

“Giving is the thermometer of our love.” —Benjamin R. De Jong

contributions to mission projects and Adventist parachurch organizations. World budget - 22%; Sabbath School offerings - 20%; and Special offerings - 13%.) 12. a. (Of those surveyed, 84% was clear on this point. Ethnic minorities and Baby Boomers believe evangelism and outreach should also be funded from the.)

ministry.) 10. d. (This was indicated by 60% as their top preference. Only 20% felt that literature Distribution was very important and just 30% felt public evangelism was very important.) 11. b. (Most members liked the idea of making direct

Well, did you agree or not? If you were frustrated or confused by what fellow church members stated, remember these two points: Attitudes and motivations often differ based on age, gender, geography, and generation. Secondly, giving is personal and often reflects attitudes passed down from parents and grandparents, influenced by pastors, and

members of your local church. The bottom line is to be committed to generosity. Remember that you can never outgive your faith partner—our Heavenly Father.



“Giving opens the way for receiving.” —Florence Scovel Shinn

References:

¹Stewardship Motivations – Attitudes & Behaviors Among Adventists in North America, 2013. If you would like a copy of this 128-page report, which includes the sample questionnaire and focus group summary, please call AdventSource at 1-800-328-0525.

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The Stewpot

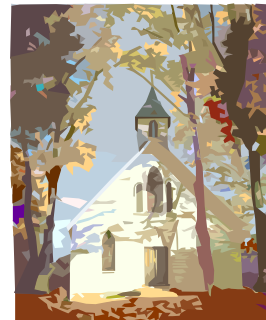
A potpourri of practical ideas to help you become a better steward.

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WHAT DO MEMBERS THINK?

By Gordon Botting, DrPH, CHES, CFC

For this year’s annual *Stewpot* quiz, we are focusing on what



members think about their church giving and their attitudes to making God their partner as they manage His money. These questions are from a survey commissioned by the North American Division Stewardship Department & Office for Strategic Planning and Assessment. It included a total of nearly 2,000 responses from 46 local churches located in 33 of the 58 conferences in nine unions. Take the quiz and see if you agree with your fellow church members. (Please note that two or more responses to some questions were received.)

1. What is the most effective method of teaching stewardship?
 - a. Sermon by the pastor
 - b. Seminars on the topic
 - c. Small group Bible studies
 - d. A broad concept beyond money
2. What is the least effective method of teaching stewardship?
 - a. Teaching children about tithe and offerings
 - b. Personal stories by church members
 - c. Teaching members they will be blessed
 - d. Clear reports on the financial needs of the church
3. What percentage of our members believes we should “forget about money and focus on spiritual nurture?”
 - a. 26 percent
 - b. 23 percent
 - c. 20 percent

Stewardship is a total lifestyle. It involves our health, time, talents, environment, relationships, spirituality, and finances.

“A man there was and they called him mad; the more he gave, the more he had.” –John Bunyan

- d. 12 percent
4. What is the best way to motivate giving by our members?
- Communicating the needs of the church
 - Visionary leaders focusing on the mission of the church
 - Appealing to members to give to specific projects
 - Getting members more involved in voluntary ministries

5. What percentage of our members calculate tithe on net income?
- 48 percent
 - 36 percent
 - 30 percent
 - 17 percent



6. When it comes to giving, which one of the following styles is the most typical among the members surveyed?
- Reactive givers
 - Habitual givers
 - Intentional givers
 - Other patterns of givers

7. What is the most important reason for giving?
- Because God commands

- The mission of the church
 - Sense of obligation
 - An act of worship
8. What percentage of Generation X (those born between 1961 and 1981) as a group returns tithe?
- 55 percent
 - 45 percent
 - 40 percent
 - 35 percent

9. What was the reason members gave most frequently for returning tithe?
- It's a solid biblical principle
 - Being honest with God
 - God means so much to me
 - It's a way to compensate ministers

10. What was the top preference to which members wanted their monies to go?
- Community development
 - Public evangelism
 - Literature distribution
 - Christian education
11. When asked to indicate how

- they preferred to give to missions, 38 percent indicated they liked to give...
- Special offerings
 - Direct contributions
 - World budget
 - Sabbath School offerings

12. When asked what should be funded from tithe, what percentage said it should go for pastoral salaries and benefits?
- 84 percent
 - 68 percent
 - 40 percent
 - 30 percent

ANSWERS

likely in this group; 25% for reactive givers, and 19% for habitual givers—those who give a specific amount each week and have not made adjustments to changes in their income for inflation.)

7. d. (Over 50% said this is their attitude, whereas 4% chose a sense of obligation; 12% for God commands, and 11% for the mission of the church.)

8. c. (About 55% of seniors return tithe, 45% of Baby Boomers, and 35% of Millennials.)

9. a. (This was the top answer of 69% of members, 59% chose being honest with God, and 6% chose compensation for

1. d. (Over 60% answered D and less than 20% chose stewardship sermon by the pastor.)

2. c. (Personal stories by members was chosen by 60%.)

3. a. (A total of 26% said that this approach should be a top motivator, 20% said it is not a motivator at all, and another 23% were not sure.)

4. a. (An overwhelming 88% chose A with women and ethnic minorities most likely to give this response; B was selected by 87%.)

5. c. (Pretax or gross was chosen by 48%.)

6. c. (Baby Boomers were most