

EAST CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES & TRUST SERVICES MINISTRIES

GOD AND TECHNOLOGY

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DAY 1

GOD AND TECHNOLOGY

The way work and activities are done today, by the application of scientific knowledge, skills and abilities, using scientific machinery and equipment has grown tremendously and startling to say the least. Technology has taken over the biggest percentage of the management of life.

Today, lessons, speeches, lectures, worship services, payments and receipts, banking etc., are all digitized. Returning tithe and giving offerings to God and all financial contributions to church mission work have all gone cashless. Most businesses are online. Mention anything it has gone digital. For sure life has gone digital! Even wars are online, cyber wars for example. Most people are online etc. There is technological heat burning up on the entire globe. Technology seems to have no reverse gear! It is forward ever, backwards never! It is science on the move, it is technology on the move!

At this time, no other option is left for anyone but to go tec". Everything is going tec! "Technology is the term that rules human affairs today"! It is the axis upon which the world spins.

When you look at the turn of events, the wonders technology has placed in the mind of humanity day in day out, one wonders where is God in the field of technology? What is HIS place in this stunning and potentially life-changing wave of technology? Questions of this nature are so critical to be asked for they are the basis upon which, when properly answered, a place for God in technology can be determined.

Ostensibly, it requires proper foundational facts to be located and aligned for rightful answers to be provided to cater for questions such as those above.

FOUNDATIONAL FACTS ABOUT GOD AND SCIENCE /TECHNOLOGY

- 1. Scientists study, analyze, explain and conclude on only what God has made.
- 2. Scientists can't create, they don't create no matter how intelligent they may be, they only invent what God created/made. They use what is already there.
- 3. Science always invents from something. It has never made anything from nothing! Nothing from Nothing! Like God did. If they ever create, they use already existing raw materials.
- 4. God Creates as Science invents.

- 5. Therefore, there is no invention without creation and therefore without God.
- 6. There is no Science without God! Science is as old as God Himself.
- 7. It is factual to define science as the study of the intricacies of God's creation.

NASA's Ingenuity helicopter touched down on surface of Mars on 5 April 2021, this is the first-ever flight on another planet, astronomy says.

N.B, there would be no surface of mars if mars was not there! There would be no mars if nobody put it there. And who put mars there? Of course the creator GOD.

The foundational facts laid down above, successfully construct a bigger conclusive fact that in Science and technology/science, God stands supreme and above HIM there is no other power. Creative power stops with God and at His level!

Therefore, the technological Advances evident today, CFMS, Church Finance Management System, inclusive, neither start with scientists nor with IT experts but with God the creator who is above science and technology. Technology is HIS!

Proverbs 16:4

"The LORD has made everything for its purpose...

God has allowed technology to thrive for His glory. CFMS has a God intended purpose as we will seen in this discourse.

CFMS, Church Finance Management System is a digital platform where one uses the mobile phone to return tithe and give offerings, and other church mission oriented contributions any amount anywhere anytime. It is a Church cashless digital platform.

Do you get stunned at technology, I suppose you don't because the scripture says in *Ecclesiastes 1:9?*

"There is nothing new under the sun"! What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again".

Therefore, the Technology we see and use day originates with God and it is not new at all, CFMS inclusive. Technology is as old as God Himself, to the point that when you see CFMS introduced as the

most convenient mode of giving and returning to God in the church today, it should never spark any surprises.

If there is nothing new under the sun like Ecclesiastes indicates, can we locate technology before this modern technology? I mean is there technology before this one we see and use today?

The Holy Scriptures supply excellent answers to these critical questions posed and is a source of the most rightful information and a baseline to this effect. Numerous areas in scripture can be sited to assist us fully comprehend what Ecclesiastes is communicating to us.

However, as we look at technology in the word of God, we must not lose sight of the fact that this exposition is more focused and intentioned to explain God's amazing stewardship power in what we normally use and go through in our day-to-day life than technology itself. That is stewardship in light of the stewardship power of God.

THE AUTOMATIC DOORS

Today, this technology is found all over in the shopping malls, airports, banks, highly security points, some churches have it and many others places.

Science tells us that most **automatic** gates nowadays use optical **sensors** or motion detectors, which are installed on the sides of the **gate** to trigger its opening and closing. As the name suggests, these **sensors** detect motion in front of the **door**.

A **sensor** is a device that measures physical input from its environment and converts it into data that can be interpreted by either a human or a machine. Most **sensors** are electronic. Scientists remain with the human authority to interpret and explain scientific cases and scenarios. However, they don't get into finality in their explanations!

Of course scientists know what makes sensors for instance and they use very sophisticated scientific terminologies to describe and explain their cases, but it is God who knows what makes what makes sensors! Only the infinite knows the finality of sensors.

This automatic door technology is biblically and clearly illustrated in the book of Acts of apostles.

Acts 12: 10

As a strong proponent of the gospel of Christ, Peter was arrested and placed into the cell by Herod as he stepped up his efforts to persecute the church.

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

Interesting phrase not to miss here is, "So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him."

Earnest is a serious spiritual component that no one should miss. Praying for one another earnestly is crucial! It is this earnest that makes it prayer and nothing less. It's not the words. Earnest is a strong and critical life aspect that humbles and crystallizes spirituality. It is earnest that builds faithfulness, which is the only pillar upon spirituality builds up.

As we progress into finding the automatic door in scripture Acts 12, let us go with this element of earnest as we grow in our spirituality.

Let's pray for one another earnestly. Stewardship demands that we extend spiritual care to our brothers and sisters even in prayers.

While Peter was languishing in the cell, the Lord God answered the prayer of the saints, the church by sending an angel to the cell where Peter was.

Acts 12:7 "Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists"

Praise the Lord, that God is a prayer –answering God, yes He is! It is a stewardship spirit to believe that when you pray, God answers prayer. That is trust which waters up you're spiritual being. God's answer to a prayer is only picked by **TRUST** to the extent that if you lack trust you can never pick God's answer to your own prayer. Therefore, beloved of God, learn to trust in the Lord.

When God sent an angel to the cell, light shone in the cell, that's what it means to have God with you no matter where you find your selves. *When God steps in, darkness steps out! Amen!* You cannot have God with you and be in darkness at the same time. No! Stewardship means that we walk with God and in His steps and light.

"Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord" (Isaiah 2:5)

Something very interesting to note is that in cell the angel took up leadership and command over the life of Peter. Peter did all the angel told him to do.

The angel struck Peter and told him to wake, up. Peter did, then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. Peter followed him out of the prison. How I wish we surrendered our lives to the angels that God sends to each one of us every time.

Peter obeyed and got up, as he got up, the chains got down, imagine! Spiritual chains are strong only when you are down. Once you obey the divine voice and get up to do God's will, the chains will automatically go down? All we need is to get up at God's command. "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:14).

So Peter followed the angel as the angel commanded. They moved out together and beat all the security system that was mounted around the prison to hold prisoners from escaping. But remember when God steps into any prison, He takes over and every system ceases to function. Heaven took control of that cell. We need to let HIM in our lives. Stewardship is letting heaven take control of our lives. Faithful returning and giving of offering is one of the strongest spiritual sign of obedience and surrendering to heaven to take control. It simply means, one has totally surrendered himself and all his wealth to God to take control.

Acts 12:10 "they passed the first and second guards and came to the Iron Gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him".

So before the mathematician and engineer **Heron of Alexandria** developed a hydraulic system to open door systems of the temples in the 1st century AD, doors had started opening automatically in the bible times, at least Peter saw one. God was using the technology already. There is nothing new under the sun as Ecclesiastes says! Technology starts with God and God uses it to help His own to face world challenges and complexities.

When you see CFMS introduced in God's church now, never perceive it as something new, No. God has been keeping it for the right time, and the right time is now. This system is user friendly, convenient and fits you into the digital dispensation. It is done through your phone. It can save us from delays to give to

God, which has exacerbated the levels of unfaithfulness in our own spiritual lives and the church of God in general.

DAY 2

ATM MACHINES

An automated teller machine (ATM) machine (in British English) or cash is an electronic telecommunications device enables customers of financial institutions to that perform financial transactions, such as cash withdrawals, deposits, funds transfers, balance inquiries or account information inquiries, at any time and without the need for direct interaction with bank staff.

The first time this technology hit the human sight, many got astonished to the core. They were actually right at that time but not anymore! It has become common place.

The "world's first" ATM landed on a high street in Enfield, a suburb of London, at a branch of Barclays bank; there's even a blue plaque on the outside of the building, still a Barclays, to memorialize the cash dispenser's June 27, 1967, debut, by John Shepherd-Barron, (an engineer at printing company De La Rue).

While the ATM machine we see may date back in 1967, the one scripture presents to us dates back to Jesus's time.

Matthew 17:24-26

²⁴ After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" ²⁵ "Yes, he does," he replied.

Those of us who have faithfully chosen to walk with Jesus must be ready to answer questions about Jesus. No short cuts, you either have answers to questions about Jesus or you have never chosen HIM at all. So, brothers and sisters in faith, brace up for these unprecedented questions. The good news is that Jesus Himself is the answer. His word is full of answers to all the questions of the world.

John 15:7 "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you". Abide in Him.

1 John 5:14 "And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us".

The tax collectors asked Peter about Jesus because they knew he knew Him; he was walking together with Him. "If you don't receive any questions about Jesus, chances are so high that nobody is sure you know HIM"! Or they doubt your knowledge of Him or they are absolutely unaware of your connection with Him, so they take no time asking the equally ignorant or lost!

How I wish someone asked me any question about my Lord, how about you?

The temple tax collectors did not hesitate to ask Peter, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" 25 "Yes, he does," he replied.

Have you noticed their question; Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax? Please brother/sister the world knows when Jesus is your teacher, the world knows when Jesus is your savoir, the world knows when Jesus is your Lord, I mean the world knows! "By their fruits you will know them", Jesus Himself said, Matthew 7:20

After Peter got a strong firing question regarding taxes, he presented it to his master. How I wish we leant to present all our questions to our master. I guess Peter explained the point quite clearly to Jesus.

Amazingly, I don't see Jesus contacting the treasury for realizing funds for taxes. Why He didn't write a requisition to treasurer Judas, no one knows. But I tend to believe this was an emergence and He avoided all the treasury delays and bureaucracies and went straight to the source since He is not only chief treasurer but the owner of all treasures.

He instructed Peter to go to a different bank, unknown to human beings, this time the Lake bank! Notice, He did not consult or beg anyone. No finance committee sat to pass the action on the amount. No! He is everything! *Haggai 2:8* The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the Lord of hosts.

Psalm 50:10-12 "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 you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. These verses should clearly inform us of who Jesus is in our stewardship field.

So, Jesus told Peter go to the lake and throw out his line. In other words, Peter had a line, a tool to carry out the assignment. Jesus knew Peter had that **ATM** card already, the line. "Jesus sends you with what you have" He told Peter the first fish you catch, that was the **Pin**, everything was clearly technological. The first fish you catch, open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Clearly, again here the fish was the **Automated Teller Machine** (ATM) in the Lake Bank.

Beloved of God when you go and pick money from the modern ATM machines, don't think those were the first cash dispensers, no! before they did, the fish in the lake had done it. So, there is nothing new under the sun says Ecclesiastes.

Jesus sent Peter to the very first ATM Machine ever, the fish! Nobody knew there was money in the lake except Jesus. He knows wherever His money is including right inside your pocket, on your bank accounts. He knows!

Right in the middle of the water laid the Automated Teller Machine, the fish.

ATM or Cash dispenser technology did not start with Goodfellow in 1965 or John Shepherd-Barron in 1967 as human records read but with Jesus Himself!

DAY 3

REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEMS

Exodus 14

It was such a threatening experience when Israelites saw the Egyptians pursuing them even at red sea. Gloom and despondency covered Israel. Hope of living faded and I suppose they thought their journey to the promised land had been cut short.

They turned to Moses and hipped blames as to why he took them out of Egypt. They saw just death looming on them. *Verses 10-12 of Exodus 14*.

Moses cried to God and God said, ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on.

Beloved even when life is covered with darkness, God says move on. Even when there seems to be no way ahead of you and the enemies are behind you, the Lord still says move on. When life is all at the cross roads, the Lord still says move on. Let us learn to trust the Lord, let us move on.

Check the sequence of prayer, the Israel cried to Moses and Moses cried to God.

In the previous lesson about the ATM technology, Jesus told Peter to go to the Lake Bank with his line. Here is the remote-control technology, the Lord told Moses to raise his staff over the sea.

Note, the Lord is telling his servant to use what he already has in possession.

Verses 16, the Lord said to Moses raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, the waters were divided, and turned it into a dry land. ²² and the Israelites went *through the sea on dry ground*, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

After they went through, ²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots & horsemen."

²⁷ Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place.

Those of us who use remote controls, the first thing you notice about a remote-control unit is that it has no wires, so it has to send signals to whatever it's operating using electromagnetic waves. Light, X rays, radio waves, and microwaves are all examples of electromagnetic waves: vibrating packets of electrical and magnetic energy that travel through the air at the speed of light. Most remote controls send signals using infrared radiation, though some use radio waves instead.

If you look at the top of your remote control unit, you'll see there's a small plastic light-emitting diode (LED) where the **infrared radiation** comes out. Now take a look at your TV or video. Somewhere on the front, there's a very small **infrared light detector**.

When you press the remote control, a beam of infrared radiation travels from the remote to your TV at the speed of light and the detector picks it up.

Essentially, God told Moses you don't need to cry, remember you have a remote control in your hand, that staff; it's not just a stick, no! With my power, it is a remote control! Wireless! What God was saying to Moses was that "when you hold that stick with your hand over the sea, it will beam infrared radiation which travels from the staff to the sea at the speed of light and the sea will pick it up and divide. That staff will wirelessly make a road through that sea. You don't need Jerricans, basins, drums, or big containers to get water out of the sea. You don't need engineers to make a highway through the sea. Use the remote control in your hand Moses! No other human method would have worked for Israel except the divine technology from the almighty.

Please not neither did the Lord tell Moses to strike the sea with the staff nor dip the stuff into the sea, He simply said raise your stuff over the sea. That means the stuff and the sea did not at all come into contact, and there were no wire connections between the stuff and the see. The staff was by itself in the hand of Moses and the sea down by itself. But at the command of God the stuff controlled the sea. Both the opening and the closing of the sea were done by the divine electromagnetic waves sent by the staff. The whole process was completely wireless! High tech!

The infrared radiation or electromagnetic waves are a creation of God. Some sources of EM radiation include sources in the cosmos (e.g., the sun and stars), radioactive elements, and manufactured devices. EM exhibits a dual wave and particle nature. God is the originator of all this technology.



Check, this is exactly what Moses did to the sea using the staff.

Therefore, the use of remote controls cannot be dated back to 1898 when it was first invented/developed by Nikola Tesla. It dates back to GOD HIMSELF! There is nothing new under the sun.

DAY 4

THE PHONE CALL SYSTEMS

It all starts with God asking Abraham to offer his son Isaac Genesis 22:2

² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Abraham got his son and servants and left for the place.

The story of Abraham is one whose spiritual taste cannot be exhausted. It is in this story that one notices clearly that **obedience** is all God needs from us as believers.

What may startle human mind in the exposition is the fact that Isaac was the son of the promise, at least according to God and Abraham and out of him was going to come great nations.

God's promises to Abraham

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. *Genesis 12:2*

The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So, he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him. *Genesis 12:7*

All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. Gen. 13:15

I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojourning, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." *Genesis 17:8*

Any logical scrutiny of the above verses would lead to a conclusion that Isaac was not supposed to be killed and more so be offered as a burnt offering at this time. Because it was through Isaac as the promised son that all the above promises would come to fruition. But now the same promising God is ordering His servant to offer the promised son as a burnt offering on mount Moriah. He can't be burnt and live to procreate nations.

² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Abraham got his son and servants and left for the place.

This is where as believers of the Most High must understand the crux of stewardship If one misses this pivotal part of scripture, worshiping God becomes just an illusion.

Notice! With all realities as pointed out, Abraham did not utter any word of disbelief, opposition, denial or disobedience. He did not ask even a simple question or comment, not even a whisper both in his heart or mouth. This was total obedience to God. Stewardship is just that! It is obedience. Do only what the Lord God has instructed. That's it! If He instructs 10%, that's it. Good enough all His instructions are written.

One wonders, why should God give and take away? He does not give and take away. He only uses it to cement your understanding and connections to Him. He uses it to make you see bigger things in the thicket of life. It is done for spiritual growth on the side of the obedient. The more you do it, the better and stronger you become spiritually. People who have acted like Abraham have not remained spiritually weak or poor.

I beg for your patience for the technology, it is ahead, we will get there soon.

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

When God speaks, take a step, go to the place He Himself has told you. Never worship in any place. Worship in the right place. If it means walking three days, please walk! It has to be the right place. You cannot get anything right until you do it right! Even for Zacchaeus to see Jesus, he had to climb the right tree, the tree on the way of Jesus, Luke 19:4. Not every tree is for you to climb, not every mountain should be calvary for you, not every church is for you to belong to. It has to be the right church! Not any amount is tithe unto the Lord! His is 10th of the increase of your earning period. *Deuteronomy* 14:22

You know it quite well that Isaac was a gift from God to Abraham. God is saying here sacrifice him as a bunt offering now. There is a gift and the giver! The giver is saying give the gift back to me. Faithfulness and obedience will demand that you listen to the giver more than the gift. Remember the giver is the source of the gift. So, focusing on the gift instead of the giver is actually missing the mark. Today many believers focus on the gift more than the giver to the point that even when the giver speaks, he wants the gift, none is willing to listen, today the church is full of gift focusers rather than God focusers. This has left many of us spiritually weak.

Our attention is more on the money than being on the giver of money to the extent that even when God says return to me a holy tithe, no one is listening. Our attention is more on the harvest rather than being on the one who gives the harvest.

Abraham focused on God's instructions and did exactly what God told him to do. Is it not time for us to go the Abraham way? What do you think?

Verses 4 & 5, ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Beloved, you cannot look up and fail to see the promised place no matter the distance. God told him to go to a place. He did not give any map, or GPS, He only said I will show you. Amen! Praise the Lord Abraham looked up and he saw the place at a distance. Look up beloved, you will see your place. Don't look down, look up where blessings flow from. Stewardship demands that you keep your eyes up. Paul advised the Colossians thus, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God". Colossians 3:2-3

To worship God faithfully, you must have discernment of the right place and the right things. Actually, long focus, seeing things at a distance, step into the future.

After seeing the place, he said to the servants "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

Notice! He said we are going to worship, not to sacrifice, well knowing that worship goes with sacrifice, "actually there is no worship without sacrifice". It does not add up!

At the time of worship, people without sacrifices have to stay behind because they have nothing to do even if they went to the place. People without sacrifices even in church at the time of worship can't go spiritual places people with sacrifices go. Those without sacrifices normally remain behind even spiritually. That's why many things in the church of God are behind because they are done by those who remain behind most of the time.

So, Abraham and the boy with other requirements left for the right place to worship. (This story is so sweet fellow reader, but allow me to pick only a few things as I race up to the technology)

Verse 9 and 10: When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Phone Call Systems Technology

An alter first! Each of us must turn our hearts into an alter on which to sacrifice to God. Abraham did everything including tying his beloved son and putting him on top of the firewood. But as he raised his hand to slay his son, heaven made a call using heavenly phone call systems.

¹¹ But the angel of the **Lord called out to him from heaven**, "Abraham! Abraham!"

Whenever you are at the altar, heaven is watching! Heaven can see!

Note! The call was made by the angel of the lord all the way from heaven calling Abraham who was on earth in Moriah. Imagine at that time the call systems were already in place but started by angel calling from heaven. When we make or get phone calls today, this technology was not started by man, it is heaven bon! There is nothing new under the sun. Heaven used the phone call systems to reach Abraham.

The Message in the Call

verse 12[:] Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Critical things to observe here in the message;

It is God who told Abraham to offer Isaac and the message was very clear, but here at the alter we see the same God stopping him from offering his son. What has happened to the creator? But notice, here God said, don't do anything to him, because now I know you fear God.

This clearly means, when God told Abraham to offer Isaac, God was not looking for Isaac, He was looking for Abraham. Only that Abraham could be found in Isaac, so God asked for Isaac. Equally when God asks us to return tithe and give offerings to HIM, He is not looking for money, He is looking for our hearts in the money and property He has blessed us with. This is because the *heart of a true worshiper* is found in his Sacrifice to God.

Therefore, if one cannot be found in the tithe and offering basket, box, bag or account, it is likely that he or she cannot be located anywhere else on the spiritual map of heaven.

DAY 5

BLUE TOOTH

Like other technologies explained above, Bluetooth is another one of great interest and consideration. As usual, we will first pick other stewardship insights and meet the technology along the way.

Key Text: Daniel 2:19, 24

"During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision". "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon Daniel told Arioch take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

Daniel was not just a religious practitioner, he was truly and deeply spiritual, that is, he was fundamentally grounded in the mercies and word of God. He was a doer of God's will. Stewardship is done by spiritual men and women, not Christians! Only doers of the word can be stewards of the Lord.

2 In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. 2 So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, 3 he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means. 4 Then the astrologers answered the king, "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

5 The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. 6 But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So, tell me the dream and interpret it for me."

Verses 2 to 6 unearth facts on how certain dreams can trouble people's minds to the point of losing sleep. After that get into utter confusion to the extent of proposing to kill all the wise people in Babylon who are actually innocent!

Truly, this dream came from God, intentioned to bring to light that which was coming in the life of Babylon and the king. Yes, it troubled Nebuchadnezzar. But the worst blunder he made was to take his case to the so-called wise men. Who is wise in matters of God except God Himself? "Until you take it to God in prayer, it will never get straight with you" in your spiritual journey, please consult with God always. Seek God in all your trials and tribulations! God does not work with enchanters, sorcerers or

astrologers. Let me hit the nail on the head. Today if you are a believer in God, learn to take all your issues to God. Nothing will get fixed spiritually unless and until it is done within the parameters of spirituality and this simply means trusting in the Lord God alone. Leave the magicians alone! No wonder the wise men could not reveal the mystery to the king. They had no command over God's oracles. After they expressed their apparent failure in telling the king the dream and its interpretation, actually the king announced and promised them death, vs. 5.

10" The astrologers answered the king, "There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. 11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans."

Notice, the astrologers told the king "There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks". No one on earth! Did they tell him the truth? No, Daniel was right there on earth. Actually, among them! It does not matter where you live, what matters is your position with God. There is always a man standing with God! If you are falling down with the world, there is a man standing with God. When you stop returning tithe and giving offerings to God, somewhere there is a man standing with God, still returning tithe and giving offerings to God. There is always a Daniel! Though not so many in number, such men and women make the Church of God.

Today the church does not need education as much as it needs transformation, today, the church does not need technology as much as it needs a Daniel! There is no spiritual family of God, until you have a Daniel! Please choose to be a Daniel today.

When they said there was no man, 12 this made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. 13 So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. 15 He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. 16 At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

I appreciate how Daniel handled the crisis. The book says that he spoke with wisdom and tact. Daniel looked for the way to the king and asked for time so he could take the matter to God in prayer. This is how wise men behave friends. Put God first irrespective of the situation. Daniel put God first. Stewardship requires that we put God first under all circumstances. Before your pay school fees, return tithe to God first.

Verse 17. "Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah". 18 He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Beloved, time has come for us to urge fellow believers to plead for God's mercy so that we will all be faithful to the Lord, otherwise spiritual death is looming.

Mrs. White says, "God hears prayer. Christ has said, "If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it, Again He says, "If any man serve me, him will my father honor, "John 14:14; John 12:26. If we live according to His word, every precious promise He has given will be fulfilled to us. (MH, 226, 227).

Verse 19 "During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision". Verse 24 "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon Daniel told Arioch take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

When the astrologers said there was no one to do the task, God had reserved Daniel to do it for HIS glory. There is always a faithful believer somewhere, whom God works with.

The Bluetooth technology starts right here.

As they pleaded for mercy from God, at night, by <u>Bluetooth</u>, God being an abler, transferred all the dream data He had put in the head device of Nebuchadnezzar to Daniel's head device. That is how Daniel was ready to tell the dream and its interpretation to King Nebuchadnezzar Vs. 19 & 22 of Daniel 2

Bluetooth is a short-range wireless technology standard that is used for exchanging data between fixed and mobile devices over short distances. Bluetooth allows data transfer between devices. When Bluetooth-enabled devices are close enough, they can connect with each other through a tiny computer

chip inside them that emits the special Bluetooth radio waves. It uses radio waves instead of wires, cables or cords to connect with devices.

God used radio waves to connect with the two head devices, Nebuchadnezzar's and Daniel's. Not an iota of dream data detail was lost by Daniel as he explained the dream to king Nebuchadnezzar. It was exactly the same as the king had it. Because it was a mere transfer of data by Bluetooth technology even at that time.

²⁶ The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?"

Daniel said, verse 27. "Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these"

From verses 41 to 45, Daniel poured the dream data details as had been seen by the king and the king accepted that what Daniel was saying, he had seen in the dream. This was confirmed by King Nebuchadnezzar as truth in verse 46 of Daniel 2. Check what the king said, verse "The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." Verse 46.

Nothing is new under the sun! even Bluetooth is not new! It did not start with Nils Rydbeck CTO at Ericsson Mobile in Lund, Sweden in 1989 as some contemporary literature intimates, it dates back to God Himself. It is vivid with king Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel with the dream data and God in between them.

DAY 6

CCTV CAMERAS

CCTV stands for **Closed-Circuit Television**. These cameras have a closed-circuit system (like the spirit of the Lord) because their signals are not openly transmitted as it is with broadcast television. The video cameras transmit the footage back to a set number of monitors. (those connected to the Lord) They assist so much mostly in monitoring movements.

Text: 2 Kings 5:26

"But Elisha said to Gehazi, "Was not my spirit (CCTV Camera) with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or to accept clothes—or olive groves and vineyards, or flocks and herds, or male and female slaves"?

Check this verse of scripture "If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your right hand will hold me fast".

Psalm 139:8-10. (CCTV Camera).

After Naaman obeyed and he got cleansed, naturally, he went back to the man of God with gifts. Elisha refused to take any of the gifts. 2 *Kings 5:15-16*.

Gehazi did not balance out when he saw a man of God take such a direction. When Naaman's healing miracle occurred, Gehazi anticipated much from the healed commander and surely the commander had acted in a way that pleased Gehazi. But the hope of Gehazi got slumped when Elisha turned down all the gifts and instructed the healed Naaman to go back with everything in peace.

As Naaman and his entourage set off for Syria, Gehazi deeply crafted a strategy to follow the entourage without the knowledge of the prophet. This was the beginning of his spiritual collapse and downfall. The moment we begin to think we can hide from our master, we get lost into wrong doing, spiritual negatives. Such a design is utterly dangerous for anyone of us to undertake. Already he was crafting ways to go against the divine arrangements of God, what God was doing through His prophet. Gehazi sped off for the entourage, when Naaman saw him, he asked is everything alright?

Gehazi commenced his lies, "my master has sent me, two young men from the company of prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and 2 sets of clothing" he said to Naaman. Look at how life can be drawn into sin drastically because of silver.

Before this occurrence, no record indicates any wrong doing by Gehazi, the love of money is the root of all evil. Luke 12:15, 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." Silver can and has benumbed the spiritual sensibilities of the saints to such a degree that when silver is the scene; spirituality is dropped, forgotten and lost. This kind of spiritual immaturity has curtailed the spiritual growth and as such the strength of the Church of God has significantly remained stagnant or even dwindled to the lowest levels. The love of money has prompted many to tell lies. If there is a sin that has ravaged the Church of God is telling lies, corruption. That's why both the giving and returning to the Lord is low.

Both by word and action. Learn it today that being unfaithful in the return of tithe and the giving of offering is a form of lies that has broken the spiritual fiber which binds us with the creator. And by this lifestyle, we have remained detached from God most of the time. No wonder we are spiritually weak as we talk and read. One is ready to say and do anything for the sake of earning or getting silver/money. In the long run, there exists a diversion of focus from divine to self. This is what happened to Gehazi. He is telling Naaman what Elisha did not actually say. The young men were even not there. It was just a pure and diabolical lie. But who is speaking these lies? Gehazi, the personal secretary of the prophet of God. At this point in time, he has abandoned his official assigned work, he is chasing after possessions. Is this not one of the tenet reasons why the work of God has stalled? Of course yes, many workers in the vine yard are chasing silver in many places, telling lies!!!! But remember every lie whatever its size, color, type and magnitude, it is always against the divine word of the lord and therefore, has no part in the kingdom of heaven.

When Naaman heard Gehazi delivering a message from supposedly the prophet, he took it as a pleasure. Considering what the prophet had done for him, he said; take 2 talents instead of one and take 2 sets of clothing as well Naaman instructed. He ordered two servants to carry the bags and the clothing a head of Gehazi. Look at that respect, but all based on lies!

vs. 23 when they came to the hill, Gehazi took the treasure from the *servants and hid them in the house* and sent the servants back. Some assets are hidden in people's houses friends! Gehazis!

At this moment, Gehazi is only dotted with lies, hiding and many other crafty attributes that go with false fabric. He has slide so low that he can hardly tell the variance between truth and lies, between light and darkness, between wrong and right, between God and the devil, between good and bad. He is caught up in a cob web of the snares of the evil one because of silver. He is heading but for a <u>fatal</u> spiritual crush. His attention is focused on nothing else but the opposite to the divine.

We may hurl blames and heap insults on Gehazi, but search your heart and see what is there, what is that you are hiding, crafting, intending and probably what you are planning to do against the will of the divine. Where is His tithe and Offerings? Not hidden?

Standing before his Master

This is the most frightening episode of all the scenes in this Biblical account. One can do whatever he or she wishes and under any influence, but time comes when he or she has to stand before the master, when each one of us will stand before the master on the Day of Judgment. This is the most disappointing day one should avoid.

vs. 25, "where have you been Gehazi?" the prophet asked. You cannot stand before the master and go away without question/questions. Just standing before the master means you have a case to settle or questions to give answers to. If you are made to stand before our master Jesus Christ and that same pointed question is shot at you, what would your response be? Where have you been in matters of faithfulness and in those matters of fulfilling your vows to God all these years? I do believe each one has somewhere he has been or he or she is at the moment.

Gehazi flatly denied he had been anywhere. "Your servant didn't go anywhere" Gehazi responded. What a liar!!

Many of us who have traveled have seen surveillance cameras in the shopping malls, banks, airports and other high security points, if human beings have such, what about God the origin of wisdom?

Vs. 26, was my spirit not with you when the man got from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money or accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards, flocks, herds, menservants, and maidservants? What a striking statement of surveillance!

Elisha did not go with Gehazi, he stayed back but the spirit, the CCTV cameras were full time functioning.

In other words, is this time to do wrong my brother and my sister? Is this the time to be unfaithful to God? Is this the time to be undisciplined with God's resources?

In vs. 26, I can't imagine how Gehazi missed out on noting the surveillance ability of the spirit of the master. Imagine the spirit of the master was with Gehazi when he thought and planned to go and ask for the money and other treasures, the spirit was with him when he was on the way to meet the general, the spirit was with him when the man descended from the chariot, the spirit was with him when he told lies to the general, the spirit was with him when he received the gifts, the spirit was with him when he hid the treasurers in the house and the finally the spirit was with him when he told a lie to the master that he had not left his place!

If Elisha had such a powerful CCTV camera system as a prophet in the figure of a spirit, what about the Lord? Doesn't He hold the whole universe in His hands? Can't He see what is in your hands, pockets or bank accounts that belongs to Him? Are you not aware that we are all in His hands and His creation?

Is there a moment when the spirit of the Lord is ignorant of what we are doing, where, how and when? Absolutely not! The CCTV camera systems of the Lord are the most super that man should know. They need no operator, no need for maintenance, they don't fault, they screen and x-ray every one under the sun; because they are not affected by the number, they are not limited by distance or place, weather or temperature. It is the spirit of God that hovers everywhere, all the time, looking at everyone's deeds. God is aware!

Check this verse of scripture "If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your right hand will hold me fast".

Psalm 139:8-10. (CCTV Camera). God's CCTV camera systems are all over!

How it works:

The CCTV camera itself captures the video source. The light stream is captured by a digital chip inside the camera and turned into a sequence of images to the display device.

Gehazi was captured by the spirit and the spirit sent the images to the display device of Elisha and Elisha was able to see all that was going on between Gehazi and Naaman's entourage.

Germany used CCTV Technology to Monitor Weapons During World War II in 1942. CCTV technology was invented by a man named Walter Bruch, initially for the purpose of learning about weapons, not people. In fact, the first documented use of CCTV allowed the German military to observe rocket launches from inside a bunker.

But all that human story on the technology notwithstanding, the CCTV camera system or technology you see and enjoy today has its origin with God. It is erroneous, if not inaccurate to date it as recent as 1942 when Walter Bruch invented one. Its origin is with God Himself who actually created it. There is nothing new under the sun says Ecclesiasts!

DAY 7

ZOOM TECHNOLOGY

Zoom is a cloud-based video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others - either by video or audio-only or both, all while conducting live chats - and it lets you record those sessions to view later.

Since the world was struck by covid 19 pandemic and human physical contact was highly discouraged and made it one of the containment measures, zoom technology gained traction. All meetings, worship services, lectures, workshops, seminars etc., went virtual!

The zoom technology is quite amazing especially if you see it for the very first time. Communication is made so easy virtually, you can meet, talk, discuss and take binding decisions. You can worship, sing praises, even give your offerings without going to church physically. Some of us have attended our graduation ceremonies virtually, I mean you do quite a lot virtually by zoom technology.

Is zoom new? Can this technology be located in Scripture? Oh yes!

2 Kings 6:8-12

⁸ Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."

⁹ The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there." ¹⁰ So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

¹¹ This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

¹² "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

Zoom actually means move or travel very quickly.

Scripture above points out that every time Arameans made a scheme to go to war with Israel, since God had a zoom link and the ID with Elisha, He saw their plans and quickly zoomed all the plans of the Arameans to Elisha the prophet. All the plans and the places they intended to camp in pursuit of Israel was all zoomed to the prophet and the prophet had to quickly relay/ zoom the message to the output device of the king of Israel.

The Graphics Device Interface (GDI) of Microsoft Windows of God were representing graphical objects from the high command office of the Arameans and transmitting them to the output devices of Elisha and Elisha had to zoom the entire message to the output device of the king of Israel.

In otherwards, whatever the Arameans schemed, God saw, Elisha saw and the king of Israel saw at the same time. Imagine God zoomed up to the bedroom of the king of Aram and Elisha saw everything! Verse 12.

Using this technology, time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. Technology should actually assist us link with God even more.

Friends when God chooses a nation, he places His man and systems there to always warn His people of the dangers so they can stay safe in this world of sin. That person you hear on the pulpit is that man or woman of God warning you. If we listened and acted on the warnings we receive all the time, we would escape all the traps of the evil one. We need to be on our guard all the time. Learn to listen! There are many traps the devil has mounted all over. But be of good cheer my friend;

Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn".

Israel's success came about as a result of the zoom link between God and the prophet Elisha and the link that existed between Elisha and the King of Israel. There has to be a connection of some sort for spiritual success to flow! We must network with the maker, the one with all the wisdom and knowledge of what was, what is and what will be. The spiritual circuit must be complete. Praise the Lord for His on time providence! That link must be there.

At this time the king demanded of them, "Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?" The king had thought a betrayer was in their camp. The was no body in Aram who was on the side of Israel. Not one! Only God was on the side of Israel, using the technology the Arameans did not understand except one officer. If God is for you, no one will be against you. Romans 8:31. "When God is all you have, you have all you need". That is all Israel needed, that is all the Church needs today, that is all you need as a believer. If God is with you, whom else do you need?

¹² "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom." Unfortunately, the king of Aram was looking for the problem where none existed. "He was busy building a bridge where no river exists".

Praise the Lord for the zoom technology God used to save Israel from its enemies. Even the contemporary technology should be used to save us from our arch enemy, the devil! Let us use it as a useful strategy. But most importantly let us make God our strategy today! Make Him your all-time zoom technology please! Technology comes from HIM.

DAY 8

CHURCH FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CFMS)

This a newly established system of returning tithe and giving offerings to God in the church today in this digital age and space. It is Cashless, done using your mobile phone. It is convenient, transparent, fast, safe and exclusively private! You can return your tithe or give offering any amount, any time and in any place as long as you are in your network.

Like the technologies above, is it possible to locate it or something similar in scripture? Yes.

For purposes of comparison, the system in the bible can be called **TCFMS**, Temple Chest Financial Management Systems. Because that is its actual nature as we will see soon. So, when time for comparison comes, we will deal with TCFMS and CFMS. That is the financial system in the Bible times and the system we have in contemporary times called CFMS.

We will expose ourselves to the Bible Financial System in the Old Testament, New Testament and in Jerusalem, which will eventually lead us to the Contemporary CFMS.

1. In The Old Testament. (The Story of Rebuilding the Temple under Joash).

2 Kings 12:9-10 (Rebuilding the temple under Joash).

Jehoiada the priest took *a chest* and bored a hole in its lid. He placed it beside the altar, on the right side as one enters the temple of the Lord. The priests who guarded the entrance put into the chest *all the money* that was brought to the temple of the Lord, the

(THE STORE HOUSE).

¹⁰ Whenever they saw that there was a large amount of money in the chest, the royal secretary and the high priest came, counted the money that had been brought into the temple of the Lord and *put it into bags*.

They used *a chest* for collection of all the money to the temple for the Lord. We can comfortably say they used the Temple Chest Financial Management System. *TCFMS*.

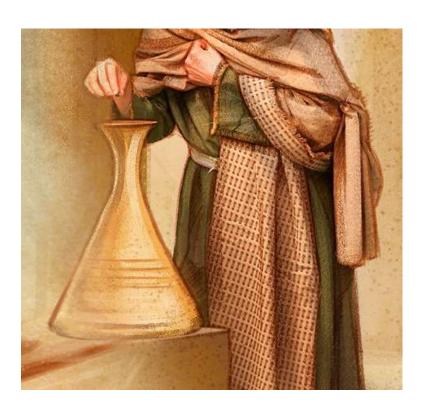
A sample of a chest in the Old Testament



In the New Testament chests were as well used and were also called trumpets because of their shapes. They were narrow at the top and wide at the bottom.

In Jesus' day, this is how temple contributions/offerings were collected?

A chest in Jesus' days.



The Narrowness at the top was to ensure safety of the offerings given to the Lord. Once you dropped in the offering of the Lord that was it! It was not easy for anyone to remove it. Only the designated personnel who were authorized to remove and count would do it at the right time. **2 Kings 12:10.** Again, we may call it *Temple Chest Financial Management System. TCFMS*.

While offerings to the Lord in chests in the Old Testament were secured by *locks* on the lids, those in the New Testament were secured by the *narrowness* on top of the chests, todays offerings to the same Lord God are secured by a *church code* and the *giver's registered personal number*. The CFMS, *Church Finance Management System*.

IN JERUSALEM

According to the book "The Temple—Its Ministry and Services" by, Alfred Edersheim, the treasury of the temple (Store House) in Jerusalem was located in the Court of Women. "All around ran a simple colonnade, and within it, against the wall, the thirteen chests, or 'trumpets,' where contributions/ offerings were placed."

Each chest was labeled for a different type of offering, and the funds collected in them were earmarked for specific uses. Jesus was in the Court of Women when He observed many people, including a needy widow, giving offerings. Luke 21:1, 2.

In this system, two chests were reserved for the temple tax—one for the current year and one for the past year.

Chests 3 to 7 were for collecting funds for the appointed value of turtledoves, pigeons, wood, incense, and golden vessels respectively. If the offeror had set aside more than the stipulated price for an offering, then he deposited the leftover amount in one of the remaining chests. Chest 8 was for money left over from sin offerings. Chests 9 through 12 held funds left over from guilt offerings, from the sacrificing of birds, from the offerings of Nazirites, and from the offerings of lepers. Chest 13 was for voluntary contributions.

Every type of offering and its specific use was in its own chest, TCFMS.

Today, in the church the Church Finance Management System, CFMS, works exactly like the Temple Chest Finance Management System, TCFMS in the Bible, both in OT & NT.

The current method counts money, which is brought into the temple/Church (**Store House**) and puts it into bags at every church administrative level.

Like TCFMS of the Bible where each chest was labeled for a different type of offering, and the funds collected were earmarked for specific use, CFMS, using percentages, i.e., 10%, tithe, and Combined Offering System, that is, 50%, 20%, 5%, 5%, sends each % into its chest or church level bag for a specified and earmarked use for that church level.

Today's CFMS, Sends tithe to the Conference chest, Union chest and Division chest.

The system sends offerings to the present chests as follows; 50% to the local church chest, 20% to the conference chest, 5% to the Union chest, 5% to the Division chest and finally the Division sends 20% to the General Conference chest. Each offering is going to its rightful bag or chest for a specific use.

All %s intact!

TCFMS & CFMS Compared.

TCFMS Handling Temple Money 1 H

Ensured safety of funds

Right amount went to the right Chest

All money put in the chest.

Only the authorized touched funds

Was God's Temple Financial system

- . Improved temple internal controls
- . Happened in the Store House (Temple)

CFMS

- 1 Handling Church Money
- 2 Ensures safety of funds
- 3 Right % goes to the right church level
- 4 All money put in the system.
- 5 Only the authorized touch funds
- 6 Is God's Church Financial System.
- 7. Improved church internal controls.
- 8. Is happening in the Storehouse (Church)

Therefore, CFMS and TCFMS are exceptionally analogous especially in functions and an excellent nexus between the two.

In essence, CFMS is a Biblical form of Contemporary Church Funds Collection and allocation that God has sanctioned.

CFMS is not a man-made creation, it is God's chosen method of operation in the digital world/Space.

It is not new, only that this is digitized and cashless!

CFMS is not about celebrating technology. No

It's not about celebrating the work of IT. No

It's not about copying with the world standards and operations, No!

We are not celebrating any man's idea, No!

It's all about the glory of GOD, GOD has a purpose for technology and therefore CFMS.

FOR GOD'S GLORY

1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." Technology is actually for the glory of God. CFMS is for the Glory of GOD. CFMS is for the Glory of God and nothing else!

Let us all go Tech Please! Amen.

May the good Lord keep you in the loving pieced palms of His hands. AMEN

REPORT FOR THE STEWARDSHIP WEEK OF PRAYER 19 TH -26 TH FEBRUARY, 2022										
Church:										
District:										
The one Who led the week:										
2.10 0.10 1.10 1.20 0.10 1.00 0.10 1.10 1										
ATTENDENCE DURING THE WEEK OF PRAYER										
DAY	MEN	WOMEN	YOUTH	CHILDREN	TOTAL	HOMES	CARDENC	EADMC	BUSINESSES	
DAY	MEN	WOMEN	YOUTH	CHILDREN	IOIAL	VISITED	GARDENS VISITED	FARMS VISITED	VISITED	
DAY 1						VISITED	VISITED	VISITED	VISITED	
DAY 2										
DAY 3										
DAY 4										
DAY 5										
DAY 6										
DAY 7										
DAY 8										
TOTAL										
SUMMARY OF TESTIMONIES AND EXPERIENCE OF WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE WEEK										
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Church Stewardship Director:										
District Pastor:						Contact				

TO BE SENT TO THE FIELD STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR