



# Financial Stewardship

*By David Luff*

*Editor's Note: A mix up in last issue resulted in a reprinted article.*

Stewardship is a qualification of sonship. First of all, what is a steward? Webster's Dictionary defines steward and stewardship as follows:

Steward – a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another.

Stewardship – the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

Perhaps a way of defining spiritual stewardship is meeting God-given goals and objectives using God-given resources through the application of God-given principles as found in the Scripture and with the leading of the Holy Spirit. Stewardship is a basic and fundamental characteristic of kingdom administration. Those who would inherit the kingdom must be proved as faithful stewards. 1 Corinthians 4:2(NKJV) "Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."

Adam was the first of God's stewards. Genesis 1:26 (KJV) "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." Genesis 2:15 (KJV) "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."

As soon as Adam was created God assigned him the responsibility of managing what he had created. He was God's steward. I have wondered when God visited with Adam in the cool of the evening

if He talked with Adam about what he had accomplished that day. Did He check to see that the trees were watered? Were the vines pruned? Was the grass clipped? God expected Adam to work. We know the conditions were favorable in the Garden, but Adam still had specific functions he was responsible to God to get done. Jesus taught us that His expectations are no different from the Father's.

"He said therefore, a certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come (use this money to trade with until I come back – J.B. Phillips). But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

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And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.” Luke 19:12-27 (KJV)

From this passage of scripture we can see that God is very serious about how His stewards manage His resources. Stewardship covers a wide range of responsibilities. First, we must understand that God is the owner of all things, and as the owner he has rights. Second, we are stewards; as stewards, we have responsibilities. We do not have a secular life and a spiritual life that are independent of one another. All things are spiritual to the man or woman who has taken the name of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (KJV) “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” Colossians 3:22 (KJV) “Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God.” Therefore, every decision we make is a spiritual decision. Let’s take a look at some of the areas in our lives where we have stewardship responsibilities:

Natural Gifts - 1 Corinthians 10:31 (KJV) “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” God gives men and women natural gifts and talents. They are not spiritual gifts, but God expects us to develop these gifts and use them to His glory; to bless others through them.

Spiritual Gifts - 1 Peter 4:10 (KJV) “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” 1 Corinthians 4:1 (KJV) “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stew-

ards of the mysteries of God.”

Time - Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV) “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.” There are so many time-wasting diversions in our society today that we do have to be very careful that we do not get caught up in these time-wasting activities.

Children - Proverbs 22:6 (KJV) “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Ephesians 6:4 (KJV) “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

One could take any one of these areas and bring a good message on it, and I’m sure there are many other areas you can think of where we have important stewardship responsibilities. However, I would like to go into a bit more detail about one particular area, and that is money.

There are spiritual people that feel that all money is filthy lucre. I find nothing in the Scripture that says that. It says “the love of money is the root of all evil” but it does not say that money is that. In fact the Bible has a great deal to say about money. How we as God’s stewards handle money says a lot about our qualifications to handle kingdom administration responsibilities.

### **Financial Stewardship**

**Principle 1** – God owns it all, and He can take whatever He wants whenever He wants.

Psalms 50:9-12 (KJV) “I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.” Luke 12:16-20 (KJV) “And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”

Remember, God owns it all, and as such He has all the rights. As His stewards we have responsibilities. It should give us comfort to know that if we do

our part to manage God's resources according to his principles; and He chooses to take it, that is alright. He owns it anyway.

**Principle 2** – Every financial decision is a spiritual decision. (We are sanctified spirit, soul, and body.) Remember, whatever we do we are to do to the glory of God. I'm not saying we have to consult God before we buy a pack of chewing gum. However, before we make financially consequential decisions, we should seek the counsel of God.

**Principle 3** – In the stewardship of financial matters we are to be faithful. Stewardship in any area of life, including managing money, is first about process rather than results. By process I mean the employing of God's principles regarding the management of the financial resources God has entrusted to us. You may say that the parable of the pounds is surely about results; so much so that the servant that gained ten pounds received the pound from the unfaithful servant. You are right. God is very interested in results, but He has designed the processes of life such that if we will follow them carefully, the results will follow. However, the results are still in His hands and as God, He is in charge of them. Our responsibility is to be faithful. I cannot over-emphasize how important this is.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 14:12 (KJV) "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." Psalm 19:7-11 (KJV) "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

I would be so bold to say that all the general and most of the specific direction we need in life, including our finances, is found in the Bible.

**Financial Stewardship** – How to implement the principles

## 1. Tithe.

The most important thing we can do regarding the management of the financial resources God has entrusted to us is to tithe. Malachi 3:8-12 (NIV) "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty."

We don't tithe with the motive of getting rich, but we do so first because we love God and by all means do not want to rob Him. Secondly, He says he will bless us beyond measure. It may be financially, but it may be in other ways. Whatever form His blessing takes, it will be good and our needs will be met.

## 2 – Work hard.

Be a faithful provider for the needs of your family. 1 Timothy 5:8 (KJV) "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 2 Thessalonians 3:10 (KJV) "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

Sometimes a Christian finds himself without a job. It is not God's will that a man not work. God created man to work. If you have lost a job, first seek God about helping you find another one. Don't be afraid to take a job that you feel is below you. It is always easier to find a better job if you are already holding a job of some kind. It may not be the job you like. It may be unpleasant, and you may be working for a difficult boss. God can teach us a lot and develop our fruit of the Spirit through those circumstances.

Proverbs 24:30-34 (NLT) "I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one with no common sense. I saw that it was overgrown with nettles. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—then poverty will pounce on you like a bandit."

## 3. Develop a Budget That Includes Savings.

Proverbs 30:25 (KJV) "The ants are a people not

strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer. Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow. Proverbs 23:4-5 (NIV) Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.” Luke 14:28-31 (NIV) “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’”

A budget helps us “count the cost” of things before we spend the money on them. It helps us know where our money is going. It also helps us to set money aside for those bills that only come once or twice per year rather than monthly such as property taxes, car insurance, etc. With a budget, money can be set aside monthly so that when the bill comes due, the money will be there to pay it. Staying on a budget is not easy. It requires discipline and self-control, but then aren’t these attributes of Christian character that we need to develop anyway? If you don’t know how to set up and follow a budget, there are many self-help resources available as well as qualified people in the church who will be glad to help you.

Begin a savings plan early on in your life. Even if you are a child receiving an allowance or a young person with a part-time job and certainly a person earning a regular wage, you should be setting aside some portion of your income in savings. I have always liked the guideline, return 10% to God and save 10%; the remainder spend wisely. It is recommended that a person or family accumulate and set aside in savings 3-6 months living expenses to use in the event of job loss or other emergency. Once that is accomplished savings can be set aside to purchase items the family needs or for a family vacation, etc.

It is good to plan for your financial future. Of course none of us can predict the future, but we can plan for it prudently. You have probably heard the expression “No one plans to fail; they just fail to plan.” When we are young we seem too busy with the day-to-day cares of the world to even have the energy to plan for the future much less the extra money to set aside. However, if the Lord lets us live long enough, the future will come whether we have planned for it or not. However, after our children have left our home, and we are still earning wages, hopefully there will be extra money that can be set aside to help care for

ourselves and our wives in retirement. By thinking about and planning for these eventualities, we can adjust our lifestyles in the present taking them into account. Developing the discipline of spending less than you make all your life can result in quite a “nest egg” for later life.

Genesis 41:34-36 “Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. “Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh’s authority, and let them guard it. “Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine.”

Proverbs 13:11 (NIV) “Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.” Proverbs 16:3 (NIV) “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) “In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.”

#### **4. Avoid the Use of Credit Cards and Debt in General.**

Use credit cards only for convenience; not to purchase things you do not have the money to pay for. Interest on credit card debt is 18-20 %. Credit cards are very convenient and are even necessary for many purchases such as car rentals and hotels. Only use them to pay for things you have budgeted for, and pay the credit card bill off every month. Avoid the use of debt in general as much as possible. The Bible has much warning about the use of debt. However, in today’s society, it is often necessary to borrow money to buy large items such as a house or car. However, we should be careful that the monthly payments are well within our budget and that we have saved enough to make a good down payment so that we do not incur extra fees due to not having the required money up front.

“Scriptural debt is the inability to meet obligations agreed upon. In other words, when a person buys something on credit terms, that is not necessarily debt, it is a contract. But when the terms of the contract are violated, scriptural debt occurs.” (From *Your Finances in Changing Times* by: Larry Burkett.) One usually incurs debt through the violation of the contract because he violates scripture in one of three areas:

1. He presumes upon the future. He assumes that good financial times in the past 5-10 years will con-



tinue for the next 5-10 years.

Ecclesiastes 11:2 (KJV) “Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.” Don’t presume upon the future. Don’t get caught up with what other people in the world are doing. Things may be “rosey” now, but anything can happen. Only God knows the future. James 4:13-15 (NIV) Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.”

2. He is not willing to wait on God to provide the means to pay for what he wants.

3. He incurs debt by over-leveraging himself with the motive of getting rich quickly.

Following are some of God’s warnings about the use of debt.

Psalms 37:21 “The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is gracious and gives.” Proverbs 22:7 “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender’s slave.” Proverbs 22:26-27 “Do not be a man who strikes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you.” Ecclesiastes 5:5 “It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.” Romans 13:8 “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.”

### **5. Avoid both fear and greed.**

People develop a love of money for one of two reasons: fear or greed. They accumulate excessive wealth because they fear they will not have enough to cover every possible eventuality. If we are being faithful stewards in the area of finances, we should not live in financial fear.

Philippians 4:19 (KJV) “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Matthew 6:24-25, 31 (KJV) “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall

we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Greed is another cause for developing a love for money. Greed is a fruit of the carnal nature which must be overcome. It also causes one to try to hoard money for the mere sake of having it. Luke 12:15 (NIV) “Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” Ecclesiastes 5:13 (NIV) “I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owners.”

God is not opposed to us enjoying the fruits of our labor. If He has blessed us with wealth, it is a gift from Him, and it is to be received and enjoyed as such. The key is to learn to enjoy it with God’s blessing by using the gift according to God’s desires and not according to the ways of the world. Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 (NIV) “This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.”

Again, balance is the key, and we have to spend time with God to determine what the balance should be.

### **6. Invest your savings according to the principles of Scripture.**

I am not just talking about people who we might call “rich.” Again, whether we have “one pound or ten pounds” God holds us responsible for the principles we apply in managing it. Don’t put all your eggs in one basket. Ecclesiastes 11:2 (KJV) “Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.” Avoid “get rich quick” schemes. That includes “hot tips.” Avoid speculation and hasty decisions. If you are worried about it, it is probably not God’s will. Always consult your spouse in financial decisions. He or she will often be your best advisor. Proverbs 28:20 (KJV) “A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent. He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.”

## 7. Be generous.

If God has blessed us with some extra, let us remember this:

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV) "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." Gal. 5:22-23 (J. B. Phillips) "The Spirit, however, produces in human life fruits such as these: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, tolerance, and self-control – and no law exists against any of them."

We can have no better return on our investments than when we invest in the furthering of God's kingdom.

# The Caribbean Story: Forty Years is a Long Time

*By Terry Miller*

It's forty years since the Church in the Caribbean was established in 1973 on the apostolic foundation, under local elders and deacons. This special anniversary is being recognized and celebrated by the Caribbean and South American assemblies with services of thanksgiving and even seasons of fasting and prayer. The pioneers of each assembly, a large company of whom have already been called home are being remembered for their faithfulness, and those who are alive and remain are telling their story. Many of these precious saints paid a big price to walk this Way. In each assembly a whole new generation is already at the helm. The children and grandchildren of those who first embraced this Kingdom Word are carrying on in the same anointing as those who went before them. CARIBBEAN CAMP 2013 on August 3-11 at Layou in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the West Indies will be a special time for everybody. Forty years is a long time.

**THE EARLY BEGINNINGS:** In 1973 the Ministries of the day felt led to extend our borders to the "regions beyond" in a definite way. Much prophecy indicated new doors were opening. Places like Korea, New Zealand, England, Australia, and Africa as well as new places on the home front were now on the agenda,

but especially the Caribbean islands of the West Indies. At a special gathering in the Cloud Room at North Battleford, attended by assemblies from the area, the apostolic brethren commissioned Robert and Jean Oldridge and Ingrid and myself, with prophecy and the laying on of hands, as missionaries to the West Indies. I was only 27. My wife, Ingrid, was born in Trinidad. Our son, Joseph, wasn't yet one year old. Our daughter, Sharon, would be born later in Antigua. In the early part of the Move the Oldridges lived in Cuba as missionaries under Global Missions, so we all had some Caribbean connections, but there were no assemblies anywhere on any of these islands. The Oldridges were sent to spend a few months, but Ingrid and I were

told to think in terms of years. Br. Whitter prophesied my ministry would be to "shake the bushes and scare out the birds." For nearly six years we lived on the island of Antigua, and shook a lot of bushes from island to island. A lot of "birds" were set free to fly and to soar into the heavenlies. Those were exciting times.

The SHARON GOSPEL HOUR radio broadcasts had covered the region for a few years. Br. Herrick Holt and myself were the co-hosts. (The broadcast lasted well over 40 years and covered the entire Caribbean and Guyana in South America, but was discontinued a couple years ago.) Hundreds who heard this Sonship



call via radio wrote to North Battleford and requested literature and a subscription to *THE SHARON STAR*. Even today there are thousands of STARS going into the Caribbean and South America. Important to the beginnings was that Br. Crafton Lewis (born in Grenada) and his wife, Joyce, and little Castor were then living in Trinidad. Crafton was a fairly recent graduate of Bethesda Bible College at Gladstone in Manitoba, of which I was president until we merged into the Move. The transition happened while Crafton was a student, so by then he had already embraced the Kingdom Message and was personally acquainted with the Ministries. He would later be set as a Travelling Deacon to the universal church, stationed in the Caribbean, having now served the church in that capacity for over 35 years.

Br. Oldridge and I were armed with a huge list of names of SHARON STAR subscribers. We started to look them up one by one as we “shook the bushes” from island to island. It seemed God had prepared hearts everywhere. Soon a quick work in righteousness sprang forth. We began with house meetings in Antigua and were packed out. There were more people in the yard and on the veranda than in the house. We had to rent the largest hall we could find. The hunger was beyond anything I had ever seen. Three hour meetings were not uncommon, and sometimes night after night. One night an elderly sister, Zetise Greene from Dominica, stood in the meeting and proclaimed, “I heard about this way back in 1948, and I have been waiting. You have come to the Kingdom for such an hour as this!” What an anointed Word. The whole place broke through all the barriers and a New People were born that night. Zetise Greene, a thin humble elderly sister not much more than four and half feet tall, remained faithful to this Call for the rest of her life. She is one of those pioneers being remembered at this time. Many of the unsaved came as well, and found New Life in the Son. Young and old were coming together as the Body of Christ. Soon the first assembly in the Caribbean would be established on the apostolic foundation in St. John's, Antigua, called The Church on Kentish Road, later The Church at Sea View Farm. (Since Antigua was first, they still like to think of themselves as “the mother church” in the Caribbean. Smile. God bless 'em.) Within a short time the first elders and deacons were set. God gave us outstanding fathers who were totally committed to the Sonship call.

In about a year new assemblies under local elders and deacons were established in the island nations of Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad, St. Vincent, Dominica, French St. Martin, Tobago and Antigua, our home base. (The church in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands established later is an outgrowth from the Antigua as-

sembly.) By this time deep inroads had already been made into Jamaica and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana in South America as well. Haiti was also visited. In those years we had not yet met Br. Robert Persaud of Guyana, but he was a listener to the SHARON GOSPEL HOUR and was *hearing* words of Spirit and Life that would challenge his whole spiritual life, and eventually bring him into union with this mighty Move of the Spirit, later to be set as an apostolic ministry. God be praised.

After a few months the Oldridges returned to Canada, but would visit from time to time. Br. Hardi Kubassek and his wife came to spend a few important months as well during that formative period. Br. George and Sis. Ethel Wylie and little Doug spent a half year in Grenada. Br. Crafton and Sis. Joyce Lewis and their growing family spent considerable time living with the churches in French St. Martin, St. Vincent, Antigua, and Trinidad, where they still reside. I thank God for their faithfulness these many years. Br. Herrick Holt visited us from time to time, and it was from there that he and I made our first of several joint ventures across the ocean to “shake some bushes” in far away Africa, a totally new field for us. The other Brethren from North Battleford came and went on a short term basis helping to set the churches of the Caribbean in Divine Order. Sis. Hanna Wurtz and Sis. Rachel Hofer from Manitoba were sent to St. Vincent to do deaconess work assisting the needy establishing a sewing business. The work had grown sufficiently that our first Elders and Deacons Meetings were held a year or so after we arrived. The first Caribbean Camp Meeting took place shortly after. That camp meeting was totally funded by the Caribbean churches themselves without any financial assistance from North America. The foundation had been laid.

After nearly six years, Ingrid and I returned home with our three children to North America, knowing everything was in good hands, under proven local leadership. Like some of the other Brethren we would visit the region several times over the years.

FORTY YEARS LATER: The churches remain strong in their calling. The Gospel of the Kingdom is being preached. Occasionally outreaches are undertaken in new areas and sometimes neighbouring islands, like St. Lucia. The work has expanded to French Guiana and Suriname in South America, and there are many assemblies in Guyana. It's Camp Meeting Time in the Caribbean now and this is a special one. My heart is saddened that Ingrid and I cannot be there. I looked forward to the 40th anniversary with anticipation and expectation, planning this for a long time, but health issues intervened and we must be content to join the saints “in spirit.”

I really want to focus on the wonderful things God has done in the Caribbean over these forty years, and not focus on myself. Give God the glory for the Great Things He has done! Br. Andrew Snoke, Br. Rick Yaskiewicz, and Br. Markus Hansen along with the four Caribbean travelling deacons will be representing the North Battleford Brethren this year. It's also a joy to me that two of my local elders from Manitoba, Br. Dave Wurtz and Br. David Klassen, are also going down to take in the camp this year. I tell them "You'll never be the same again."

Keep-on-keeping-on! The best IS yet to come!

## My Heavenly Father Knows

There are many things in this life  
I do not know or understand  
But things that God allows to test and try my faith  
Are according to His purpose and His plan

So I will trust and believe that my Father knows  
What is best for me  
This I know; I am in His hands, He is the potter  
And I am the clay  
So I pray for grace to yield to the potter's hands  
To make of me what He wants me to be

Let my attitude be good  
And my spirit sweet  
Help me Lord not to murmur or complain.  
Let me lay my burdens at your nail-scarred feet

There I will find rest  
And abide in the safety of your wings,  
Though the storms of life around me blow.  
There I will have tranquil peace as I lean upon your breast

I will not be afraid

Ewald Wanagas, August 2013

## IMPORTANT DATES

Kearney, NE ..... Sept. 27 - 29, 2013  
Grand Junction, CO..... Oct. 4 - 6, 2013  
North Battleford Young Peoples ..... Nov. 8 - 11, 2013  
Pinelov Family Camp..... Nov. 8 - 11, 2013  
Indiana Young Peoples..... Dec. 27 - 31, 2013



## CALLED HOME

**Marjorie Wilde**  
Vancouver, BC  
July 22, 2013

**Doris MacKay**  
Kincardine, ON  
September 1, 2013



*For a listing of dates and contact  
information visit  
[www.globalmissionsinc.org](http://www.globalmissionsinc.org)*

The Sharon Star is a bi-monthly paper, published and mailed out on the free-will offering plan, as a medium of information for all who are interested in the unfolding revelation of the Word of God. Published by Sharon Children's Homes and Schools, Box 878, North Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada, S9A 2Z3. Sharon Star on line [www.thesharonstar.org](http://www.thesharonstar.org) Office (306) 445-2733. Publications Mail Agreement 40012206

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