

Simply Stewardship

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Phillipians 4:6

Volume 3, Number 4

July-August, 1996

Tithing: an Act of Belief

This ministry is blessed by one thing. God has provided it with all the money it needs. We don't need to ask you for your donation and we no longer have to sell membership in SSN in order to "stay afloat."

That also means that we can write to you about tithing without the suspicion of ulterior motives.

Simply Stewardship was founded on the principle that the family of God has much more than it knows, and that what little it does know that it has it distributes very poorly. God's abundance winds up in our attic in boxes, or in our storage bins, or thrown out after it rots.

Simply Stewardship was also founded on the idea that God expects us to be much better stewards of what He has given us than we currently are.

Scripture describes the early church this way: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to everyone as he had need" (Acts 2:44-45).

This is a much more rich heritage than the world leaves. The world cares for itself using vain and deceitful philosophies such as communism and socialism, where possessions are taken, and capital-

ism, where necessity and greed motivate people to build empires.

The early believers earned money and possessions, and shared them of their own free will as they saw fit. They shared their things before God as God would have them do; as God prefigured in the act of tithing in the time of the law.

Tithing was given as a requirement in Leviticus 27:30, "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord," and reiterated by God in Malachi 3:8, "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings."

Tithing has gone out of vogue in many Christian families for a number of reasons. Christian will declare to themselves that, after all, tithing was part of the Old Testament era of the law, and we now live under grace. There is no need to continue to labor under a law we are now free from.

Others will circumvent their tithe. They will say that the only money they get is the money they receive after taxes. They tithe their take-home pay instead. I know a man who tithes what he wants to make instead of what he does in a step of faith before his Lord, Jesus Christ.

Which brings us to the heart of the question. Why does God ask us to tithe? It's not like He needs the money, you know. Our God owns everything anyway.

It occurs to me that the tithe is not something God instituted for Himself or even for the priests and religious structure of the day. The tithe is not for your minister or missionaries. God can provide for them as he did for the apostle Paul.

Think about it. What makes it hard to give a tithe? It seems to be such a lot of money to give to a church that has so much already. My \$150 or \$200 is much more valuable to me in my home than if I send it to my church.

So we keep God's tithe back one month. He doesn't need the money.

Meanwhile, we have just demonstrated to God something basic about our faith. We've demonstrated how little we believe in Him. Let me ask you this: If God was in His throne room with all it's beauty and majesty and you saw one little jewel in the corner, would you try to steal it from Him?

In the same way, when you stand before God in the home He

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Services Offered



Member's Needs

Christian Baby-sitter. A home schooled 12 year old girl who is the oldest of 4 children would like to baby-sit for other Christian families. If interested, call Amanda: 679-0428

TEC-LOCK: Emergency 24 hour locksmithing is certified, bonded and insured. Michael offers a 10% when you mention that you are a member of Simply Stewardship. 570-0988; Pager, 237-1499

"FYI" - Milw. Co. Zoo is offering discount admission tickets that are redeemable from 5/1/96-9/2/96. Collect 3 UPC codes for each ticket desired from "It's in the Bag" products. Mail the codes with \$2 for each child's ticket and \$3 for each adult ticket ordered. Normally these tickets are \$5.50 and \$7.50 respectively. Also include a stamped, self addressed business size envelope. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can order. Mail all items to MACC Fund Coupon Offer. P.O. Box 524, Brookfield, WI 53008-0524 Requests must be postmarked by 7/1/96.

ALSO... many libraries in Wisconsin are having summer reading programs. Some offer free tickets to area attractions for meeting a specific reading goal. Our library is offering free tickets to Milw. Co. Zoo and tickets to Circus World Museum. Check into your local library for more details.

Two matching, sturdy, wooden dining chairs. Sherry: 662-0247

Sewing Machine. More stitch options than just a straight stitch needed. Free arm preferable but not necessary. Virginia: 521-9622

Richard "Little Bear" Wheeler videos or cassettes dealing with early American history. Sherry: 662-0247

Large Weber Grill. Renee: 483-2828

Youth size recurve or compound bow. Sherry: 662-0247

Rollerskates or Blades. Men's size 8-9. Sherry: 662-0247

Alpha-Omega Science. Grades 4 and 5. History curriculum grade 6. Renee: 483-2828

VCR in working condition. Renee: 483-2828

Trundle Bed. Renee: 483-2828

Christian Piano Teacher in New Berlin/Muskego/Waukesha/Mukwonago area. Sherry: 662-0247

Two family duplex with 3-4 bedrooms in each unit. Rent with option to buy would be ideal. Rena: 383-3548

Food Dehydrator: Diane: 251-4374

Riding Lawnmower. Diane: 251-4374

An accessible place to park our mobile home and trailer when we are in town. A total of about 40' is needed from now throughout the winter. We are willing to rent this

space. Please leave a message on our voice mail. Mark or Jan: (414) 327-4288.

Maytag washer and dryer in good condition. We would prefer a gas dryer. Kay or Sandra: 272-0380

Baby-sitter for Wednesday evenings in the Menomonee Falls/Sussex area. Rosemarie: 463-1399

Pressure cooker and canning jars. Nad: 542-9669

Metal shelving for a garage. Nad: 542-9669

Microscope: Nad: 542-9669

Yogurt maker. Holly: 789-0796

Weaving Loom. Karen: 251-3563

For Sale



Weaver Curriculum Volume I - \$25; Weaver Wisdom Words - \$25; both for \$40. Diane: 251-4374

Baby Stroller in good condition. Not the umbrella style. \$30: Sherry 662-0247

Men's Summer Pants. Four pairs available, three have never been worn. Size 38x30. Please make an offer. Kellie: 253-6788

Two Men's Bikes for sale or trade for a ladies 10 speed bike. 1) Schwinn Varsity 10 Speed 2) Firenze 12 Speed. Mark or Susan: 521-3461

Tithing

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provided for you, and you look at that tithe which is holy to the Lord, that you owe to Him, would you dare to steal it? Would you dare to spend it, instead, on video rentals and snacks and dinner out?

God does not ask you to tithe because He needs the money. He asks you to tithe so you can demonstrate your belief in him. He's giving you the opportunity to demonstrate your love for Him. It's an act of worship. An act of faith. An act of trust.

I would challenge you to examine your faith in the light of your tithe and ask yourself if you truly believe in Him - even when it's tough. When God asks for your all, will you give it? Will you tithe even when it's ridiculous to tithe? Are you a hilarious giver?

In Him, Sherry & Dan

Free Membership in Simply Stewardship

Join Simply Stewardship for free! Six issues, free ads (up to 3 issues per ad)

Simply Stewardship

W229 S9025 Jackson Pky

Big Bend, WI 53103

(414) 662-0247 FAX 662-0640

SSN Ad Deadline:

Issue: September-October

Date: 8/25

**CALL ME WITH AD
UPDATES PLEASE!**

The Free Box

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

Large wooden dog house. Fair shape. Karen: 549-1585

Oscar Kitchen Center Mixer. I have some attachments. No blender. Karen: 549-1585

Hoover Quickbroom. Karen: 549-1585

Oreck Vacuum. It needs some work but it is functional. Sherry: 662-0247

Drapes. They fit a sliding glass door. Beige, lined. Karla: 662-3163

Blackboards are available from Youth With A Mission. They are green coated & 48" x 84" large. You could build a frame for them or simply glue the

board directly to a wall. Call Glenn @ 521-9622 or Warren at YWAM @ 623-4995 for more information.

55 gallon aquarium with iron stand and light. Valeri: 252-4727

Car Alarm. Never used. Kay or Sandra: 272-0380

Large auto cover in good condition. Kay or Sandra: 272-0380

Baby walker/float. Kellie: 253-6788

National Geographic Storage Binders. I have 16 and each one holds 6 magazines. Sherry: 662-0247

Stereo Storage Cabinet with glass doors. Measures 44" h x 19" w. Sherry: 662-0247

Etc. Etc. Etc.

There are a number of things that I would like to share with you that may be of interest.

- ♦ First of all we will once again be having a Fall Clothing Drive. The details are still in the making but rest assured that we will have them for you in the next issue. In the meantime, keep it in mind as your children outgrow their summer clothing or as you begin to think of clothing needs for the fall. Remember, this clothing drive is not only for those who may consider themselves "needy". It is for every Christian that is in need of clothing or that has clothing they no longer need themselves. The goal is

to be better stewards of what our Lord has entrusted to us and also be tools that He uses in order to meet the needs of other Christians. The clothing drive will also be an outreach. Start praying now about who the Lord is urging you to invite to the drive.

- ♦ Simply Stewardship Network has a number of members that are self employed or have a service that they would like to advertise to the rest of the membership. We would like to compile a list of those of you who are interested in letting others in Simply Stewardship know about your service

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or business. We will be printing the list separately and send it out on an annual basis to the membership. If you are interested, please send us your name and the pertinent information on your business or service. Be sure to include how people can reach you, what service you offer and whether you are interested in trading services. The deadline is October 15, 1996.

- ◆ You can find free "stuff" for crafters on the Internet. The latest additions to the list include a bowmaker, Friendly Plastic earring and pin kit, candlewicking kit and others. You can find them at <http://www.ppi-free.com/freestf2.htm> If you are interested in these items but do not have access to the Internet, drop us a note. If there is enough interest we will go back to printing the items with their mailing addresses.
- ◆ We have another Internet find

that may interest our home educating members...History/Social Studies Website for K-12 Teachers. Their address is <http://execpc.com/~dboals> They offer many things that you may be able to incorporate into your current curriculum or possibly build unit studies from. We have found rare maps that we printed off, and history

modules for American and world history. In some parts of the site they even offer lesson plans. One word of caution is warranted. We found that we would not use some of the information due to a conflict of world views. All things considered it is still worth taking a look at and you can decide for yourselves.

DISCOUNTED AUTO INSURANCE

Accessories, classes or even circumstances qualify you for discounts. Listed are some of the discounts you may be entitled to & how much they can save you.

<u>DISCOUNT</u>	<u>COVERAGE AFFECTED</u>	<u>SAVINGS</u>
Defensive driving course	Most coverage	5% - 10%
Multi-car	All coverage	10% - 25%
Good driver	All coverage	5% - 10%
Automatic belts & Air Bags	Medical	10% - 60%
Antitheft devices	Comprehensive	5% - 50%
Anti-lock brakes	Collision, Medical, Property	5% - 10%
Student driver training	All coverage	10%
Good student	Most coverage	5% - 25%
Student away at school	Most coverage	10% - 40%

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Big Bend, WI 53103

Important Note to Members

The date you see in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label is your renewal date. If your renewal date is this month, then it is time to let us know you wish to renew. If you want your name removed from the list, let us know that too!