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DEVELOPING A MANUAL ON FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP TO MOTIVATE  
GIVING IN EVANGELICAL CHURCH WINNING ALL, IJEGUN LOCAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL, IKOTUN, LAGOS

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Joseph Oluremi Afolayan  
Matric No: 09/0212

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## ABSTRACT

This project was conducted to address the problem of lack of financial resources in the church, Evangelical Church Winning All, Ijegan Local Church Council, in Mushin District Church Council, of Mushin, Lagos. The project was designed to evaluate whether or not the effective stewardship programme for the members of the Local Church Council would improve members commitment to giving in the church. The project was intended to proffer answer to such questions as (1) Are the members of Evangelical Church Winning All in Ijegan Local Church Council very faithful in supporting the church with their offering and tithes? (2) Has the Biblical knowledge of the members on giving and tithe have any effect on their attitude to giving to the house of God – the church? (3) What are the reasons for the members' unfaithfulness in their stewardship of money and possessions? (4) Will teaching of the manual prepared have any positive effect on their giving, and good stewardship lifestyle on the members? Part of the process of carrying out the project was that a manual containing five different lessons was designed. Each of the lesson has a number of objective. The general aim of the lesson was to expose the members to what the Bible teaches about giving and to motivate them to become effective good stewards of all that God has put in their life. There were two sets of questionnaires the pre and post-test questionnaire. The post-test questionnaire, which has the same contents with pre-test but with little addition at the end, was administered to test whether or not there are changes in the people's understanding and attitude towards giving to God through the church. It was revealed that the majority of the church members have not been faithful in giving, in paying tithes and in commitment to church activities. They have, all along, been demonstrating very poor stewardship lifestyles. It was further revealed that the issue of budgeting has not been taken seriously in some of the local churches. It was discovered that after the teaching sessions majority of the church members have renewed their commitments to giving in the church. Many indicated their willingness to start tithing, giving and coming to weekly activities. Based upon the findings of this project, it was recommended that the believers should develop the attitude of turning over the ownership of life and possessions to God. It is when the ownership is turned over to God will the believers find it easy to release both life and properties to God. It is also recommended that regular preaching and teaching on financial steward be done on the pulpit by the church leaders. Other recommendations were made.

1. Theological Basis for this Study

2. Definition of Terms

## CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. An Overview of the Historical Background and its Structure

2. The Promoting Agencies

3. The Christian and the Tithe

4. An Overview of Stewardship

5. Biblical Practices of Stewardship

## Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of this study, the following conclusions are drawn. It is observed that when church members do not have adequate and biblical knowledge on Christian stewardship, it will adversely affect their attitude, behavior, and response to generous giving that suppose to characterize the church of God. This may lead to lack of funds to carry out the ministries entrusted to the church to do. The purpose for which the church is in existence may not be achieved without adequate funding of the church. It is believed that all that will be needed by the church to carry out her work is supplied by God within the members of that church. It is left for the members to be faithful or not.

It is clearly stated in this project that God is the source of all that Christians have and are. Adequate knowledge of this will help believer develop the right mentality about whatever he may possesses. Christian must turn over the ownership of his properties to God and live as thus. It is equally made clear in this project that giving should be motivated from the heart of gratitude, worship and appreciation of what God is. Christian should imitate the example of Christ in giving. He gives mercy and grace freely to all Christians.

This project makes it clear also that tithe is very relevant to the New Testament church. It is the law of the lord. It is a major way God has laid down by which his house will be funded. It is a matter of must for every believer to practice tithing. Giving should not replace tithing; giving has its place and cannot replace tithe. It is made clear that Jesus has not cancelled nor condemned tithing as some Christians have erroneously taught people. Any church whose members are serious about tithe

will surely be free from financial difficulty. The purpose of this project as earlier on stated was to find a lasting solution to the perennial lack of enough financial strength to carry out the ministry of the church. This project has been able to reveal some of the causes of the financial challenges and some possible way out of it.

Finally, the researcher observed that the reaching has produced positive impacts among the members of Evangelical church Winning All (ECWA) Ijgun local church council. Many members of the LCC, as could be seen from the findings, have renewed their commitment to serving the Lord with their resources, time, money and other possessions. The church has since been making progress in the area of finance.

#### Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the result of the findings of this project.

1. It is recommended that believers should develop the altitude of turning over the ownership of his life and possession to God. It is when the ownership is turn over to God will the believer find it easy to release both life and properties to God.
2. It is recommended that regular preaching and teaching on financial stewardship be done on the pulpit.
3. It is recommended that empowerment programmes be organized periodically for the church members.
4. More also the church leadership should regularly undergo training on financial management, budgeting and other relevant course.
5. It is recommended that the church budget be made known to the entire congregation before implementation and it should be appraised quarterly.

6. Finally, it is suggested that a financial guidelines and policies be put in place to keep the church from running into financial crisis.