

# **The History & Use of Tithe**

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# God Counsels:

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## Enter New Territory

The Lord calls for a proclamation of the truth in new territory. This has been the burden of my message for the last twenty years. BCL 106

...leave the ninety and nine in the fold of the church, and enter new districts. 21MR 354

Plant the standard in new places. Do not leave any portion of the Lord's vineyard unworked. 2SAT 156

## After working in one place – move on to another

Just as soon as the standard of truth is lifted in one locality, and it is safe to leave the new converts, we must plan to enter other new fields. 6T 33

We shall not hover over the churches but press into new territory and raise the standard in places where the message has not been proclaimed. 17MR 123

## Go into the whole world

...Go forth into all parts of the world, and diffuse the light of My truth... PH078 17

This gospel missionary work is to keep reaching out and annexing new territory, enlarging the cultivated portions of the vineyard. The circle is to extend until it belts the world. Ev 19

## Build small & in Many Places

Never, never build mammoth institutions. Let these institutions be small, and let there be more of them, that the work of winning souls to Christ may be accomplished. MM 323

...light which God has given you over and over again, that missionary centers should be established in many cities... 8T 69

## Build small churches

Camp-meetings are to be held in many places. Churches are to be raised up and organized. RH 12-17-1901

In the place of having one mammoth camp meeting, have several small camp meetings. And when companies are raised up in the places where these meetings are held, let a place of worship be built for them. 15MR 250

## Build Small Sanitariums

The work of proclaiming the truth in all parts of the world calls for small sanitariums in many places... SpTB06 47

The counsel that had been given our people ...is pointed out that the Lord would be pleased to have several small country sanitariums, instead of one mammoth city sanitarium... SpTB14 4

## Work in the South & the most needy fields

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Why should not Seventh-day Adventists become true laborers together with God in seeking to save the souls of the colored race? Instead of a few, why should not many go forth to labor in this long-neglected field? RH 11-26-1895

...what a change would now be seen in it if, after the colored people had been released from slavery, Christians had worked for them as the followers of Christ ought to work, teaching them how to take care of themselves. RH 8-27-1901

The Southern field is calling for the help that you can give. In this field there is need of schools, sanitariums, and meeting-houses. Without these facilities, the work cannot be carried forward as it should be. Will you not do what you can to place the work in this field on a solid basis? Will you not come up to the help of the Lord just now? There is not a moment to lose. GH 1-1-1903

## Share your abundance with Destitute places

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...the means which is brought to the Lord's treasury in the tithes and gifts of our people, should be used for the support of the work, not only at home, but in foreign fields. Those living in places where the work has long been established, should bind about their supposed wants, so that the work in new fields may go forward.... The money in His treasury is to be used in building up the work all over the world. GW 455

In some of the larger conferences the tithe may be more than sufficient to sustain the laborers... The conferences should feel a burden for the regions beyond their own borders. There are missions to be sustained in fields where there are no churches and no tithes, and also where the believers are new and the tithe limited. If you have means that is not needed ...send the Lord's money to these destitute places. 1MR 183

## Those that have an abundance are to share with needy fields

It is God's design that those fields which have abundant facilities shall share their advantages with more needy fields. The principle is ever to be followed in all our institutions. 8T 152

When there is an abundance in the treasury, they are not to invest it in adding building to building... Hundreds of other places are in need of this money, that they, too, may have something established to represent the truth. MM 164, 165

Those living where the work has been established on a good foundation should feel themselves bound to help those in need.. Thus the Lord designs that the work shall increase. ...it is the Lord's plan that the new, unworked part shall receive help from the part that has been worked. SW 9

## A large amount of money should not be absorbed in one place

We must not absorb in a few places all the money in the treasury, but must labor to build up the work in many places. CH 275

It is not in God's order that thousands of dollars shall be expended in enlargements and additions in institutions in Battle Creek. There is altogether too much there now. Take that extra means and establish the work in suffering portions of other fields... FE 224

# God's Counsel: Is Ignored

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The Lord has sent warnings and reproof, but they have not been heeded. 5MR 414

## Congregating in Battle Creek / Not entering New Territory

When the Israelites entered Canaan, they did not fulfill God's purpose by taking possession of the whole land. After making a partial conquest, they settled down to enjoy the fruit of their victories.... Is not the church of today doing the same thing? With the whole world before them in need of the gospel, professed Christians congregate where they themselves can enjoy gospel privileges. They do not feel the necessity of occupying new territory, carrying the message of salvation into regions beyond. They refuse to fulfill Christ's commission: "Go ye into all the world..." Are they less guilty than was the Jewish church? 8T 119

The Lord is weighing actions. He has been telling those who have been crowding into Battle Creek to go out of Battle Creek, and begin in other places a work for those who need help. 6MR 398

## Building Too Large in One Location

Too much has been centered in Battle Creek and in Oakland and in a few other places. Our brethren should never have built so largely in any one place as they have in Battle Creek. CH 217

The erection of building after building in Battle Creek has not been after the order of God. Plants should have been made in regions beyond. 4MR 395

The medical institution in Battle Creek would better have been divided into at least seven different plants, so that other places would have had proper facilities for the care of the sick. SpTB06 55

## Robbing New Territory and Need Fields

It is not in God's order that thousands of dollars shall be expended in enlargements and additions in institutions in Battle Creek. ...robbing other destitute fields... (1893) FE 224

The building you are planning to erect in Battle Creek is not necessary.... Our people in Battle Creek have continually been tempted to find some excuse for investing more money in building. Thus other parts of the field have been robbed of buildings which they should have had. (1901) 13MR 216

This outlay of means, unadvised by the Lord, has crippled every new missionary field, because the treasury in Battle Creek has been left destitute of means. (1897) 17MR 57

# EW is burdened for the Southern people

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The Lord has laid upon me a heavy burden in behalf of the work in the Southern States of America. SW 12-15-1903

My heart has ached as I have seen the feeling against this race growing stronger and still stronger... GH 11-1-1908

In this field thousands and thousands of people are living in ignorance of the third angel's message, and they are right within the shadow of our doors. RH 9-28-1905

You say that the colored people are depraved and wicked, that their standard of morality is very low. Who made them wicked? Who spoiled their morals? GCB 4-14-1903

...many among the colored people ...were forced to endure every indignity, and their souls groaned under the most cruel and unjust oppression. SW 54

No people have suffered such great oppression as the colored people in the South. None have through the treatment received been brought into such degradation. 1899 21MR 143

Many of the colored people are unable to read, and as it is necessary to understand the Word of God, it is necessary to teach these people to read. SW 46

...(they) should be taught to read for themselves, that they may know what saith the Lord unto them! SW 63

My soul longs to see carried on in the South the work ...schools in the cities and out of the cities, for sanitariums and treatment-rooms, and for evangelical work, demands that we do everything we possibly can. This barren field is sending up to Heaven its pitiful appeal for help. Where can we find another field in which the need is greater? ST 11-30-1904

The proclamation that freed the slaves in the Southern States, opened a field into which Christlike workers should have entered to teach those who were hungering and thirsting for knowledge, that they might know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. SW 46

...what a change would now be seen in it if, after the colored people had been released from slavery, Christians had worked for them as the followers of Christ ought to work, teaching them how to take care of themselves. RH 8-27-1901

Had this work been done for the colored people immediately after the proclamation of freedom, how different would be the condition of the Southern states today! 1888 1800

The Lord is grieved by the woe in the Southern field. Christ has wept at the sight of this woe. Angels have hushed the music of their harps as they have looked upon a people unable to help themselves. If such is the feeling in heaven over the situation in the South, what should be the feelings of every loyal Seventh-day Adventist? Many of the Southern cities have never been worked.... And yet this field lies at our door!... The Condition of this Field is a Condemnation to Our Professed Christianity. PH012 1

Upon the white people of the United States the Lord has laid the burden of uplifting this race. But, as yet, Seventh-day Adventists have done comparatively little to help them. (1905) PCO 65

The Lord has laid upon me a heavy burden in behalf of the work in the Southern States of America. SW 12-15-1903

## **EW calls for an Offering for the Southern work**

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The Lord stirred my heart to make an appeal in behalf of the Southern field. (1899) 21MR 143

When I was living in Cooranbong, the need of the Southern field was opened before me. In the night season I was standing before a large congregation, making an appeal to them. That night I arose at eleven o'clock and began to write out this appeal. 2SAT 158

Notice had been sent to the churches near Los Angeles... This was the Sabbath which had been set apart as a day on which a general collection should be taken up on our churches throughout America for the colored work in the South. GH 12-1-1904

I ask you to do your best **on the day** that the General Conference has set apart as the time when gifts are to be made for work among the colored people. By willing liberality let us prepare the way for the laborers in the South to do a work of mercy for this people. RH 9-28-1905

Tomorrow afternoon I am to speak again... and I shall try to present the needs of the work that is being done for the colored people, and will give those present an opportunity to help forward this work... I am glad that money is to be raised by a general contribution... 4MR 26

## **Funds Gathered – are Diverted to another use**

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The Southern field was presented to me, and ...the people. ...set to work to raise means for that field. But where is that means now? What has become of it? It has been diverted from its rightful place. Money was raised for the special purpose... and was then used for a different purpose.... The principles of righteousness have been departing from the Conference. (1899) PH079 16

Money that was called for to use in breaking up the ground in places that have never been worked, was appropriated to places where work has been carried forward for some time. It was wrong not to allow the means given for opening new fields, to be used where the people supposed it would be. SpM 283

About \$11,000 was raised in response to this appeal, and I waited and waited to see what was done with this money. Edson kept writing to me, saying that he wanted to do this and that to start the work, but could not for want of means. In this work he found people who needed clothing and he longed to be able to relieve their necessities, but his wages were small and he had very little money to do anything with. 2SAT 158

I desire to say to you, my brethren, that not one penny of the means that comes in from different sources for the work in the Southern field should be diverted to the work elsewhere. If the Lord has opened the hearts of His people to give to this field that its distressing needs may be met, let it not be ...withheld from the field for which it was intended. (1898) 8MR 201

Over and over again, money that has been given to this field (South) has been diverted into other channels. Thus is being repeated the mistake in the past in regard to the misappropriation of means. (1902) SpM 270

Money intended for this field must not be diverted into other channels. The workers in the South must not be allowed to struggle on as they have done in destitution and discouragement. God is displeased at the showing. (1904) PH160 2

In several letters which I have received, the question has been asked, "Sister White, can you tell what has become of the money donated to the Southern field?" I could not tell; therefore did not answer. Dishonesty has been shown in turning aside the means which should have gone to the work in the Southern field... 21MR 143

### **5 years later – Still waiting for money raised for the Southern field**

Where did the money go that was raised for the Southern field? How long has it been since that money was raised? It was raised five years ago, but I do not know where it went, and if there is anyone here who has knowledge on this point, I wish he would tell me. Those who kept back the money that was raised for the Southern field in response to my appeal are accountable to God, for He led me to make this appeal. 2SAT 159

### **10 yrs later**

God help us to wipe out the terrible stain that is upon our work because of the neglect of the Southern field. Ten years ago the money that should have been sent to that field was withheld from it. GCB 4-25-1901

### **Money was used to pay a debt of Pacific Press**

...one night I was instructed that the manager of the Pacific Press had something to do with the turning aside of the funds for the South. 21MR 143

### **The Southern work was Robbed**

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What have you done with the means solicited for that field? You have robbed this destitute field of the means that God designed should come into it." GCDB, February 23, 1899

God has been robbed of the revenue with which he desired to open the work in the South. (1901) SpM 178

God looks with disfavor upon your selfish appropriation of the means that is consecrated for a special purpose... Will a man rob God? Will he steal God's means to settle outgoing expenses when the ministry needs every dollar? (1898) PH087 7

### **The Lord Demands Restitution**

(The money raised for the work in the South...) The diverting of this means from its proper channel was a fraudulent transaction, which stands recorded against the actors. Every dollar of this money--the principal and the interest up to the present time--should be placed where God designed it should be. 21MR 144

Those who have stood at the head of this unjust dealing will never be clean in the sight of God until they restore that which they have taken away. They are held responsible for the work that might have been done, but is not. GCDB, February 23, 1899

Before you add another building to the office in Battle Creek, make thorough restitution to the Southern field. This has not yet been done as it should be done. (1901) 8T 90



The Lord will accept no excuse for the past neglect of the Southern field. Restitution has not yet been made in full to this field. The reproach is not yet wiped out. Christ has been wronged in the person of his saints. (1901) SpM 178

## **The Southern work has been and Hindered**

### **Prejudice, Evil Surmising, Opposition, Criticisms**

**1901** -- There have been those who have tried to undermine the influence of Edson White.... They have spoken of Edson with a sneer, with expressed contempt.... It is a sin against God for men to treat a fellow worker as some have treated Edson. God has said of him, "My angel shall go before him, and lead him if he will walk humbly before Me." The angel put his hand on his shoulder and told him to work and walk very discreetly because there were those who stood ready to hinder his work in the South if they could possibly do this. {2SAT 160.5}

**1902** -- The Southern work has been the subject of prejudice and evil surmising. The spirit of wicked opposition has been manifested... SW, September 4, 1902

### **Very little is being done in the Southern field**

As yet, there are only a few places in the South that have been worked. There are many, many cities in which nothing has been done. SW, September 4, 1902

This field has been represented to me as a field sinfully neglected by those who believe the truth. God's people have not done the work that ought to be done there. (1902) 1888 1772

This field bears testimony to the neglect of a people who should have been wide-awake to work for the Master among all classes, but who have done very little for the colored people of the South. ...not one hundredth part of the work has been done that should be done. RH 9-28-1905

### **Needy Fields are Suffering -- because large Institutions use up the means**

Money has been invested in various conveniences and facilities which the Lord never directed. ...the money is consumed, so that the will of God is not done. My heart is sick and sore and distressed beyond measure. SW 89

Much money has been wasted by colonizing, when the work of annexing new territory should have been going forward... SW 12-5-1899

Satan has been pleased to have means absorbed in the work that has been done, because it would hinder aggressive warfare in behalf of the truth in new territory... 4MR 432

### **Over Spending in Battle Creek – is Robbing Needy Fields**

...in reference to constantly investing means in Battle Creek.... The work is hindered, ...in these new fields.... These things I have set before you; and yet you have gone on just the same, absorbing means, God's means, in one locality, when the Lord has spoken that too much was already invested in one place, which meant that there was nothing in other places.... 8T 48, 49

# God tells EW to give her Tithe to needy fields

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Some cases have been kept before me for years, and I have supplied their needs from the tithe, as God has instructed me to do. 2MR 100

It has been presented to me for years that my tithe was to be appropriated by myself to aid the white and colored ministers who were neglected and did not receive sufficient properly to support their families. Letter 267, 1905, 2MR 99

I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. **I have been instructed to do this;** and as the money is not withheld from the Lord's treasury, it is not a matter that should be commented upon, for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best. Lt 267, 1905 2MR 99

## EW helps others to send Tithe to needy fields

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And if any person shall say to me, Sister White, will you appropriate my tithe where you know it is most needed, I shall say, Yes, I will; and I have done so. 2MR 100

I received your letter and the ten dollars which you sent, and I thank you. I shall appropriate your gift for the colored sanitarium that is in operation here in Nashville. Every dollar is a help. 1904 PCO 100

I have seventy-five dollars from Brother \_\_\_\_\_, tithe money, and we thought that it would be best to send it along to the Southern field to help colored ministers. . . . I want it specially applied to the colored ministers to help them in their salaries. 1902 2MR 100

...for years there have now and then been persons who have lost confidence in the appropriation of the tithe, who have placed their tithe in my hands, and said that if I did not take it they would themselves appropriate it to the families of the most needy ministers they could find. I have taken the money, given a receipt for it, and told them how it was appropriated. 1905 2MR 100

You ask if I will accept tithe from you and use it in the cause of God where most needed. In reply I will say that I shall not refuse to do this... Letter 96, 1911 2MR 101

The colored people of the South need the sympathy and help of everyone. I would invite those who have means that they are willing to invest in the cause of God to send to me donations for this needy field, and I will see that the means thus received is sent to the workers in the South. PCO 105

## Encouraging Individuals -- to give Tithe directly to workers

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I commend those sisters who have placed their tithe where it is most needed to help to do a work that is being left undone. Letter 267, 1905 2MR 100

In regard to the colored work in the South, that field has been and is still being robbed of the means that should come to the workers in that field. If there have been cases where our sisters have appropriated their tithe to the support of the ministers working for the colored people in the South, let every man, if he is wise, **hold his peace**. 2MR 99

# God works on a Plan A and Plan B

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## Plan A - Tithe is given to Trustworthy leaders to distribute

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You ask if I will accept tithe from you and use it in the cause of God where most needed. In reply I will say that I shall not refuse to do this, but at the same time I will tell you that there is a better way. It is better to put confidence in the ministers of the conference where you live and in the officers of the church where you worship. Letter 96, 1911 2MR 101

## Leadership Statement - Plan A and Plan B

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EW Estate Document File 213 often attributed to A.G. Daniells, W.W. Prescott, W.C. White, and Dr. Rand, c. 1907

<u>Plan A</u>	<u>Plan B</u>
<p>“As to the proper use of the tithe: the outline of a statement upon this subject which was agreed upon was briefly this: To give extracts from Sister White’s writings as to the tithe and its use; to show that her testimony and her own usual practice was in favor of paying the tithe into the <u>regularly designated treasury</u>, to be used under the counsel of the committees appointed for such purposes;</p>	<p>to show further from her writings that <u>when those who have charge of the expenditure of the tithe so far fail in the discharge of their duty</u> that the regularly organized channels for the distribution of the tithe become hindrances to its proper use, <u>then in order to carry out the divine plan</u> that the tithe should be expended in the wisest manner for the furtherance of the work, <u>individuals have the right to pay their tithes direct to needy fields</u>; but that this involves a considerable degree of personal responsibility, which must be assumed by those who decide to follow this plan. It was thought that this matter could be handled in a way to show that the departure from the regular plan was authorized only when the regular plans failed to be carried out by those in positions of responsibility.</p>

It would be poor policy to support from the treasury of God those who really mar and injure His work, and who are constantly lowering the standard of Christianity. 3T 553

## Plan B: When Leaders fail in their duty

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In regard to the colored work in the South, that field has been and is still being robbed of the means that should come to the workers in that field. If there have been cases where our sisters have appropriated their tithe to the support of the ministers working for the colored people in the South, let every man, if he is wise, hold his peace. I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. I have been instructed to do this, and as the money is not withheld from the Lord's treasury, it is not a matter that should be commented upon, for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best. 2MR 99

# Needy fields are instructed to – Ask for means

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Every minister of the gospel needs to understand that those whom the Lord chooses to carry forward a special work in needy fields are to have freedom to solicit means from their brethren. 2SAT 307

Present to the churches the true state of the long-neglected field... Call for means to come directly to the workers in the Southern field. GH 4-1-1905

## Now is the time to give directly to faithful workers

The time has now come when these faithful workers should receive from their brethren, the Lord's stewards, the means that they need to carry on successfully the work... 1908) SpM 425

There are to be no kings in our work, no man who will put out his hand and say to God's workmen, "You cannot go there; we will not support you if you go there." "We!" What have they to do with the supporting? Is the means of support theirs? The money comes from the people, and **God has instructed me** to tell those who are working in destitute fields to go to the people and tell them their necessity. They are to draw from the people means to build up the work in the field where they are. 1888 1736

## “Appeal to the People”

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You ask me what you shall do in view of the fact that so little help is given to that department of the work... I would say, "...**Appeal to the people**. This is the only course you can pursue, under the circumstances. Send no statement of the situation through our religious papers; because it will not be honored. Send direct to the people. **God's ways** are not to be counterworked by man's ways.... Have this money come direct to your destitute portion of the vineyard. SpM 498

There are to be no kings in our work, no man who will put out his hand and say to God's workmen, "You cannot go there; we will not support you if you go there." "We!" What have they to do with the supporting? Is the means of support theirs? The money comes from the people, and God has instructed me to tell those who are working in destitute fields to go to the people and tell them their necessity. They are to draw from the people means to build up the work in the field where they are. 1888 1736

Mother... says that whenever the Lord has plainly spoken regarding an important work that is being neglected, as in the case of the work among the Southern people, and then the General Conference continues to neglect it, that the workers connected with the missionary enterprise are free to go to the churches anywhere and everywhere, and raise means for the prosecution of the work that has been plainly pointed out should be done. Letter from W.C. White to Percy T. Magan, 1899, *W.C. White Letters*, 270

## Madison School is Instructed to Solicit funds

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Brethren [E. A.] Sutherland and [P. T.] Magan should be encouraged to solicit means for the support of their work. It is the privilege of these brethren to receive gifts from any of our people whom the Lord impresses to help. They should have means--God's means--with which to work.... Our people are to be encouraged to give of their means to this work... 11MR 191

Some have entertained the idea that because the school at Madison is not owned by a conference organization, those who are in charge of the school should not be permitted to call upon our people for the means that is greatly needed to carry on their work. ***This idea needs to be corrected.*** SpM 411

Help is to be sought from every possible source. ...the hand of restraint is not to be laid upon them. SpM 421, 422

Brethren Sutherland and Magan should be ***encouraged to solicit means for the support*** of their work. It is the privilege of these brethren to receive gifts from any of our people whom the Lord impresses to help.... Our people are to be encouraged to give of their means to this work... SpM 422

You are doing double what they are. Take all the donations you can get. The money belongs to the Lord and not to these men. The position they take is not of God. (Magan Diary, May 7, 1907, Paradise Valley)

## Man-made Rules and Restrictions

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### 1908 Conference Resolution

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- require approval from Conference to solicit funds for a needy work

Resolved, that any special enterprises for which donations are solicited from the people should first receive the sanction of the General Conference and the union Conference in which such enterprise is undertaken. And that any person sent out to solicit such donations first receive suitable credentials from the union Conference from which he comes, and that satisfactory arrangements be made, certified in writing, with the union and local conferences in which he wishes to solicit before he enters upon his work. Report in the *Review and Herald*, May 14, 1908

### Ellen White's Response

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When I read the resolution published in the Review, placing so many restrictions upon those who may be sent out to gather funds for the building up of institutions in needy and destitute fields, I was sorry for the many restrictions. I can but feel sad, for unless the converting grace of God come into the conferences, **a course will be taken that will bring the displeasure of God upon them.** We have had enough of the spirit of forbidding.

Representations have been made to me of a work that ***does not bear the divine credentials.*** The prohibitions that have been bound about labors of those who would go forth to warn the people in the cities of the soon-coming judgments, should every one be removed. None are to be hindered from bearing the message of present truth to the world. Let the workers receive their directions from God. When the Holy Spirit impresses the believer to do a certain work for God, leave the matter to him and to the Lord. Letter written by Sister White to officers of the General Conference, May 26, 1908

# Lord has not specified a regular channel for means

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Do not worry lest some means shall go direct to those who are trying to do missionary work in a quiet and effective way. All the means is not to be handled by one agency or organization. 2MR 421

The Lord has not specified any regular channel through which means should pass. SpM 498

## All funds are not to go through the Conference

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God declares that when he sends workers to any place, they are under his supervision. It is not in his order that two or three men shall plan for the whole Conference, and decide how the tithe shall be used, as though the tithe were a fund of their own. GCB, April 5, 1901

God grant that the **voices** which have been so quickly raised to say that all the money invested in the work must go through the appointed channel at Battle Creek, shall not be heard. The people to whom God has given his means are **amenable to him alone.** It is their privilege to give direct aid and assistance to missions. SpM 176, 177

Do not worry lest some means shall go direct to those who are trying to do missionary work in a quiet and effective way. All the means is not to be handled by one agency or organization. [January 6, 1908] SpM 421, 422

The Lord would have His people under His jurisdiction. They should look to God, inquiring of Him in faith, and follow on to know the working of His providence. The arrangement that all moneys must go through Battle Creek and under the control of the few men in that place is a wrong way of managing. TM 321

While it is not your own property that you are handling yet you are made responsible for its wise investment... God does not lay upon you the burden of asking the Conference or any council of men whether you shall use **your means** as you see fit to advance the work of God... We are Not to Merge Our Individuality of Judgment Into Any Institution IN OUR WORLD. We are to look to God for wisdom, as did Daniel. PH146 45

God declares that when he sends workers to any place, they are under his supervision. It is not in his order that two or three men shall plan for the whole Conference, and decide how the tithe shall be used, as though the tithe were a fund of their own. GCB, April 5, 1901

## God does not ask us to give to Unfaithful Leaders

How can God move upon the churches to contribute their hard-earned means to be handled by men who are self-sufficient, selfish, and so arrogant and over-bearing that the frown of God is upon them? Our institutions need cleansing as did the temple when Christ was upon the earth. 1888 1400

# Stewardship: Is our Personal Responsibility

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The Lord has made us individually his stewards. We each hold a solemn responsibility to invest this means ourselves.... God does not lay upon you the burden of asking the conference or any council if you shall use means entrusted to you by God as you shall see fit, to advance the work of God... 1888 1442

Let those who have brain power to write books remember that they have power to manage the royalty they receive. They should lead out in some lines of benevolence in the cause and work of God. They are not to allow the means to be taken from them by making other minds of stewards of their productions. To every man and woman the Lord has given his work, and the responsibility of the use of God's gifts rests with the one who has been entrusted with means. There are ways in which each one entrusted with talents can use these talents. They should have keen perception to know where means are needed, and be able to give something to relieve the need. PH079 11

## Step One: Investigate the Needs of workers

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There are many needy missionary fields that call for our help.... We pray that the Lord will give you wisdom to place your means where it will build up the cause of God in the earth. SpM 426

### Exercise Personal Judgment

By exercising your own judgment, giving where you see there is need in any line of the work, you are putting out your money to the exchangers. If you see in any locality that the truth is gaining a foothold, and there is no place of worship, then do something to meet the necessity. 1888 1443, 1444

### Ask God to show you where to help

The Lord will plan for us if we will let him do this. It is his money, not ours, and he expects that every one will ask wisdom from him in regard to the use he makes of his means. Places that have so great need of workers and facilities as Europe and London are a world in themselves... PH079 15

### Needs will be Revealed to you

When my attention was called to aged ministers, white or black, it was my special duty to investigate into their necessities and supply their needs. 2MR 99

...the steward of means will not be guiltless before God, unless, so far as he is able to do this, he shall use that means as circumstances shall reveal the necessity. We should be ready to help the suffering, and to set in operation plans to advance the truth in various ways. It is not in the province of the Conference or any other organization to relieve us of this stewardship. 1888 1443

## Supply the need that is being left undone

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Some cases have been kept before me for years, and I have supplied their needs from the tithe, as God has instructed me to do. And if any person shall say to me, Sister White, will you appropriate my tithe where you know it is most needed, I shall say, Yes, I will; and I have done so. I commend those sisters who have placed their tithe where it is most needed to help to do a work that is being left undone. {2MR 100.1}

## EW uses her earnings where God shows a need

...when I learned of the need of a meeting-house in Brisbane, I immediately sent them one hundred pounds. PH079 13

## We are Blessed – as we see the fruits of giving

If difficulties come up in missionary fields, let interested investigation be made without delay... By using the knowledge God has given them men will gain a clear, sharp experience. By exercising their God-given ability in helping to plant the standard of truth in new territory, they will receive great blessing. After they have unselfishly tried to gain a right understanding of the situation, they are to approach the mercy seat, asking for clear intuition and an unselfish purpose, that they may see the necessities of far off fields. As they ask the Lord to help them to advance the work in regions beyond, they will receive grace from on high. KC 117

## We can't give away our Stewardship responsibility

Do we individually realize our true position, that as God's hired servants **we are not to bargain away our stewardship**? We have an **individual accountability** before the heavenly universe to administer the trust (funds) committed us of God. 1888 1445

While it is not your property that you are handling, yet you are made responsible for its wise investment... God does not lay upon you the burden of asking the conference or any council if you shall use means entrusted to you by God as you shall see fit, to advance the work of God... 1888 1444

It is not our property that is entrusted to us for investment. If it had been... we might shift the responsibility upon others, and leave our stewardship with others. But This Can Not be, because the Lord is testing us Individually. If we act wisely in trading upon our Lord's goods and multiplying the talents given us, we shall invest this gain for the Master, praying for wisdom that we may be divested of all selfishness, and laboring most earnestly to advance the precious truth in our world. PH146 44

Some men or councils may say, 'That is just what *we wish you to do*. The Conference Committee will take your capital, and will appropriate it for this very object.' **But** the Lord has made us individually His stewards. **We each hold a solemn responsibility to invest this means ourselves**. A portion it is right to place in the treasury to advance the general interests of the work; but the steward of means will not be guiltless before God, unless, so far as he is able to do this, he shall use that means as circumstances shall reveal the necessity. We should be ready to help the suffering, and to set in operation plans to advance the truth in various ways. It is not in the province of the Conference or Any Other Organization to relieve us of this stewardship. If you lack wisdom, go to God; ask him for yourself, then work with an eye single to his glory. PH146 45

## We are Responsible for the good we could have done

All should feel their accountability to appropriate the means as the different necessities of the work shall demand. There are poor to be helped. If you put out of your power the talents [funds] lent you of God to do this work, you are held responsible for the work you should have done. PH079 14



# Who & What is Lord's Treasury / Storehouse?

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God has not changed; the tithe is still to be used for the support of the ministry. The opening of new fields requires more ministerial efficiency than we now have, and there must be means in the treasury. GW 227

I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. I have been instructed to do this; and **as the money is not withheld from the Lord's treasury**, it is not a matter that should be commented upon, for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best. Lt 267, 1905 2MR 99

## All who are spreading the Gospel

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### Needy Fields

I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. I have been instructed to do this; and **as the money is not withheld from the Lord's treasury**, it is not a matter that should be commented upon, for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best. Letter 267, 1905 2MR 99

### Gospel Workers

I will feel it in my duty to create a fund from my tithe money, to pay these women who are accomplishing just as essential work as the ministers are doing, and this tithe I will reserve for work in the same line as that of the ministers, hunting for souls, fishing for souls. I know that the faithful women should be paid wages proportionate to the pay received by ministers. They carry the burden of souls, and should not be treated unjustly. These sisters are giving their time to educating those newly come to the faith, and hire their own work done, and pay those who work for them. SpM 117

### Tithe is for -- the Work of Spreading the Gospel

Of all your possessions I reserve a tenth for Myself, besides gifts and offerings, which are to be brought into My storehouse. This is the provision God has made for carrying forward the work of the gospel. CS 65

### Tithe is -- Given to the Lord

The Lord calls for His tithe to be given in to His treasury. Strictly, honestly, and faithfully, let this portion be returned to Him. CS 82

The tithe is the Lord's; and He bids us return to Him that which is His own. Ed 138

He who gave his only-begotten Son to die for you, has made a covenant with you. He gives you His blessings, and in return He requires you to bring Him your tithes and offerings. AG 151

# Tithe has a Specific Use

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The tithe is set apart for a special use. RH Dec. 1, 1896

God has given special direction as to the use to which the tithe should be devoted.... That there may be no haphazard work and no error, he has made our duty on all these points very plain. The portion that God has reserved for himself is not to be diverted to any other purpose than that which he has specified. RH 11-10-1896

A tithe of all our increase is the Lord's. He has reserved it to Himself, to be employed for religious purposes CS 67

The Lord calls for His tithe to be given in to His treasury. Strictly, honestly, and faithfully, let this portion be returned to Him. CS 82

## **Tithe is the Firstfruits of our Increase -- It is to be Set apart First**

Not only does the Lord claim the tithe as His own, but He tells us how it should be reserved for Him. He says, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase." This does not teach that we are to spend our means on ourselves and bring to the Lord the remnant, even though it should be otherwise an honest tithe. Let God's portion be first set apart. AH 389

Let each regularly examine his income, which is all a blessing from God, and set apart the tithe as a separate fund, to be sacredly the Lord's. This fund should not in any case be devoted to any other use; it is to be devoted solely to support the ministry of the gospel. RH 5-9-1893

## **Tithe is the Lord's money**

"All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord."... A tithe of all our increase is the Lord's. He has reserved it to Himself, to be employed for religious purposes. It is holy. Nothing less than this has He accepted in any dispensation. RH May 16, 1882

A neglect or postponement of this duty, will provoke the divine displeasure. RH May 16, 1882

In like manner a tithe of our income is "holy unto the Lord." RH May 16, 1882

Humility, self-denial, benevolence, and the payment of a faithful tithe, these show that the grace of God is working in the heart. CH 590

## **Tithing is a Blessing**

This system of tithing was a blessing to the Jews, else God would not have given it them. So also will it be a blessing to those who carry it out to the end of time. Our heavenly Father did not originate the plan of systematic benevolence to enrich Himself, but to be a great blessing to man. He saw that this system of beneficence was just what man needed. 3T 404, 405

## **Withholding Tithe is Robbery**

For a long time the Lord has been robbed because there are those who do not realize that the tithe is God's reserved portion. CS 93

The tithe is the Lord's, and those who meddle with it will be punished with the loss of their heavenly treasure, unless they repent. GW 227

## **Make Restitution of Tithe that has been withheld**

There are many who will not be blessed till they make restitution of the tithe which they have withheld. God is waiting for you to redeem the past.... Let those who have kept back their tithe make an accurate reckoning, and bring to the Lord that of which they have robbed His work. Make restitution, and bring the Lord peace offerings. "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me." RH 12-10-1901

## **Tithe is to support**

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### **Faithful Worker**

The tithe should go to those who labor in word and doctrine, be they men or women. Ev 492

The tithe ...is to be especially devoted to the support of those who are bearing God's message to the world... RH 12-1-1896

### **To send Workers into New Fields**

God... claims the tithe as His own, and it should ever be regarded as a sacred reserve, to be placed in His treasury for the benefit of His cause, for the advancement of His work, for sending His messengers into "regions beyond," even to the uttermost parts of the earth. CS 71

### **Ministers and Evangelists**

Instruction has been given me that there is a withholding of the tithe that should be faithfully brought into the Lord's treasury, for the support of the ministers and missionaries who are opening the Scriptures to the people, and working from house to house.... The **ministers and evangelists who are laboring in the Lord's vineyard, must be supported.** RH, April 20, 1905

### **Bible Teachers and Bible Workers**

Our conferences should see that the schools are provided with teachers who are thorough **Bible teachers** and who have a deep Christian experience. The best ministerial talent should be brought into schools, and the salaries of these teachers should be paid from the tithe. 1MR 189

Light has been plainly given that those who minister in our schools, teaching the word of God, explaining the Scriptures, educating the students in the things of God, should be supported by the tithe money. 6T 215

The best ministerial talent should be employed to lead and direct in the teaching of the Bible in our schools. Those chosen for this work need to be thorough Bible students; they should be men who have a deep Christian experience, and their salary should be paid from the tithe. The Bible teacher should be one who is able to teach the students how to present the truths of the word of God in a clear, winning manner in public and how to do effective evangelistic work from house to house. CT 431

## **Spread of Literature**

...while some go forth to preach, He calls upon others to answer to His claims upon them for tithes and offerings with which to support the ministry and to spread the printed truth all over the land. 4T 472

## **Medical Missionaries**

Some ...say that the tithe should not be used to support medical missionaries, who devote their time to treating the sick. In response to such statements as these, I am instructed to say that the mind must not become so narrowed down that it cannot take in the truth of the situation. A minister of the gospel who is also a medical missionary, who can cure physical ailments, is a much more efficient worker than one who cannot do this. His work as a minister of the gospel is much more complete. MM 245

You will never be ministers after the gospel order till you show a decided interest in medical missionary work, the gospel of healing and blessing and strengthening. GCB, April 12, 1901

## **Missions**

There are missions to be sustained in fields where there are no churches and no tithes, and also where the believers are new and the tithe limited. If you have means that is not needed after settling with your ministers in a liberal manner, send the Lord's money to these destitute places. 1MR 182, 184.

## **Women Workers**

These women give their whole time, and are told that they receive nothing for their labors because their husbands receive their wages.... The Word says, "The laborer is worthy of his hire." When any such decision as this is made, I will in the name of the Lord, protest. I will feel it in my duty to create a fund from my tithe money, to pay these women who are accomplishing just as essential work as the ministers are doing, and this tithe I will reserve for work in the same line as that of the ministers, hunting for souls, fishing for souls. I know that the faithful women should be paid wages proportionate to the pay received by ministers.... These sisters are giving their time to educating those newly come to the faith, and hire their own work done, and pay those who work for them. All these things must be adjusted and set in order, and justice be done to all. SpM 117

## **Sometimes Public Worship**

*There are exceptional cases*, where poverty is so deep that in order to secure the humblest place of worship, it may be necessary to appropriate the tithes. 1MR 191 In the Hebrew economy one tenth of the income of the people was set apart to support the public worship of God. PP 525

## **Support Faithful Independent Workers**

Some have entertained the idea that because the school at Madison is not owned by a conference organization, those who are in charge of the school should not be permitted to call upon our people for the means that is greatly needed to carry on their work. This idea needs to be corrected. In the distribution of the money that comes into the Lord's treasury, you are entitled to a portion just as verily as are those connected with other needy enterprises that are carried forward in harmony with the Lord's instruction. SpM 411

## **Tithe is not used for:**

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### **Care of the Poor, the Sick, and the Aged**

Through circumstances some will become poor. It may be that they were not careful, that they did not know how to manage. Others through sickness or misfortune are poor. Whatever is the reason, they are in need, and to help them is an important line of home missionary work. These unfortunate, needy ones should not be sent away from home to be cared for. Let each church feel its responsibility to have a special interest in the feeble and the aged. One or two among them can certainly be taken care of. The tithe should not be appropriated for this work." 1900 MR 177

"The tithe is set apart for a special use. It is not to be regarded as a poor fund." CS 103

### **Education of Needy Students**

Now in regard to educating students in our schools. It is a good idea; it will have to be done; but God forbid that in the place of practicing self-denial and self-sacrifice our individual selves, to do this work, we should subtract from the Lord's portion, specially reserved to sustain the ministers in active labor in the field... 13MR 283

"All these things are to be done, as you propose, to help students to obtain an education, but I ask you, Shall we not all act in this matter unselfishly, and create a fund, and keep it to draw upon on such occasions? When you see a young man or a young woman who are promising subjects, advance or loan the sum needed, with the idea that it is a loan, not a gift. It would be better to have it thus. Then when it is returned, it can be used to educate others. But this money is not to be taken from the tithe, but from a separate fund secured for that purpose." 1897 1MR 193, 194.

### **School Purposes and Colporteur Support**

One reasons that the tithe may be applied to school purposes. Still others reason that canvassers and colporteurs should be supported from the tithe. But a great mistake is made when the tithe is drawn from the object for which it is to be used--the support of the ministers. . . . Provision is to be made for these other lines of work. They are to be sustained, but not from the tithe."--9T 248-250 (1909).

### **Church Expense**

I was shown that it is wrong to use the tithe for defraying the incidental expenses of the church.... You are robbing God every time that you put your hands into the treasury for funds to meet the running expenses of the church." CS 103

His people today are to remember that the house of worship is the Lord's property and that it is to be scrupulously cared for. But the funds for this work are not to come from the tithe. 9T 248

## **We are responsible to Investigate it's Use**

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### **Investigate – How is the money being used?**

The churches must arouse. The members must awake out of sleep and begin to inquire, **How is the money which we put into the treasury being used?** The Lord desires that a close search be made. Are all satisfied with the history of the work for the past fifteen years? Where is the

evidence of the co-working with God?... Dissatisfied and disheartened, we turn away from the scene. KC 120

The rooms in the office need inspection, that the things you know not, you may discern and search out. The temple of God must be cleansed, that His name shall not be dishonored by men who are not connected with Him. Lt 86, 1896 PM 135

A strict examination should be made in regard to the business that has been transacted in Battle Creek. This will show the standing of the institution. This examination should have been made long ago. The business standing of all our medical institutions is to be carefully and correctly presented before our people, that they may know the real situation of the medical work, where it stands, what it is doing, whether or not it is producing as well as consuming. BCL 107

### **Donors have a right to Examine Every Business Transaction**

Those who made donations to the work in the South have a right to know that their money never reached the destitute field for which it was intended.... May the Lord open the eyes of His people that they may see, and give them understanding that they may perceive. ...I have been shown God's displeasure at the robbery of a field of its own donated treasure. This money should never have been used to cancel debts. ...should the Pacific Press have laid hands on the money sacredly dedicated to the Lord, donated by His people to the Southern field? Is it thus that the work of God is to be mingled with the wood, hay, and stubble of man's inventions? Is it not time that in every one of the Lord's institutions faithful, trustworthy men be appointed by the people to examine every business transaction? Lt 98, 1899 21MR 145

God's stewards are not ...to use much-needed money in a vague, careless way, taking little pains to ascertain the results of the appropriations. BCL 46

Those in responsible places are to act in such a way that the people will have firm confidence in them. These men should not be afraid to open to the light of day everything in the management of the work. 13MR 198

There is not a class of people in the world who are more willing to sacrifice of their means to advance the cause than are Seventh-day Adventists. If the ministers do not utterly discourage them by their indolence and inefficiency, and by their lack of spirituality, they will generally respond to any appeal that may be made that commends itself to their judgment and consciences. **But they want to see fruit**. And **it is right** that the brethren... **should demand fruit of their ministers**. What have they done? What are they doing? 3T 49

### **We are Responsible for its Use or Abuse**

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It is not our own means intrusted to us for investment.... The capital is the Lord's. **We are responsible for its use or abuse**. RH January 5, 1869

While it is not your own property that you are handling, yet **you are made responsible for its wise investment, for its use or abuse**. God does not lay upon you the burden of asking the Conference or any council of men whether you shall use your means as you see fit to advance the work of God in destitute towns and cities, and impoverished localities. (1895) PH080 42

# EW Counsels to speak quietly on this subject

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## 1905, Jan 22 Letter

My brother, I wish to say to you, Be careful how you move. You are not moving wisely. The least you have to speak about the tithe that has been appropriated to the most needy and the most discouraging field in the world, the more sensible you will be.

"It has been presented to me for years that my tithe was to be appropriated by myself to aid the white and colored ministers who were neglected and did not receive sufficient properly to support their families. When my attention was called to aged ministers, white or black, it was my special duty to investigate into their necessities and supply their needs. This was to be my special work, and I have done this in a number of cases. No man should give notoriety to the fact that in special cases the tithe is used in that way.

"In regard to the colored work in the South, that field has been and is still being robbed of the means that should come to the workers in that field. If there have been cases where our sisters have appropriated their tithe to the support of the ministers working for the colored people in the South, let every man, if he is wise, hold his peace.

"I have myself appropriated my tithe to the most needy cases brought to my notice. I have been instructed to do this; and as the money is not withheld from the Lord's treasury, it is not a matter that should be commented upon, for it will necessitate my making known these matters, which I do not desire to do, because it is not best.

"Some cases have been kept before me for years, and I have supplied their needs from the tithe, as God has instructed me to do. And if any person shall say to me, Sister White, will you appropriate my tithe where you know it is most needed, I shall say Yes, I will; and I have done so. I commend those sisters who have placed their tithe where it is most needed to help to do a work that is being left undone. If this matter is given publicity, it will create a knowledge which would better be left as it is. I do not care to give publicity to this work which the Lord has appointed me to do, and others to do.

"I send this matter to you so that you shall not make a mistake. Circumstances alter cases. I would not advise that anyone should make a practice of gathering up tithe money. But for years there have now and then been persons who have lost confidence in the appropriation of the tithe, who have placed their tithe in my hands and said that if I did not take it they would themselves appropriate it to the families of the most needy ministers they could find. I have taken the money, given a receipt for it, and told them how it was appropriated.

"I write this to you so that you shall keep cool and not become stirred up and give publicity to this matter, lest many more shall follow their example." 2MR 99