



Greater Sydney SDA Conference

Contagious Generosity

Creating a Culture of Giving in Your Church

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Three approaches to generosity

- 1 – The way in which a leader lives out faith
- 2 – Substitute for Stewardship
- 3 – Sceptical – too much about money

Generosity:

- God is the owner of everything
- What we have has been given to us by God
- The resources we possess are assets to be invested in the kingdom

Culture is Key:

- A church must be intentional about developing a culture of generosity
- Culture can be a headwind or a tailwind.
- If the church is not clear on its theology of stewardship then its members won't be either.
- Culture trumps Vision
- Culture is shaped by values.

Good Strategy is better than Good Intentions:

- Information
- Application
- Don't assume people just know
- You don't have to do everything; Just do something
- Generosity is less about fundraising and more about spiritual growth
- Include small groups, leadership development, children, preaching – everything.

Generosity is Contagious:

- People who practise generosity exude a contagious energy
- Your church budget defines what is important to your church
- If leaders embrace generosity the congregation will too

"Generosity is something we want for you, not from you" Andy Stanley

- Accountability encourages Generosity

Leadership Development:

- Generous churches are led by generous pastors
- Pastors have an immeasurable influence on their congregation.
- It's possible to be a generous pastor of an ungenerous church. But we have never seen a generous church that is not led by a generous pastor.
- There is usually a correlation between a church that is struggling to stay alive financially and that church's pastor who is struggling with money issues.
- Key leaders need to be accountable for generosity
- Paint pictures of the shift from selfish to generous living
- Information, Inspiration, Invitation
- Pastors fail if they raise the subject of money only when they need to raise money
- The perspective is always what God wants for the congregation, not what the pastor wants from them
- Discipleship is the goal
- Measure Progress
- A change in giving is a pastoral issue
- Monitor the giving habits of your members - Significant variances are signs of spiritual turmoil and spiritual growth
- You can't manage what you don't understand. You don't understand what you don't measure.

Celebrate:

- You accelerate what you Celebrate:
- Catch your people doing something good. People expect the church to point out where they are doing something wrong.
- What you celebrate changes your culture
- Don't underestimate the impact that can come from having a strategy of thanking.
- Churches are notorious for taking donors for granted
- Be intentional and strategic in the way you collect the offering
- When you make an 'ask' and your people respond, report the results and celebrate.

Generosity is the New Evangelism:

- Money and its role in our lives provide everyone a common ground and a common experience
- An invitation to an unbeliever to participate in an act of generosity may be more spiritually formative than attending your worship service.
- Generosity is the place where the Great Commandment and the Great Commission meet.
- Generosity is so attractive that it will eventually cause nonbelievers to notice and ask more questions.

- Hoping is not a strategy – **Generosity is Intentional**