

The Contributions of Rural Churches by Alfred Kalembo

Introduction:

In Africa, most of the Wesleyan Churches are in rural areas while the administrative offices are in urban areas. These two areas have different economic realities. However, our support structure is such that the local churches must provide financial support to the administrative offices at district and national levels.

Stewardship asks the question, “What are you going to do with what you have?” This is the question the Wesleyan Church should seek to answer in order for the rural churches should be good stewards of what they have.

Urban and Rural Economic “Languages”

	Urban (Location of Administrative Offices)	Rural (Location of Supporting churches)
1.	Cash economy	Agricultural based – field crops, livestock, fishing, etc.
	a) Money needed for daily needs such as paying bills, food, transport, fees, etc.	a) Money not needed for daily needs. People eat their farm produce. Only for specific items such as school fees.
	b) Wealth is terms of how much money and assets that money can buy.	b) Wealth is in terms of harvest and how much livestock one has.

Biblical Basis:

1. Agricultural products can be given as tithe. “A tithe of everything from the land, whether gain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD, it is holy to the Lord....Every tithe of the heard and flock---every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod... will be holy to the LORD. Leviticus 27;30-31.
2. God expects us to use what he has given us. He asked Moses what he had in his hands. “The Lord said to him (Moses) ‘What is that in your hand? He (Moses) said, ‘A rod”.