

# THE FOUR T'S OF STEWARDSHIP: TIME, TALENTS, TREES & TREASURES



## The Deacon's Role

"Teach us to be merciful and to seize new opportunities to worship God with offerings of wealth, time, and ability. Realize that benevolence is a quality of our life in Christ and not merely a matter of financial assistance. Therefore, minister to rich and poor alike, both within and outside the church. Weigh our opportunities for giving and service and use the church's resources discerningly. Be compassionate to those in need and treat them with dignity and respect; hold in trust all sensitive matters confided to you."

*(Charge to Deacons, CRCNA Form for the Installation of Elders and Deacons - 2016).*

*"Out of the Lord's generosity to us, we give freely and gladly of our money and time."*

*Our World Belongs to God #48*

**This is just about the church offerings, isn't it?**



**NO!** God cares about how we manage all of the "stuff" He puts under our care. And it's not just about how much we give away, either.

Our Treasures are everything from the little stuff (pocket change) to the big stuff (homes, investments, toys, etc). No matter how hard we have worked for it, ALL of it belongs to God.

*"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

*1 Timothy 6:17-19*

*"We have to make a choice where we want to belong, to the world or to God. Our trust, our basic trust, Jesus teaches, has to be in God. As long as our real trust is in money, we cannot be true members of the Kingdom."  
Henri Nouwen, A Spirituality of Fundraising*

## What does this look like, in practical terms?



Stewardship of Treasures might include:

- developing a narrative (storytelling) budget to help your congregation learn more about the ministries and organizations supported by their offerings
- organizing workshops for your congregation and community about debt counselling, wills and faithful financial management
- hosting book studies to learn what the Bible says about money and possessions
- collecting offerings of needed items for local ministries (homeless shelter, women's resource centre, food share program, toy swap)
- helping the congregation learn about how their purchasing habits affect others
- creating a Stewardship Team to teach, encourage, and foster a culture of gratitude and generosity in your church



*"Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it." -1 Timothy 6:6-7*

*"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." -Colossians 2:6-7*

## Questions for Reflection:

- Why is our stewardship of "Treasures" so important?
- What "Treasures" have been entrusted to our care?
- Are we keeping these "Treasures" to ourselves or do we share?
- Are we wasteful with our money, spending it in ways that harm our neighbours?
- How can we use our "Treasures" to show that Jesus is Lord?



To find out more or get helpful resources, contact Diaconal Ministries Canada today:  
[dmc@crcna.org](mailto:dmc@crcna.org) or 1-800-730-3490.