

DYNAMIC Steward

living • submitting • abiding • giving

October-December, 2015

Stewards of Technology

Inside DS

Resources

Concept

Interview

Sermon

- Go!

Perspective

- AWR: Harnessing Technology for Ministry

In Practice

- Use Whatever You Have!

Commitment

- Stewards of Technology

Young Adult

- Connected!

Report

- God's Desire for Me to Be Wealthy!





My all in response to God's all!

The *Dynamic Steward* grants permission for any article (not a reprint) to be printed, for use in a local church setting such as a small group, Sabbath School, or classroom.

The following credit must be given: Used by permission of the *Dynamic Steward*. Copyright © 2015.

Specific permission must be obtained for any other use.

The *Dynamic Steward* is published quarterly by the Stewardship Ministries Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA
Tel: +1 301-680-6157

Fax: +1 301-680-6155

gcstewardship@gc.adventist.org

www.adventiststewardship.com

www.facebook.com/Dynamicstewards

www.issuu.com/Dynamicsteward

EDITOR

Larry R. Evans

EvansL@gc.adventist.org

ASSISTANT EDITOR/GRAPHICS

Penny Brink

BrinkP@gc.adventist.org

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Johnetta B. Flomo

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:

James Badu

William Bagambe

Aniel Barbe

Paolo Benini

Bhupal Chadanshive

Michael Hamilton

Kwon JohngHaeng

Pavel Liberansky

John Matthews

Javier Mejía Mejía

Mario Niño

Miguel Pinheiro

Danijela Schubert

Happy Sibilang

Erika Puni

EDITOR'S NOTE: The articles in this publication have been revised slightly or updated to conform to the intended audience and nature of the *Dynamic Steward*. Unless otherwise stated, the New International Version of the Bible is used.

inside ds

The Hourglass Syndrome



Larry R. Evans
Associate Director,
GC Stewardship Ministries

Technology has changed not only the way we do things but also how we relate to the things we have created. A survey commissioned by Intel shows that 66 percent of computer users are at least somewhat stressed by “slow-poke technology.” Twenty-three percent described themselves as being very stressed because the technology they use is too slow. Such frustration has led to the coining of a new term called “The Hourglass Syndrome.” It is a term used to describe the frustration that computer users experience as they watch the little hourglass spin while waiting for the program to open or a website to load. For Mac users it might be “The Spinning Wheel Syndrome.” A Harris poll conducted for Intel

surveyed 2,315 people in the United States. The findings? The average computer user spends about 13 minutes per day waiting for their technology to catch up to them. This adds up to three days a year just waiting!

Impatience can be a good thing in that it pushes us towards finding new ways to meet the demands we’ve placed upon ourselves. That same frustrated impatience can, however, disrupt, damage or even destroy personal relationships. When these relationships are scrutinized from a stewardship perspective, our attention is directed towards biblical passages like Psalm 46:10 which says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” *The Message* paraphrase puts it this way, “Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything.” Ingenuity and technology can never take the place of a personal relationship with God but they can help open doors for us and other to know Him better. What really counts in the long run, then, is not what we do or accomplish with our own creativity but whether we allow technology to lead us to God rather than allowing it to become our god.

The psalmist reminds us that in the midst of chaotic times we need to pause and ask why we are doing what we are doing and for whom. In this issue of the *Dynamic Steward* we will explore the many advantages of technology but always from the perspective of us being “stewards of technology.” As with any gift from God used in a sinful world, technology can and likely will be abused by some. It is for this reason that it must always be used with the desire to serve our Creator God and not from the perspective of merely fueling the gods we’ve created. An understanding of a wholistic stewardship is critical for the Christian living in the rapidly changing world of technology.

Larry R. Evans
Editor

*It is with a degree of sadness that this will be the last of my editorials for the *Dynamic Steward*. This will also be the last issue for which I will serve as the editor. I will be moving to a new position but I do so with the desire and intention of being a faithful steward of all that God has given me and for the purposes that He has given. I have the firm belief that stewardship is not something that will be confined to this earth. It will be our theme in the new earth. Maranatha! Feel free to connect with me on Twitter: @DrLarryEvans*

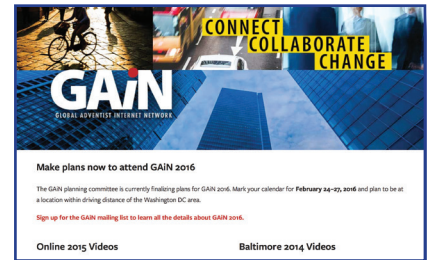


resources

GAIN

gain.adventist.org
facebook.com/gaincon

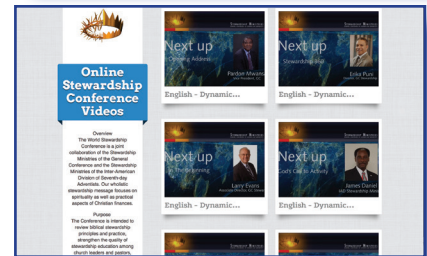
Would you like to be part of a community of Adventists who are concerned with using the latest technological developments to spread the gospel? Join the Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN) Conferences each year, in person or online, to contribute, challenge and collaborate! Watch previous seminars on their website.



Dynamic Stewards Online Conferene

vimeopro.com/user10937457/online-stewardship-conference-videos

Doing Stewardship training in your region? Use this collection of 24 free video seminars on many areas of Stewardship in four languages (English, Spanish, French, Portuguese) to equip your church leaders! They're available on DVD from AdventSource.org. Check out our other videos on Vimeo such as the one minute stewardship spots for offering promotions and many more!



Amara

amara.org/teams/adventist

Want great programming in YOUR language? Join this volunteer-based platform for translation and subtitling of existing videos into your language, or contribute video programs for translation and subtitling in other languages. Excellent resource for the the new Hope-Deaf Channel as well!



Audio Network

audionetwork.com

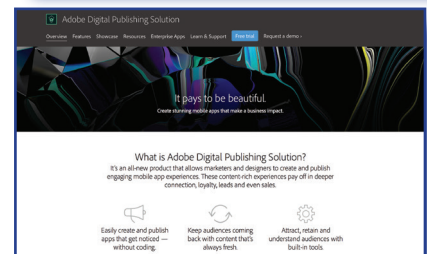
Do you produce video content and need copyright-free music? Audio Network is a great library resource. Be sure to check the licensing options and collaborate with others to make efficient use of them.



Adobe Digital Publishing Solution

adobe.com/products/digital-publishing-solution

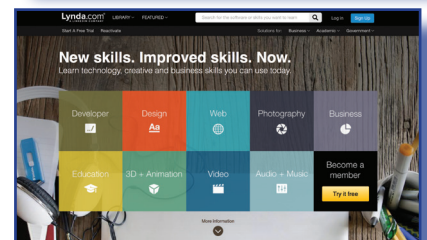
Should you wish to make your publications friendly for mobile devices, you might want to consider any range of digital publishing or App creating software such as Adobe's DPS.



Online Software Training and More!

lynda.com

Do you need training in any software—new or old? Try Lynda.com for user-friendly training, and receive a certificate when you're done!



Feel free to email brinkp@gc.adventist.org for referrals regarding these technical resources.

The content or opinions expressed, implied or included in or with these resources are solely those of the authors and not those of the publishers of the Dynamic Steward. The publishers do however, advocate these resources on the basis of their rich contributions to the area of stewardship ministry, and assume that readers will apply their own critical evaluations as they make use of them.

Jesus, Lord of Technology



Erika F. Puni
Director,
GC Stewardship Ministries

Long before I saw a telephone or even knew anything about Alexander Graham Bell, my mother was already teaching us children the words of the song, “The Royal Telephone.” I love the lyrics of the song—“There will be no charges, telephone is free. It was built for service, just for you and me. There will be no waiting, on this royal line. Telephone to glory, always answers just in time.” Today when preaching and teaching on the subject of prayer, I continue to refer to these words and the imagery of the “telephone.”



The telephone, like all technology, is as an expression of our humanity and creativity. Technology is a gift of God. It is an inseparable part of our human life and daily experience. When I refer to “technology” I do so as a reference to what humans have made and possess. These are things that we as people of the planet have created or accumulated to help us live life on this earth. With this in mind, I want to share with you how the telephone has impacted my life and living today.

The Mobile Phone

I have an iPhone. This phone is an important part of who I am. I take this phone everywhere I go. When traveling on the road I use my iPhone’s GPS to get me from point A to point B. At airports, I use my phone to check flight information and respond to emails. Once when visiting a foreign country when my pickup person did not turn up at the airport, I was able to send a text message to my administrative assistant in the United States alerting her to my situation. Within the hour, using her email and phone from afar, she was able to make contact with the local church office to make arrangements for me to be picked up. The smartphone is an invaluable tool to have, and in certain kinds of situations, it can be the difference between life and death.

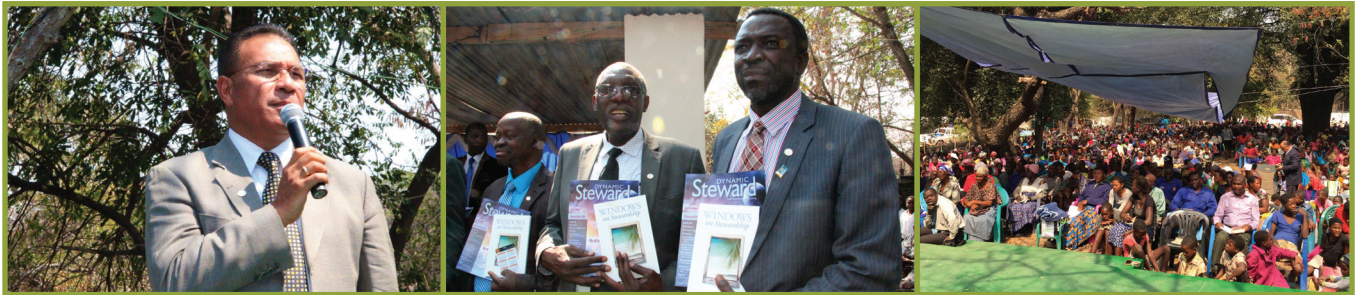
Technology and Human Life

At creation God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over livestock, over all the earth, and over the creatures that move along the ground” (Gen. 1:26). This mandate, given by God in our behalf to create and to rule, provided for us both a privilege and a sacred responsibility. Permission to explore and expand their own human imagination is a privilege that the Creator and Owner of the universe gave Adam and Eve, as well as those who would follow them. Their ability to think and use their imagination in creative ways is a gift and blessing from God. I am reminded of this whenever I fly in a plane. I marvel at these feats of human engineering, but I also recognize that these expressions of the human mind come as a gift from God. In a very real way, human beings are God’s partners in creation.

Recently I spoke at a camp meeting on the banks of the Zambezi River in Namibia. While there, I was able to share live the excitement of that experience with my family back in the United States through the use of Facetime on my smartphone. This amazing technology enabled me to bridge distance and time zones so I could connect with people thousands of miles away. While inventions like this have potential for misuse, they do make life easier. It’s not technology but the use of technology that is often an issue.

Stewardship and Technology

Can technology be harmful? Yes! Can the use of technology be abused? Yes! Can technology divert our attention from the things of God? Yes! However, can we also, utilize technology for God’s purposes to maximize the spreading of the gospel? The answer is an absolute “Yes!” Today from our phones we can send messages of hope and encouragement or give a Bible study to one person or thousands of people in just a few seconds. We can also pledge a donation to ADRA or send in the Lord’s tithe and our offerings electronically by using our smartphones. We praise God for what He has made possible, but one principle remains. Let all be reminded that every human creation must remain subject to the rule of Christ, for He is Lord of all.



Zambezi Regional Campmeeting, August 2015, Focuses on Wholistic Stewardship—Giving Increases Five-Fold!

Church members traveled from different parts of northern Namibia to attend the Zambezi Regional camp meeting at Katima Mulilo which attracts over 20,000 Adventist campers every two years. What was different this time (August 23-29), however, was the focus of the meetings: Wholistic Stewardship. Resourced by stewardship directors from the Southern Africa Union Conference under the leadership of Dr. Paul Shongwe, campers studied God’s Word from morning to evening and they were challenged to experience God anew as the Creator and Owner of the universe. Sabbath morning at the worship time, Dr. Erika Puni, the main speaker, made an appeal for a

commitment to God and His mission. The campers responded to the appeal for a commitment to partnership with God, and they also gave an extraordinary offering on the day, five times more than what was given the last camp meeting. [Value transformation produces faithfulness and generosity in God’s people.](#)

A Farewell Tribute to Our Colleagues

by Penny Brink and Johnetta Flomo

Dr. Larry R. Evans joined the GC Stewardship Ministries Team in 2011. His rich experience as pastor and church administrator as well as his well-connectedness added great value to his personal contribution to the department. He will be missed for his great sense of humor and considerable wisdom. While he is still in the building, he will not have escaped us entirely and this is a great comfort to those he leaves behind in the department!

Dr. Erika F. Puni was elected Director of the GC Stewardship Department at St. Louis in 2005. He led the department's growth and development into Stewardship Ministries. He is well known and well loved in the world-field for his intercultural approach. He maintains that good stewardship is a product of the spirituality of the church. This is a concept by which we will remain challenged and which we will always remember. As "the Boss," he was generous, kind, and a good friend. We wish him, Maxine, Janae-Grace and Jaydon Godspeed!

Pr. Mario Niño joined the GC Stewardship Ministries Team in 2010 to serve the world-field. He is now retiring after 50 years of faithful service in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His service covers pastoral ministry as well as academic and church administration in the South American and Inter American Divisions. His service includes 36 years in Stewardship Ministries! Mario is a true inspiration to us. He has just finished the work for his doctoral project and will defend it in January, 2016. We look forward to future publications and contributions from "Dr. Niño!"

"The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace" (Num. 6:24-26).



interview

The Stewardship of Technology



Justin Woods (JW)
Web Services Manager, Hope Channel,
interviewed by
Larry Evans (LRE), DS Editor.



Andre Brink (AB)
Digital Media Director, Adventist Review Ministries,
interviewed by Larry Evans (LRE),
DS Editor.

LRE: *When did you first discover that you had an interest in technology?*

AB: I can't remember what age I was but I wanted to discover what made the noise in my teddy bear when I turned it upside-down. So I cut open the back to try and see what this device was. I think that's where my interest in technology started.

JW: Mine is a similar story. At an early age, I started taking apart whatever electronic toy I had to see how it worked. I remember fixing the family toaster when I was about eight.

LRE: *Justin, What kind of work do you do?*

JW: I'm the manager of web services for Hope Channel. My work involves helping shape much of Hope Channel's technological direction. I had my own business doing web development consultancy and television production before coming to the GC.

LRE: *Andre, you recently changed jobs within the General Conference. What are you doing now?*

AB: I now work as the digital media director for Adventist Review Ministries who publish the *Adventist World* and *Adventist Review* magazines. We are creating a digital platform that will be highly interactive and will feature immersive and interactive content. It's very exciting to communicate an ancient faith in a digital world. There will still be print versions but the digital version will be geared for all kinds of technologies—mobile phones, tablets, the web and so on. In addition to watching videos, the user will be able to listen to podcasts and view 360-degree videos and photos.

LRE: *It sounds like in your respective fields you are both using technology and media to communicate the mission of the church. What developments do you see as the most exciting?*

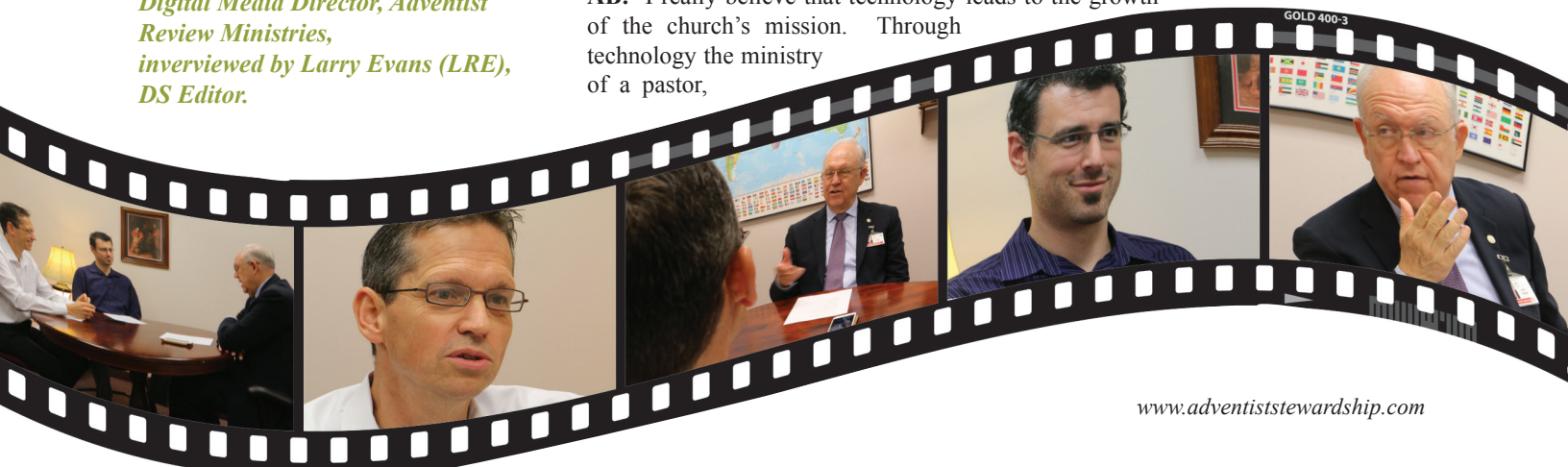
JW: For me, it's integrating otherwise unrelated systems into cohesive systems that work together. This frees people from tasks better handled by machines, so that people can do what they do best.

AB: There are so many new developments taking place! One is called "augmented reality." It includes combining print with the technology of phones and tablets. The app on a phone reads a symbol in the magazine and this brings up video or other interactive content on the screen of the device. A magazine front page or poster on the wall can come alive and the photo can start moving or the person can speak to you in the form of a video. This technology has a myriad of possibilities and can be used very effectively to communicate the mission of the church.

LRE: *How does technology impact the mission of the church?*

JW: Most modern technologies are simply conduits for efficiently moving ideas around the world. So regarding mission, technology lets us meet people where they are with what we believe. That's really at the core of what the church is trying to do. Ideas and beliefs can be shared in a variety of ways to meet as many people as possible. Technology helps that happen.

AB: I really believe that technology leads to the growth of the church's mission. Through technology the ministry of a pastor,





for example, can be duplicated in a way to reach the whole world. With our radio, television and web ministries we see incredible growth.

LRE: *Can the use of technology be a misuse of one's stewardship? Can we use technology in wrong ways?*

JW: If we focus on the technology instead of the message, we've lost our way. Technology is just a conduit for the message. It's not about the conduit, it's about the message.

AB: It can consume your whole life. We need to have a balanced life and we must not neglect family relationships. As with all things in the world, the devil always finds ways to use the good for the bad.

LRE: *Are there any guiding principles that might help us to avoid these downfalls?*

JW: We must remember what our true mission is. If we find ourselves spinning our wheels just dealing with the technology instead of what that technology is doing for our mission, then it is time to step back and reevaluate whether we've chosen the most effective technology or method for ministry.

AB: I've found that e-mail can be extremely distracting while at the same time quick responses are expected. I've actually forced myself to only check my e-mail at certain periods in the day and let it pile up a little bit. So there are simple little ways we can manage technology and not let it get the better of us.

JW: There is one fundamental ethical principle that we should mention, and that is to respect the privacy of others. This is critical.

LRE: *Are we using technology as much as we should be?*

AB: I think as a global church we've always embraced the newest technology very early. We've been early adopters—one of the first to be involved in radio and television. Today the Adventist Church, with its 11 million Adventist World Radio podcast downloads per day, is the largest podcast producer in the world. Of that 11 million, 8 million come from China. We have one of the biggest television networks in the world. Our web presence is good although it's fragmented. It's fragmented because we're doing our own separate things. So yes, we really have done a lot but I really think with a more coordinated approach we could be even more effective. In the General Conference building, for example, there are 148 different websites. If we just worked together and did things more strategically, we'd have a much stronger presence.

LRE: *Justin, Hope Channel keeps expanding. How many channels does Hope Channel have?*

JW: Not long ago, it was 36. Today, it's 45. Some are satellite broadcasts, some are web only, some are only video on demand. There is a growing global interest for each region to have its own Hope Channel. This is because one of Hope Channel's guiding principles is to create content in the local cultural context of the viewer. As we grow, new challenges arise. We're developing a new global website platform that will help bring a unified presence to each of these members of the Hope Channel family.

LRE: *Can technology be an effective means of promoting faithfulness in tithing and in the giving of offerings?*

AB: Here's an example of how it is being used. In parts of Africa, they are very advanced with the use of cell phones for making payments. In many African countries, people don't have a bank account but pay for everything using their phone. This ranges from paying for gas for the car, to buying a loaf of bread, to sending money to grandmother in a distant village. In some of our churches, people pull out their cell phone when it is offering time and pay their offerings and tithe at that very moment. So the church is using technology in a very interesting way.

JW: The development of technology over the last decade has really been the equalization of media. We no longer have the few people at the top who can communicate with everybody. Today, everybody can communicate with everybody. The stage is set for a communication

explosion in the sharing of Bible truth person-to-person. Perhaps another dimension of the latter rain? By getting our technology processes in place today, when that time comes, we'll be ready.

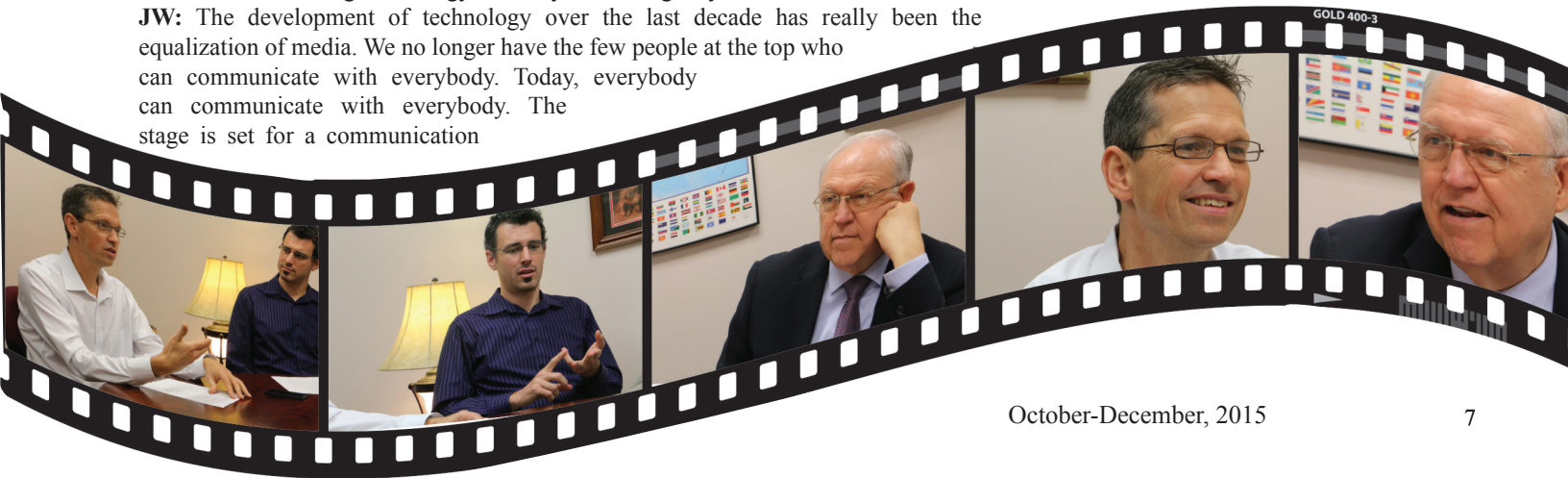
LRE: *What advice would you offer the church about technology?*

JW: Carefully determine the best tool for the job. If the best tool is some particular technology, then embrace it and use it to its fullest. But don't use technology just for the sake of technology. Keep your focus on what technology is for: supporting our mission.

AB: We've got the technology. What we need now is content. We've got the systems in place so we can reach every corner of the world. We can reach the people wherever they are. Now we need to focus on content. I would advise the church to put a lot more money into creating this content. Sometimes it's just a matter of doing things differently from the way we did them in the past and to move some of the money into digital platforms and the creation of interesting content.

JW: I agree. Content is key. Through technology, we now have conduits to nearly every single person on earth. But each of those people has countless conduits to choose from. So our conduit is worthless if our content isn't compelling, because otherwise people will choose other conduits.

AB: The world is different now. It is less linear. People don't necessarily watch things in a sequence anymore. They just jump around and watch what interests them without starting at episode 1 and ending at 10. Sometimes they consume two or three episodes at one time. They don't have to wait until the next week to watch something or to listen to someone. So we have to change our thinking from this linear process to a non-linear way of thinking, and provide content that will keep their attention and introduce them to God's kingdom!



sermon

Go!



Penelope Lee Brink
Assistant Director, GC Stewardship Ministries
Assistant Editor, Dynamic Steward

Penny is the Assistant Director for Stewardship Ministries at the General Conference. She is a qualified pastor who has worked in many areas of ministry over the past 21 years, including pastoral ministry and television production.

Penny is busy with graduate studies in Theology. She is proudly South African. She and her husband, André Brink, have been living in the USA and working at the General Conference since 2011.

Footnotes:

1. Watch the Dynamic Stewards video series, free, online: vimeopro.com/user10937457/online-stewardship-conference-videos
2. <http://waterbrookmultnomah.com/catalog.php?work=223380>

Thought Byte...

"Duplicating yourself" is a concept made possible by technology. When Jesus said, "make disciples" He was essentially saying, "duplicate yourself." The question in this cyberspace is whether we are living lives worthy of duplication. Be a true disciple, then make more.

Jesus said: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19, 20). We call this the Great Commission. We often think that the imperative, "Go!" means that we need to get on a vehicle, ship or plane, or even go on foot like those first disciples did, in order to reach all the nations. The world is, however, a very different place now. Much has changed since then, and we need to see how best to continue God's mission on earth.

The Stewardship Ministries Department at the General Conference provides many services, including training, which requires travel to many countries around the world. People are thus equipped to share the important message of stewardship. "My all in response to God's all," is, our slogan—an attempt to explain, in short, the all-encompassing doctrine of stewardship that includes the returning of God's tithe and systematic giving of free-will offerings. We reported this year that the department had visited 86 countries over the last 5 years. The cost all of those trips, however, can add up.

In September 2014, the department decided to embrace technology and stream live 24 half-hour seminars by 15 experts in four languages.¹ We reached 83 countries with nearly 5000 log-ons, some of which represented up to 200 people watching together in a room. In just one weekend, this event reached almost the same number of countries, and possibly as many people, for a tiny fraction of the travel costs.

Stay with Technology

This is one of the wonderful efficiencies technology affords. While saving costs is something a good steward might be interested in, this, however, is not the purpose for sharing this story. The real significance of this kind of online event is that it fulfills the imperative, "Go!" In today's world, there is a continent that did not exist in Jesus day, i.e. **the digital continent**. The world has changed, and if we are to be obedient to the Great Commission, we need to go to where the people are. The wise use of technology, where it is available, is therefore an imperative—Jesus' imperative for today.

The Internet is not the only form of technology that needs promotion. There are many others. I think of my friend Enoch, who has worked for the Hope Channel for many years in Africa. He used a self-made machine of bicycle parts with which he bent triangular pieces of sheet metal that were combined to make satellite dishes. These dishes were much cheaper and produced a better quality signal than the ones you could buy. Those were the days when C-band and Net Events were the way in which Hope was broadcast. The "dish" was the latest technology. Things have progressed and Enoch has continued to be at the forefront of innovation! I like this kind of story because it shows that technology provides the opportunity for the talented, the talkers and the treasure-laden followers of Jesus to each contribute uniquely to the mission of the church. We all need to get behind technology in some way.

Create with Technology

Recently, I attended a class called "The Practice of Mission." It was very inspiring. Thorough analysis shows how mission has been carried out over the

years. It reveals how we need to adjust things in order to be effective in an ever changing and increasingly diverse world. In one sense mission sounds quite complicated, yet Jesus' call is ever clear and simple: "Go!" Make disciples. Baptize them. Teach them everything I have taught you.

It is perhaps important to notice that Jesus is talking to everyone who is already a disciple. Equally significant is the fact that He leaves the "how to" up to us, our individual creativity and His spiritual gifts. Let's be creative, then, shall we?

I think of the engineers at Adventist World Radio beaming shortwave programs to unknown territories and streaming them online with millions of podcast downloads per day. I think of my friend and extraordinary photographer, Dick Duerksen, who sends a Friday photo or two every week by email with an inspiring caption about the beauty of God's creation. I think of my classmate, Daniel, who decided to go for ten days without various privileges, like shoes and the use of his legs, in order to know how better to minister to those facing such challenges.² All of these people use whatever opportunities God has given them—their gifts and their circumstances—to help fulfill God's mission on earth.

Empower with Technology

These examples tell me that mission does not have to be complicated. The Great Commission is also a personal mission. While organization is important and can be efficient, each and every one of us needs to go! Mission does not have to wait. Mission is my personal obedience to Jesus' imperative. Mission is when I have been on my knees in gratitude, knowing that I have been saved by His blood, and I get up and go and tell someone how much I love Him and why.

We used to say, "each one, reach one," but technology allows me the freedom to conduct my personal ministry with an instantaneously wider reach than those early disciples ever dreamed possible! All I have to do is to tell my story in my own creative way and in one moment I can potentially reach the entire digital continent, and beyond! There are only two questions: Am I a disciple? Will I go?

Technology Aids Giving...

Pr. Sunjjin of the Remnant Adventist Church in Silver Spring, MD, USA, tells how he invited a visiting church leader from India to preach one Sabbath. The preacher related some interesting details about the mission plans in his home territory. One project included the need for a boat. There were villages along a certain river's edge that could best be reached from the water and they needed money for a mission boat. He made an appeal to the members there that day. Unbeknown to him, the congregation has an online presence and their sermons are streamed live. An Adventist living in England—a past student of Pr. Sunjjin when he was a vice principal at a college in India—was watching and felt impressed to support the boat project. He was able to contact the relevant people and make a substantial gift. We would say, "It's a small world!" The Internet only intensifies that statement and presents opportunities that we should all embrace.



AWR: Harnessing Technology for Ministry!



Shelly Nolan Freesland

Shelley is the communication director for Adventist World Radio and holds a master's degree in marketing from Johns Hopkins University. She's amazed at how quickly technology is changing, but believes that the power of a good story remains the same, regardless of how it is delivered.



Daryl and the 360° GoPro Camera Construct!

Daryl Gungadoo

Having grown up in Africa as a missionary kid, Daryl has a passion for cultural anthropology in relation to technology and he loves to hunt for new technologies that can be of use in hastening the spreading of the Gospel. He has been an engineer for Adventist World Radio for nineteen years, and holds a degree in electronic engineering technology and software engineering from Andrews University and audio engineering from MIT. Daryl is married to Johannie, a molecular biologist, and they have two children, Anoushka and Noah.

We are aware that stewardship involves the wise use of not only our treasure, but also our time and talents. So if asked to address stewardship in relation to technology, many of us might first focus on issues such as: “How much time should I spend on social media? How can I teach my teens that it would be more useful for them to learn a bit of car maintenance this weekend instead of staying glued to their Xbox console? Is it possible to persuade my spouse that it’s not necessary to replace our GoPro camera just because a new model came out?”

Such questions, and more, are all valid and do need to be considered in relation to our personal lives. Technology leader, Daryl Gungadoo, has a broader view, however, with valuable insights into the relationship between technology and ministry.

Gungadoo is the global resource engineer for Adventist World Radio. A large part of his role involves looking into the future of technology and finding ways to use new tools to fulfill the organization’s mission which is to carry the gospel to the hard-to-reach people groups of the world. He says, “What’s unique about AWR is that we’re one of the few church organizations that invests in research and development (R&D). We’re often the first on a particular digital platform, which puts AWR at the forefront of bringing the message of salvation to people in a very creative way.”

For example, Gungadoo’s research in media asset management (MAM) led AWR to become the first religious entity—in fact, the first nonprofit—to use an enterprise-class MAM system for massively publishing all of its radio content online as podcasts. With podcasts in more than 100 languages, AWR is the most prolific provider of multilingual content on iTunes. It has received official recognition from Apple. Daily podcast downloads have topped 11 million, and are climbing rapidly. Other Adventist media ministries, such as Hope TV and Stimme der Hoffnung, have since adopted the same MAM platform.

“It took vision for AWR’s leadership to finance this initiative, but it has really paid off,” Gungadoo says. “Using the assembly-line analogy, we could still be hand manufacturing one car at a time, but instead we have built a system for automating our entire daily output worldwide. At the same time, technology is enabling AWR to do more with fewer people; we’re fortunate that our staff is extremely talented.”

Capitalizing on such talents is often best done through cross-pollination—that is, fostering collaboration between different people, roles, and even organizations. The results benefit everyone. Rather than just adopting available technologies, Gungadoo prefers working with the corporate developers of tools and applications, saying that such early input leads to products that are better for both the company and AWR’s own needs.

“Sometimes the results of R&D may only show up five to 10 years down the road, but making that initial investment of time, talent, and money is crucial for positioning a ministry—or any organization—optimally for the future,” he says. “If we built our whole operation on just one medium, we would be planning our own obsolescence.”

In the final analysis, technology should be viewed as a facilitator, not an end in itself. Here’s an example: When AWR wanted to find a new way of telling stories at the 2015 General Conference Session, staff and volunteers pooled their creativity to produce groundbreaking 360° videos. The objective was to give viewers a memorably immersive experience, not just showcase “cool toys.” In a coincidental demonstration of prudent stewardship, the filmmakers repurposed an array of seven existing GoPro cameras, as dedicated 360-camera were not yet available on the market. Since then, some national news agencies have also embarked on telling stories this way, such as <http://abcnews.go.com/US/fullpage?id=33768357>.

Gungadoo challenges all ministries to consider technology as something central to their operation. “Nowadays, technology is not a bolt-on function,” he says. “Investing in a strategy and tools that are adapted to each organization is well worth thinking about. As a church, our objective is to convey a message. The medium may be variable, but our message is everlasting.”

Use Whatever You Have!

When was the last time you received a personal, handwritten letter? Your answer is an example, not only of how technology changes around us, but also how it changes us and our behavior—the way we do things. These days, rather than checking the mailbox on the street, you click the mailbox icon on your laptop, digital tablet or mobile phone.

The picture in my mind is as clear as the day I clicked the shutter on my mental camera. It's the image of my mother sitting at the small desk in her office writing a letter. It's been several years since that "picture" was taken but letter writing was her ministry. She was a spiritual mentor—personally involved in the lives of numerous individuals, witnessing, encouraging, reminding them of the end goal—the Second Coming and the importance of "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2, *NKJV*).

My mother used the technology available to her: paper, ballpoint pens and postage stamps. She never typed on a computer keyboard, never talked on an iPhone nor touched an iPad. Her influence, however, was communicated using the technology at hand.

The Bible tells us simply, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl. 9:10). That message is a declaration of good stewardship. It's also an instruction on how to share the gospel with others. We are to use whatever is at hand—whatever current technology is available.

James White was a pioneer in using printing, the technology of his day, for sharing the gospel. H.M.S. Richards, Sr. was a pioneer in using radio to reach lost souls. George Vandeman used television to bring his preaching into people's living rooms. Mark Finley was a pioneer among those who use satellite technology for spreading the Word around the world. Each is an example of the stewardship of technology—using the latest means for God's glory.

Steve Jobs is known to have remarked that as brilliant as Apple products are, they all eventually end up in landfills. That's an appropriate description of today's technology. Here today—replaced tomorrow. As new gadgets and electronics are created, accelerating the speed of communication, they are never-the-less all created to be temporary and disposable (hopefully recycled).

As soon as we acquire the latest technological "in-thing" whether a digital device or an electronic gadget, its useful days are numbered. Houses and buildings last decades, even centuries, cars last years, but electronic devices last only a matter of months before that technology is replaced with something smaller, faster, cheaper, more capable, efficient and effective. We don't, however, need the latest technology to be an effective witness and good steward of technology. Just use what we have and use it to share our faith.

In the first chapter of Acts, Jesus tells his disciples, "...you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). This commission is not dependent on technology even today.

While this world hastens to its climactic end, technology will continue to evolve, change and become more predominant. Can you imagine sending robots door-to-door to give Bible studies? Why not? Although communicating the gospel is not dependent on technology, we can and must utilize current technology to spread the gospel.

As communication devices and electronic gadgets become more and more personal (what can you not do on an iPhone or iPad these days?), each one of us has the opportunity to use these "things"



Fred Knopper

Fred Knopper currently serves as the producer for It Is Written Television. Previously he served as a conference communication director and PR director for Christian Record Services. He also served as a professor and media director at Union College, and has taught and worked for Loma Linda University. He holds an undergraduate degree from La Sierra University and a graduate degree from California State University.

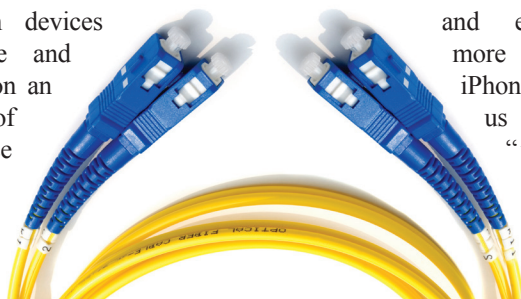
to the glory of God. Rather than just acquiring the latest gadget for personal gain, use or pleasure, make it a priority to use it for sharing your faith.

Stewardship is not only the idea that everything we have and are belongs to God. It also means that everything we use and everything we do should serve Him as well.

An acquaintance recently shared how when she attends church, she updates her Facebook status: "Amy is in church." She remarked, "It's a way of saying my religion is important to me. The fact that I'm telling others I'm in church is one small way I share my faith."

Great idea! Simple and effective. Go and do something likewise. We can use the technological platforms that we are already using everyday anyway to share our faith and give God the glory.

My own Facebook status? God and Fred are friends.



commitment

Stewards of Technology



Nancy Lamoreaux

Nancy Lamoreaux is the recently appointed Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The Office of the CIO was created to build relationships in technology with our organizations around the world. She holds a Masters Degree in Organizational Management as well as a degree in Information Systems and several certifications including Network Engineering. She has been IT director of both the Columbia Union in Maryland and the North American Division.

Footnotes:

1. www.thebanner.org/departments/2015/05/stewardship-of-technology

2. <http://youversion.com>

Related links:

<http://blog.youversion.com/2013/07/now-the-bible-is-an-app-infographic/>

<http://ericdodds.com/making-it-count-steward-time-attention-technology/>

<http://independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/there-are-officially-more-mobile-devices-than-people-in-the-world-9780518.html>

<http://blog.youversion.com/2015/09/youversion-bible-app-5-easy-ways-to-get-more-bible-in-your-day/>

Technology—how did we ever live without it? This is a question that many of us ask as we immerse ourselves more and more. In fact, when we are not connected there can well be a sense of loss. We may even panic if we cannot get onto the Internet. We want instant answers to all our questions. We track friends and family and we are tracked by all kinds of companies who want to know how we live our lives. We scroll through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and all forms of social media to fill our leisure time.

“A reformed understanding of the stewardship of technology begins from the same foundation as our broader view of stewardship—technology is a God-given gift mediated through the good gift of human culture and innovation. Stewardly use of these gifts does indeed recognize the effects of sin on our use of technology and the need for limits—the corruption of sin opposed to the kingdom of God cuts through every aspect of creation, including technology. As such, a healthy view of technology will adopt neither wholesale acceptance nor outright rejection.”¹

As Christian stewards, what does God ask of us and technology? As stated in I Corinthians 3:9 “For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building”. Being good stewards means respecting all the gifts that God has given us, and using them wisely for His glory with careful and responsible management. The management of technology means being disciplined in how we use this gift from God. Good stewardship is a lifestyle choice and is evident in all that we do. When we spend too much time, energy or money on any part of our lives to the exclusion of a balanced lifestyle, we are not being good stewards. The use of technology can be one of the greatest blessings we have for spreading the gospel and learning. Technology can also become a stumbling block in our lives, consuming our time, energy and money. When we spend hours everyday on Facebook or other social media to the exclusion of the personal contact we need for a balanced lifestyle, we are violating stewardship principles.

There are many times when social media and other technology are the only ways we can introduce people to Jesus. Social media allows us to reach people who are not ready or willing to attend a church. They can discover a relationship with Jesus online. As we use social media and technology to spread the gospel there are several things to keep in mind:

- Communicate to be understood
- Ask questions to understand
- Approach controversial topics prayerfully and thoughtfully
- Do not embarrass your brother or sister online
- Deal with your differences respectfully
- If you are getting angry STOP as counsel set forth in Colossians 4:6 “Let your conversation always be full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”
- If you are trying to prove a point rather than win the person consider Philippians 2:3 “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

When people begin a journey to Jesus in an age where there are more mobile devices in the world than there are people, we need to be relevant and good stewards as we introduce people to Jesus. The Bible is no longer constrained in the form of a



Share

physical book—it is a book that can be with us all the time by simply downloading an app. Just search for YouVersion on your mobile device and peruse all the apps that are available for downloading. Your choices are many. Let's take a look at this most popular Bible app available. YouVersion has well over 192 million installs of the Bible throughout the world with 799 languages and 1,115 versions. According to YouVersion 45% of the readers use this app in the morning with 80% reading YouVersion at home closely followed by people reading it wherever they are.² With YouVersion you can share Bible texts, do Bible studies, create a daily reading plan on a variety of topics, find out where live events are taking place and find resources from the Bible to help in your daily life.

An important thought to keep in mind is the benefit of designing an individual plan for our personal use of technology. *It is easy to get carried away with spending too much time with technology that takes us in a thousand directions with no clear destination as we click link after link. Decide what works for you.* One option would be to set a certain amount of time for email, Facebook and other social media. When that time is over, evaluate what you have accomplished. Each person will be different with different goals to accomplish. Be aware of the stewardship of the time you are spending with technology and be true to your purpose.

As we look at our stewardship and the use of the stewardship, E.G. White states, "It is the duty of all who touch the work of God to learn economy in the use of time and money. Those who indulge in idleness reveal that they attach little importance to the glorious truths committed to us. They need to be educated in habits of industry, and to learn to work with an eye to the single glory of God" (*Messages to Young People*, p. 300). With this thought in mind, stewardship by definition, begins with the thought that everything we have—time, talent and treasure—is God's gift to us. What is our attitude as we use these gifts? Do we seek to use them to the glory of God or for our own pleasure? Since technology is a God-given gift to us, it is our responsibility to use it in the service of God—individually, as a congregation or in the community at large. We can use it as a congregation to stream and podcast the sermons presented in our church. We can use it to engage our young people

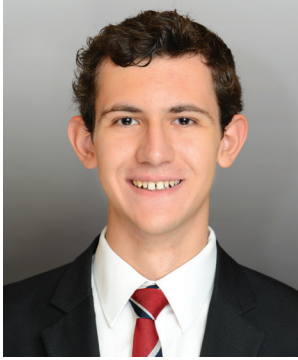
with their devices in the worship service rather than being frustrated in their use of social media during the church service. We can reach our local community through our local church by training members in the use of technology for outreach.

We need to ask ourselves some questions: What does my local church website say about your church? Is my church website up-to-date with weekly events and features? Is my church website appealing to both members and visitors? Can people reach someone at my church through email and is someone responsible to answer the email? These are simple ways in which technology can be used to reach the larger community and introduce them to Jesus. When people come to us looking to find a better life in Jesus Christ, we need to be ready, in every way, to receive them with open arms and our personal touch.

Jesus Christ has given us what we need to finish His work, and He asks us to be responsible stewards of His valuable gift of technology to us, and hasten His soon coming.

young adult

Connected!



Daniel Tudorie

Daniel is almost 18 years old. He was born and raised in Romania. He is a student at the Adventist Theological High School, "Stefan Demetrescu," in Bucharest, the capital city of Romania. He likes learning new things and enjoys the beauty of nature around him, art and the people he meets. His dream is to become a pastor.

Random thought . . .

. . . Do I connect others to Jesus?

"We never needed close connection with God more than we need it today" (Ellen G. White, Child Guidance, p. 471).

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ.... And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19).

Flash

There had been some great days at that youth meeting. The early hours of prayer, the Bible study sessions and the warm fellowship moments would not be forgotten any time soon. Time came for the last hug. The boy turned to his group of friends as he was preparing to leave: "Keep in touch, will you?"

Today—Not Yesterday

Today's world is very different from yesterday's world. Almost twenty years ago, when my parents fell in love, they used to talk once a week using a public telephone. Shortly after I was born, my Dad got his first mobile phone, one that was nicknamed the brick for obvious reasons. Facebook was launched the year I entered the first grade. Today, if I send a message on WhatsApp, I may get the answer instantly.

So, today, people should be more connected. Very connected. Are they? If not, why?

A Story about a Girl

Middle school. I remember the day she entered our classroom for the first time. When I saw her, I thought, "This must be how mute, frozen desperation looks." As our new classmate, she came from a broken family—suffering had petrified her face. She took a seat and returned into her own universe."

My class fellows weren't the kindest people. One day, a girl asked her, "Are you on Facebook?"

"I'm not," she answered. As though she'd said something terrible, the other girl replied: "How could this be possible? Aren't you on Facebook? Aren't you normal? You're weird, why aren't you connected?"

Nowadays, being connected is a "must." You "have to" have at least one account on a social network. People are used to having hundreds of virtual friends. Yet, why are we still so lonely? Why do we still not care about our neighbors?

As I was trying to tie up a friendship with another new classmate, she approached me. Coming to my desk, she said, "I've noticed you. You're different." I was so glad to have a starting point! Another day as we were talking, I told her something about friends. What she declared then, I will never forget: "I don't have friends. Not a single one of them."

That Old Message of Reconciliation

Today's world has changed, but human beings have the same great need they've always had—a real and transforming connection with God, reflected in love-filled connections with the people around them. Our mission of sharing God's love is the same. The same great need of being reconciled, re-connected with God remains, and people need to feel His love through the connections they have with us, His followers. But the ways to accomplish our mission must be daily updated and technology is a priceless help for us.

Keep in touch!

Technology helped the boy and his group of friends. They decided to stay connected not only with one another, but also with their Lord and Saviour: they created a Facebook group and they use an audio conference via Internet every Sunday to pray and share thoughts about God's Word. I recently joined them, and I am so glad to enjoy the wonderful atmosphere! You don't necessarily need to be every time face-to-face for worship and fellowship. So, stay connected! And really keep touching people's lives with your friendship.



God's Desire for Me to Be Wealthy

Wealth comes in many forms, one of which is money.

Money is purposely circulated in short supply for several good reasons, one being to give us the incentive to work for it. If money came easily many of us would not have the inclination to produce goods and services beyond our immediate consumption.

If we count all the liquid money in the world, it would amount to approximately 26.730 trillion US dollars. This would include the total quantity of notes and coins in circulation, plus demand deposits held by nonbank financial institutions, national and local governments, nonfinancial public enterprises, and the private sector of the economy (*CIA World Factbook*).

Money is an essential commodity that everyone needs. Ellen G. White reminds us of God's desire for His children to have lots of it. She writes, "The desire to accumulate wealth is an original affection of our nature, implanted there by our heavenly Father for noble ends" (*Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 148).

The last phrase, "for noble ends," indicates a specific objective for accumulating wealth.

Good objectives would include:

- Supporting God's church through tithe, offerings and special gifts. Malachi 3:10-12 promises special blessings for those who do so.
- Meeting our basic needs for food, clothing and shelter and paying off debt (1 Tim. 5:8).
- Contributing to society through taxes and charitable contributions (Rom. 13:7).
- Setting aside savings for emergencies and retirement (2 Cor. 12:14).
- Providing for conveniences, enjoyment and accomplishments beyond the basic needs of our families and for others such as outings, advanced education, celebration of special events, etc. (2 Chron. 1:12).

As with most of God's gifts to mankind, Satan has distorted God's desire for us to be wealthy through:

- a) Covetousness: There is a natural desire in the human heart to desire something that belongs to someone else. The accumulation of wealth becomes an end in itself with no other objective than to accumulate more (Heb. 13:5).
- b) Pride: The love of money is the root of all evil (1Tim. 6:10).
- c) Diversion: The pursuit of money competes for our interest, our time and our energy. It easily diverts our attention from more important priorities, such as giving attention to our spiritual needs, nurturing relationships and caring for our health (Matt. 6:21).

We are reminded in 3 John 1:2 that the Lord is mindful of our temporal needs and wants us to excel in our temporal as well as spiritual affairs (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, p. 695). However, we must always be careful that our pursuit of wealth does not eclipse our primary responsibility—that of seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33).

Footnotes:

1. *CIA World Factbook*, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/fields/2116.html#xx> (Accessed: 11 September, 2015).
2. *Counsels on Stewardship*, E.G. White (1940) Review and Herald Publishing Assn.; Takoma Park, Washington, D.C.
3. *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7 (1980) Review and Herald Publishing Assn.; Hagerstown, MD.



Delbert Pearman
Associate Treasurer, General Conference

Delbert is an ordained minister originally from Bermuda and married to Curdell. Together they have two daughters and a grandson. He holds a BA Degree from Oakwood University, USA and an MBA degree from Maastricht School of Management, Holland.

For the past 26 years, he has served the church as accountant for the Leprosy & Tuberculosis Project, Malawi; Secretary/Treasurer for the Bermuda Conference; Treasurer, Sri Lanka Mission; Secretary/Treasurer, East Mediterranean Field comprising Jordan, Lebanon; Treasurer, Ethiopian Union Mission; Treasurer, Central States Regional Conference and Planning Director for the Adventist Mission at the General Conference. He was elected as an Associate Treasurer of the General Conference at the 2015 GC Session.

Bitcoins



Loren Dickinson: Reflections on Our Age of Technology

I was amused a few years ago when two college kids, sitting side-by-side in class, began texting each other. Quaint and clever, I thought.

I no longer see it that way. There's was a burgeoning reality that now seems to have turned fully functioning people into slaves of hand-held wizardry. A part of the slavery has bewitched us out of face-to-face and voice-to-voice communication that makes non-verbal nuances impossible to convey by print technology.

The results are not surprising. We diminish the dual art of good questions and impromptu, relevant responses in the moment. Emailers fare little better, it seems to me.

Doesn't some crucial part of acting as good stewards happen when we use time well? Text and e-mails often do accomplish that, but less so when unexplained delays, annoying non-replies and multiple messages over the same topic eat away at using time well and arriving at mutual, immediate understandings.

Is it time to think of ourselves as stewards—experts in using time well and seeking mutual understanding at the moment of the message? Did college students start all this? Not likely. If so they invented a way of life that deserves serious attention from good stewards, nuances and all.



Dr. Loren Dickinson, Professor Emeritus, is a well-known authority and presenter in the area of communication. He started his career at Washington Adventist University (then, Columbia Union College) in 1958 where he taught speech and was also the radio manager until 1962. He taught at Walla Walla University for 38 years after that, where he received recognition for his outstanding service and involvement in radio and philanthropic endeavors. He holds a doctoral degree in speech communication from the University of Denver in 1968. He is married to Carolyn and they live in College Place, WA, USA.