

December 10, 2024

Anthony Reid

Director

**Attention:** Pastors, Stewardship, and PARL Leaders, Elders.

Dear Pastors and Leaders.

Greetings and Peace from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Foremost, on behalf of the administrators and the treasury, I want to thank you for the work you have done in the area of Stewardship and PARL this year, so far. You encouraged the believers to be faithful in how they live their lives for Christ. You reminded them to use a portion of the resources they were blessed with for His mission. And you taught them to be faithful in returning their tithe and freewill offering to support Christ's cause. And though more than half of our 181 congregations have reported a decrease in tithes at the end of October, the Ontario Conference is grateful for the marginal increase of 0.90%. Thank you for leading your church in a membership growth of 2.14%, the highest in the last 10 years.

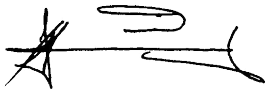
As we come to the end of 2024, let me invite you, the next three Sabbaths, to prayerfully encourage the believers to square up with God. Squaring up with God means returning to Him what they might have kept back. Admonish the believers, as Paul did, to "Examine yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5), to see if they have placed God first in the use of their resources.

Importantly, the Stewardship department has moved to reword, reposition, and reestablish stewardship as the foundational lifestyle ministry upon which the Christian life is built and practiced. As such, there are five basic areas that we promote. The first is **worship** – spending time to build a relationship with God that will inform the other four areas. The second is **wellbeing** – taking care of our body temple by caring for the psychological and physical. The third is **witnessing** – using time to engage our talents, gifts, and abilities to do the ministry and mission of Christ and the church. The fourth is **wealth** – returning to God a faithful tithe and freewill offering in support of His work. The final area is the **world** or terra firma. As stewards we have the responsibility to take care of our environment, so it can serve us. This in a nutshell is what the stewardship ministry of the church seeks to teach, promote, and practice.

A calendar of activities and other resources for both Stewardship and PARL 2025 are attached. Kindly note the dates, promote, and plan to be in attendance as invited. We will follow up with reminders. Lastly, we are looking for 10 churches to launch a financial freedom pilot project in the third quarter of 2025. Please contact the Stewardship department for more information.

May God continue to bless your ministry involvement. Happy Holidays and a prosperous 2025.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Reid', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony Reid, Fellow Steward and Ambassador

Stewardship and PARL Director

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