## **Stewardship Ministries**



enesis 28: 20-21 reminds us of the promise Jacob made to God when he said, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace.....of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you." The Mt. Olive Stewardship Department was mindful of Jacob's promise to God when planning the 2020/21 theme titled 'Living faithfully according to God's word'. For 2020, our main mission was to foster spiritual empowerment in each member by encouraging faithful living according to the biblical principle of putting God first in all that we do. Although we did not anticipate the challenges the current global pandemic would bring, we made it our mission to encourage the church family to remain faithful to God in all situations. Regular stewardship sermons by the church leaders, annual stewardship emphasis day, a financial seminar, as well as weekly video presentations and quarterly messages aimed at the millennials were some of the activities intended to energize the church to live faithfully.

Despite the limitations for physical gathering inside the church, God made it possible for our dedicated church leaders to swiftly organize the Zoom platform as a creative means to continue our fellowship. With this new online platform, the Stewardship Department was committed to deliver pertinent messages to the congregation

about the importance of returning a portion of our resources to God even during times of uncertainty. Whenever possible, the team shared the two-minute clips from the 'God First' video series during the Personal Ministries segment of the program. Each month, a team member would take a turn presenting on the importance of being good stewards with our time, talents, treasures, and things to strengthen our walk with Christ. In preparation for the annual Stewardship Day on December 12, 2020, the team circulated an electronic copy of the "Seeking the Kingdom of God" revival readings authored by Pastor Joan Tatar to the church to promote personal devotion and reflection on principles of faithfulness. This well written resource filled with an eight-day compilation of bible stories reminded us of how such characters like Daniel, Jacob, Ruth, and Mary to name a few remained faithful by putting God first. The author also shared stimulating children stories with each daily reading to foster key learning to the younger generation on the importance of being faithful to God in our youth. On December 12, 2020, the congregation was blessed by the time sensitive sermon by Pastor Gerry Pasikatan-the local conference Stewardship Leader titled "Stewardship in Challenging Times". The Stewardship team is grateful to all those who participated in the program as they certainly made the program extra special. As children of God, we can expect to live a holistic life when we are faithful to God.

Similar to the story of Jacob and other characters in the bible, our path in this life will include joyous occasions, as well as challenging times like the global pandemic we are currently facing in our lifetime. How we respond in these circumstances is a direct reflection of our personal walk with God. As we approach a new year, the Stewardship Department would like to encourage each one of us to keep our eyes on

Jesus and remain faithful in all circumstances because God is ever faithful to us.

Jolean Lloyd