. Giving people are concerned people. Systematic giving has helped our church.

—*Ray Turner*  
*Summerville Baptist Church*  
*Summerville, South Carolina*

# OF SUCCESS

- (8) Church went over the budget for the first time in its history.

—*Harry Steele*  
*Chase Street Baptist Church*  
*Gary, Indiana*

- (9) Increased giving almost 50%—church is 92 years old—this was the first stewardship campaign.

—*Woodlawn Baptist Church*  
*Alexandria, Virginia*

- (10) Caused a renewed interest in the entire program. Increased actual receipts over \$200 per week.

—*Alice Drive Baptist Church*  
*Sumter, South Carolina*

- (11) We had the spirit of revival and several were won to Christ in our visitation. There were many rededications on the part of Christians.

—*Forest Hills Baptist Church*  
*Florence, Alabama*

- (12) Increased our offerings by \$300 a week.

—*River Oaks Baptist Church*  
*Ft. Worth, Texas*

- (13) We used the "Growth in Christian Stewardship Program" and it was highly successful.

—*W. T. Adams*  
*Johnson Tabernacle*  
*Rocky Mount, North Carolina*

- (14) Fantastic results! We are receiving more than budget.

—*James M. Roberts*  
*Oakville Memorial Baptist*  
*Church*  
*Memphis, Tennessee*

# YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Year-Round stewardship development correlates the efforts and capacities of church leaders for greater Christian witness through Christian stewardship. The booklet *Year-Round Stewardship Development* explains in detail how year-round stewardship development can become a reality in your church.

Leading individuals to a fuller understanding of their responsibility in total and enduring Christian stewardship

✓ **Pastor**

Planning and evaluating the Christian stewardship activities of the entire church; scheduling these activities on the church calendar

✓ **Church Council**

Giving general and overall direction to the Christian stewardship program of the church under the leadership of the church council and the pastor

✓ **Stewardship  
and Finance  
Committee**

Encouraging the church to increase its support of missions through gifts to the Cooperative Program and the association

✓ **Deacons**

Reaching people, teaching stewardship truths, and enlisting and developing stewards

✓ **Sunday School**

Training members to better understand New Testament stewardship doctrines and Baptist missionary work

✓ **Training Union**

**Woman's  
Missionary  
Union** ✓

Teaching members Bible truths regarding tithes and offerings, leading them to commitments as tithers, and to support missions through the Cooperative Program and approved special mission offerings

**Brotherhood** ✓

Developing men and boys in missionary knowledge and in personal stewardship

**Treasurer** ✓

Personalizing and interpreting the church budget



*Founded upon  
and growing out  
of  
New Testament  
Teachings  
on  
Stewardship*

# FORWARD PROGRAM OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

The Forward Program of Christian Stewardship builds better budgets, erects needed church buildings, widens world mission horizons, and develops New Testament stewards.

Interest is quickened, spirituality is deepened, and attendance is increased with the use of Forward Program methods and materials.

The use of the complete Forward Program produces best results. Churches taking short cuts weaken its effectiveness. Tried, tested, successful, and scriptural in all its aspects, the Forward Program offers the best available methods—a do-it-yourself plan yet professional in its "know-how."

## *What Is The Forward Program?*

A complete program of church finance challenging every member to support a greatly enlarged church program including local work, building needs, and world missions.

## *What Organization is Required?*

The pastor, the general chairman, and an emphasis secretary must have a working knowledge of the total program.

The Budget Planning and Budget Promotion Committees, along with wise use of the Sunday school and Training Union organizations, and supplemented by the Fellowship Dinner, Children's Party, Assignment Luncheon and Tally Committees are essential to the program's success.

## *How Does It Work?*

A complete and detailed calendar is provided. Giving habits are analyzed. The tithe potential is determined. An expanded budget is developed step by step. The entire congregation—active

and inactive members—is challenged. A peak of interest and enthusiasm is reached at the Fellowship Dinner, culminating on Dedication Day when the people commit themselves to the program of the church for the coming year.

### *Is the Program Spiritual?*

Increased interest and attendance at the worship services, greater loyalty, deepened spirituality, and consecration result when people commit their time, talent, and treasure to Christ.

### *Is it Scriptural?*

Yes! the Scripture plainly teaches that at least a tithe belongs to God. "The tithe is the Lord's." The Forward Program presents the teaching of the tithe to every resident member of the church.

### *How Effective Is It?*

Reports from hundreds of churches indicate that the Forward Program is the most effective plan yet devised for committing the churches to the total program of Jesus. Increased giving, a quickened spirit of evangelism, involvement of the people, greater attendance at worship, and participation in the organized life of the church accrue to the proper use of the Forward Program.

### *How Do We Start?*

Pastors and interested leaders should order sample packets of Forward Program materials for preliminary study. Careful cultivation and preparation insures eager acceptance by the church.

# GROWTH IN CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Growth in Christian Stewardship is a spiritual approach to stewardship development for churches with membership up to approximately 300. More than 23,000 churches or about 71 per cent of Southern Baptist Convention churches come in this size classification.

This spiritual program is an attempt to meet the particular needs of these churches. It focuses attention upon the limited facilities of these churches. It utilizes the wide scope of abilities of the pastors and dedicated workers.

Growth in Christian Stewardship has a warm, spiritual approach to the stewardship of life. It is written in easy-to-read terms. Committee responsibilities and duties fit naturally into the leadership pattern of small church life.

It is designed to assist the church in:

- Planning a challenging church program
- Presenting stewardship truths
- Enlisting membership support
- Deepening spiritual maturity.

## *Who Does It?*

The pastor, general chairman and, six committees make up the organization of Growth in Christian Stewardship. The committees are as follows: Budget Planning, Tell the People, All-Church Fellowship, Mail-Out plus the Sunday school and Training Union. The duties are clearly defined in the manual answering the questions: "Who does it?" "What does he do?" and "When does he do it?"

## *When Does He Do It?*

Carrying out the Growth in Christian Stewardship program is made easier by a simply-planned calendar. Committee meetings are

either on a Sunday afternoon or Wednesday evening.

### *What Does He Do?*

The Stewardship Growth Visits—Probably the greatest spiritual impact is made in calendar Week I when every home is visited by a team of visitors. These visits will:

(1) Acquaint the church family with the whole church program

(2) Give a challenge for greater interest in all church life

(3) Enlist 100 per cent attendance on Sunday, Week II

(4) Challenge every member to participate in a tithe demonstration showing what can be done by the church if every member tithes.

The Mail-Outs—Members are kept abreast of all that is going on through a mimeographed letter mailed each Monday throughout the campaign. Church members, knowing all the church is planning to do, are thus encouraged to be a part of all the church is doing.

The Dedication—Growth in Christian Stewardship is climaxed on the last Sunday by a call for individual dedication. This determines and reveals the real concern for God's purpose in the world. The church can make no greater contribution to the fulfillment of the Great Commission than that of leading its members to a dedication of life and possessions.

Can the unreached reach the unreached? Impossible! Over one half of the members of most churches remain as unreached as the Hottentot in South Africa as far as God's Great Commission is concerned. The Hottentot is dependent upon the dedication of our unreached. Growth in Christian Stewardship therefore reaches both of them.

### *It Can Work For You*

Additional materials and counsel can be secured by writing your state stewardship promotion secretary.

# Stewardship Development Program for BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS

A Baptist association has at least a twofold purpose. Its very existence is justified only as it effectively performs these functions. On the one hand, within its geographical boundaries, the association must do for the churches what one church cannot do alone. This may involve a variety of ministries depending on needs, and may include mission stations, camps, recreation, employment of a missionary and other personnel, Schools of Missions, simultaneous evangelistic and other crusades, loan funds, and many other services.

On the other hand, the main thrust of an association's responsibility is to strengthen the work of the churches. That is, help the churches do through their own programs what they need and want to do in winning people to Christ and developing them into mature Christians. An association is mainly a service organization and exists to serve the churches rather than itself.

The Stewardship Development Program for Baptist Associations is a proven tool for aiding an association in its vital work of helping the churches. To each church it offers training and budget promotion. At the same time, it increases mission giving by the churches through the associational budget and our Cooperative Program.

The only source of money and personnel for carrying out the Great Commission is the membership of our churches. It logically follows that as church members become better stewards, the offerings of the churches will increase. Thus a larger percentage of the offerings can be given to missions.

The Stewardship Development Program for Baptist Associations is an adaptation of the methods, materials, and techniques of the Forward Program of Christian Stewardship. For maximum results, certain basic steps are followed:

1. Adopt a practical Calendar of Activities designed to fit your association.

2. Enlist an effective organization of enthusiastic, mission-minded people.

3. Plan an adequate associational budget which reflects the past giving record of the churches as well as their potential.

4. Send a series of newsletters to selected leaders in each church.

5. Conduct stewardship conferences to teach the latest stewardship promotion methods and to present the challenge of mission giving.

6. Invite selected leaders to a leadership supper for fellowship, information, and challenging inspiration.

7. Send out stewardship teams of laymen to challenge the churches with literature and personal testimonies.

8. Urge some forward step in budget promotion by every church.

9. Follow-up with churches that may need additional help. Continue year-round stewardship development suggestions.

10. Evaluate results and plan for improvements which may be effected for next year.

Your association can help your churches win more people to Christ and develop them into faithful Christian stewards by using the Stewardship Development Program for Baptist Associations.

Additional materials and counsel can be secured by writing your state stewardship promotion secretary.

## *Together We Build*

A building fund campaign differs from a budget campaign more in emphasis than in technique. The building fund campaign should take on the "once in a generation" spirit. More intensive advertising and organization should be employed.

All building fund campaign pledges are secured "face to face" in the homes. This means a more elaborate canvass organization. No one makes a pledge in a public service. No cards are mailed out. "Face to face" team canvassing produces amazing results for the all out effort, but few churches which maintain a full Southern Baptist program of activities can afford the time and effort necessary for the "once in a generation" type of canvass every year.

More time and care will be necessary in forming the canvass teams. More teams will be necessary, since all homes will be visited.

Advance pledges are secured in this program. The leadership in the campaign will make their pledges in advance as well as some members of means who the building fund leadership feel should be given special consideration. Advance pledges will be announced at the building banquet.

In addition, the canvass period is somewhat longer than in the Forward Program emphasis. More elaborate goal boards should be designed on which pledges will be entered by canvass teams and divisions rather than by classes.

*Together We Build* is a building fund campaign for the church that is determined, under the leadership of the Lord, to accomplish great things. Your church can raise money!

This program is not yet ready for general distribution. If interested, write to your state stewardship promotion secretary for further information.

# PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT

1. Man is accountable to God for all of life—stewardship education and promotion should be based upon the Bible doctrine that man is accountable to God for all of life.

Man is inescapably accountable to God for all of his life: his ability, time, possessions, etc. The realization and acceptance of this accountability form the foundation of true stewardship.

2. Liberal giving begins with the tithe—the stewardship of possessions includes liberal giving which starts with the tithe plus Christian attitudes and practices in the acquisition, handling, and final disposition of material goods.

A Christian receives great joy in prayerfully planning his giving. Giving should not be legalistic; rather, it should be an expression of spiritual experience. One's Christian stewardship of possessions will include:

(1) Giving the tithe and beyond to the work of the Lord

(2) Accepting Christian standards in the earning of money

(3) Budgeting and spending money in a manner that honors Christ

(4) Planning for the use of one's estate after death (One has not completed his stewardship until procedures have been "spelled out" in a written will for the disposition of property after death. This is the final testimony of a Christian steward.)

3. The church is the primary channel for all gifts—the church is the Lord's storehouse for the tithe. It is the primary channel through which people express Christian stewardship.

One's tithe should be given through the church to support the work of the kingdom around the world. Many church members are capable of making extra gifts to Baptist institutions and to special mission causes. The responsibility for the enlistment of stewardship responses beyond the tithe is upon the church.

4. Stewardship development should be a part of all church life—stewardship development should be an integral part of the life of the church throughout the year with an annual stewardship emphasis.

Continuous stewardship teaching, training, and enlistment in every area of church life are essential to membership development. The year-round stewardship development approach offers the advantage of a carefully planned stewardship emphasis by all major church officers and departments.

5. Church leadership should be committed stewards—church leadership should be committed to the practice of Christian stewardship of possessions.

A first and major responsibility of leadership in a church is personal commitment. A church is fortunate when it has leaders who are personally dedicated to practicing Christian stewardship and will desire it for all members.

6. All members should participate in budget development—church members should be given an opportunity to share in the development and approval of the annual budget.

The problem of attaining a balance between the small group efficiency and the needed large membership participation in budget development is a vital concern. Experience has established the validity of smaller groups giving time to prayerful budget consideration. However, this same experience has underscored the loss that comes because more members do not participate. Diligent efforts should be made to provide each member the opportunity and encouragement to participate in budget development. Ample time for discussion of the budget is important. Avoid hidden items. Encourage questions and discussion.

7. All members should be informed about Baptist ministries—church members should be provided adequate information concerning all phases of the church's budget for local, associational, state, and Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Membership education in Baptist life requires planning. The greatest liability to associational, state, home, and foreign missions is the uninformed Baptist. Churches should use the missionary personnel from each of these mission areas in church meetings. The greatest opportunity for informing the church member, however, is through the week-by-week program of the church, and in special Sunday and Wednesday night mission education programs.

8. Each member should commit himself—each

church member should be made aware of his individual responsibility as a Christian and should be given an opportunity to make a prayerful, obedient, and definite commitment.

Membership development is a church task. The task of informing and encouraging members in Christian stewardship is a first-line responsibility of the church. Membership development cannot be achieved without calling upon members for a personal commitment of self and possessions.

9. The church budget should challenge the members—the church budget should be based on a consideration of the tithing potential of the members as well as on the past giving records.

A church with a vision and an impelling sense of urgency, which is reflected in its budget, will challenge its members. No church leader can boast, "We are doing all right," unless his church budget for local and world needs is a challenge to the members in their giving capacity.

10. The church budget should reflect missionary concern—the budget of the church should reflect a strong concern for the world through worthy participation in the denomination's cooperative program.

Churches that wait until they have cared for urgent local needs before doing mission work seldom become strong missionary churches. A wise approach for every church is to plan and adopt a mission-giving objective.

# State Stewardship Personnel

<b>ALABAMA</b>	Claude I. Ammerman 2001 East South Blvd., Montgomery
<b>ALASKA</b>	William H. Hansen (exec. sec.) Box 1862, Anchorage
<b>ARIZONA</b>	Roy F. Sutton 316 West McDowell, Phoenix
<b>ARKANSAS</b>	Ralph Douglas 401 W. Capitol, Little Rock
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	Ralph E. Longshore Box 1231, Fresno
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<b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>	James O. Duncan 1628 16th St., N. W. Washington
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<b>GEORGIA</b>	James A. Lester 291 Peachtree, N. E., Atlanta
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