

2004 - 2007 AEC QUADRIENNIAL REPORT

By: Thaddious M Privette

STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT: The AEC Department of Stewardship and Financial Development exists to provide training, resource assistance, and motivation through stewardship seminars, stewardship revivals, sermons and newsletters for Pastors, local church stewardship leaders, and church members within our territory.

During 2004 - 2007 the Stewardship Department held true to its mission objectives - 106 Sabbath Sermons and 72 Afternoon Stewardship Seminars. As always, the long range intent was to educate and encourage every member in the AEC to grow in commitment and service for a finished Gospel. Individually we must stand in the judgment for ourselves. But, collectively we take on the world as a United Front. No matter how bad things get economically and spiritually, we cannot afford to be found less than faithful. God has never come short of His promise to provide. Heaven is watching us with bated breath to see if we hold true.

The challenge is to ever be conscious of the nearness of the coming of the Lord. Church bulletins, newsletters, personal diligence by Pastors & staff, and regular church analyses will go far in keeping all aware of our God-given responsibility to get the Gospel to the world.

Stewards of God must become more philanthropic, as we sense the needs of a declining society that seems bent on getting God out of the picture. Even though evil seems overwhelming, it will not stop a soon coming Christ. Our challenge is to sound the alarm and let the chips fall where they may.

Measurable Results (2)

1). Capital Improvements

During 2004 - 2007 two projects were completed on our camp grounds:

- (A) A new spacious Conference Center # 1, with state of the art kitchen facilities and seating capacity for banquets and larger meetings.
- (B) Total renovation of the former "Little School," Conference Center # 2. During Camp Meeting it houses the AEC Book Store. During the rest of the year, it can accommodate small board meetings, groups and seminars, with wireless capabilities.

2). Financial:	2004	2005	2006	2007
Tithe	\$ 26,264,276	\$ 28,553,909	\$ 30,109,108	\$ 30,406,595
CWD	\$ 243,671	\$ 266,693	\$ 234,831	\$ 232,741

Whereas 2000 – 2003 saw a total tithe income of \$ 88,845,256, God held back the winds of strife during the 2004 – 2007 Quadrennium. Its total tithe intake amounted to \$ 115,533,888, a \$ 26,688,632 increase over the 2000 – 2003 high. To God be the glory! The economy broadsided 2007 with the sub-prime scandal, along with rising home foreclosures, a recession, and rising prices along with job lay offs. Yet, 2007 managed to squeeze by with a small \$ 297,486 gain over 2006, which represents a gain of a little less than 1%. Yet, God must be praised! Things could have been worse. 2007 is a wake-up call that the Recession has a tighter strangle hold than many experts care to admit. Yet, our faithfulness to God must not waiver. He still holds the worlds in His hands, and counts on us to make a difference.

With the economy's instability and jobs in jeopardy, God only knows what the future holds. But hopefully, the responsible management being exercised by our Treasury Team under the direction of Mr. Lawrance Martin will be enough to enable Allegheny East to weather future storms. Belt-tightening is in order. Yet, the Bible still holds true that when we are faithful, God will rebuke the devourer. God longs to glorify Himself through His people.

As the new quadrennium begins, I bid a fond farewell as I enter retirement. I have enjoyed the last 14 years as Stewardship Director. My thanks go to all the faithful members, Pastors, and conference officers who co-partnered with me, making Allegheny East # 1 in tithe during at least 10 of the 14 years.

My prayers and support are with Elder Jackson Doggette, Esq. whom the conference asked to fill the Stewardship Department vacancy. May the coming of Christ find us faithful.

Department of Philanthropy
by
Jackson M. Doggette Jr., Esq.

Standing on the shoulders of great giants, Elder Thaddious Privette and Elder Daniel Davis, my assignment as Stewardship Director and Associate Trust Services Director began on June 1, 2008. We anticipate implementing several initiatives to serve the constituents of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Some of these initiatives are to:

- Establish the Department of Philanthropy to facilitate education and service to the constituents and organizations of the Conference utilizing the biblical principles of holistic stewardship to mentor Christian philanthropists
- Serve the local churches and schools as consultants to help increase annual gifts, capital gifts, and planned charitable gifts to advance the local ministry and mission
- Make Stewardship Certification, available through the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, accessible to every local church stewardship leader
- Utilize the available tools of the new Conference website, webcasts, podcasts, and other technologies to provide consistent support to constituents, leaders, and ministries

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- Facilitate opportunities for qualified stewardship leaders, Certified Financial Planners, and attorneys to serve the local churches in the six geographic areas of the Conference as trainers and consultants under the leadership of the Department of Philanthropy
- Achieve “A” accreditation for the Trust Services Department through the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
- Provide in-house legal counsel to the Trust Acceptance Committee and other entities of the Conference
- Assist constituents in establishing their own estate plans with an emphasis on protecting families and assets for the kingdom of God

There is much to do, many new opportunities, and the requisite enthusiasm to join in God in His work of reconciling the world to Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. Won't you do your part by embracing the ministry of reconciliation because of your love for God? Together, we will make an impact for the kingdom of God in this generation!