

## THREE WAYS TO ALLOCATE RESOURCES

### 1. Individual Outlook

Each person seeks resources for their own programs or for themselves personally.



One Congolese said to me: “You haven’t met all our needs yet, and already you’re going to Ghana.”

Theory—More money for X program means less for mine.

Results:

- Thwarts expansion & growth
- Tendency to make reports that SOUND better than the reality (to exaggerate or outright lie) in an attempt to get more funds for MY program

## 2. Family Outlook

An attempt is made to divide resources equally or proportionately amongst all the workers and areas of ministry. Can be compared with a mother who tries to divide resources equally amongst all her children, treating each alike.

*Mommy loves you all alike, so here's--*



We ARE a family, so it's easy to feel resources should be divided this way.

Results:

- May result in satisfying the “children”, UNTIL one feels he is more deserving than another.
- Thwarts motivation to do better, since there is no reward for performance.

## 3. Stewardship Outlook

We are family, but we are also stewards. (1 Cor. 4:2, 1 Peter 4:10)

An attempt is made to place and use God-entrusted resources where they can be used best and most, giving the greatest return for the Master who entrusted those resources to us. We place more resources where they will likely result in more or better quality or more strategic ministry.

A wonderful example: Rev. Donani's response when I told him ECM could not come to the Northern region of Ghana right now because of our commitment to helping abolish trokosi.

*As stewards we seek the greatest possible return on our Master's investment, so here's--*



*And we'll keep on evaluating how you're doing to see if next time you should get more or less.*

Each child should be satisfied, not because he got more money, but because he knows he is doing his best at what God asked him to do. Some projects need more money than others. Some projects are more profitable than others. Our focus should not be on the amount of money we receive, but on using it as faithfully as we can.

**Our job as stewards—**

- **is to do our job.**
- **is to avoid comparing ourselves with others.**
- **is to give honest and regular reports.**
- **is to guard our hearts against jealousy.**
- **is to seek the overall welfare of the work, not our own advancement.**

**SALARIES—**

**Depend on faithful service and timely, accurate reporting, which is in the control of each staff member.**

## MINISTRY FUNDS—

**Depend on return on the Master's investment, and that is not totally within the control of the staff member.**

### **Biblical basis:**

Some of the hardest verses to understand: Matthew 25:28-29 (Context Matt. 25:14-30)

At first glance it seems to go against all sense of fairness, and also against the gist of many other Scriptures that show God's concern for the needy.

1. The Master gave something to everyone. (vs. 15) Some 5, some 2, some 1
2. Servants and talents BOTH belonged to the Master. (vs. 14, 18)
3. The Master wanted the servants to USE whatever He gave them.
  - Not for storage
  - Not for show
  - Nor the comfort and convenience of the servant
  - Not for the personal advancement of the servant

This is seen clearly in the Master's responses (20-21, 23, 26-27).

EVERYONE who used their talent, no matter how small, was commended and their talents increased.

4. The Master EXPECTED an INCREASE, a RETURN ON INVESTMENT. (ROI) When one servant got NO return, he lost his talent.
5. The rate of return was not the issue, but non-use of gifts was the issue. (vs. 21, 23)
6. Each servant had to answer to his Master.  
The Master's approval or disapproval was the only standard of success.
7. Excuses were not accepted. (Vs. 24-25)
8. The loser was the one who did nothing, ignoring his responsibility to seek a ROI for his Master.
9. In taking the talent from a non-producing servant and redistributing it, the Kingdom went forward.

### APPLICATION TO ECM

What are the talents God gives us?

Position

Opportunity  
 Influence  
 Finances (Salaries and ministry funds)  
 Abilities and Spiritual gifts from God  
 Material resources—money and goods  
 Knowledge—education and training

1. The leadership of ECM, like Jesus, is looking for ROI.
2. We're going to take resources from non-producing programs/staff, and redistribute them to producing areas.

Managers understand that all resource allocations are really stewardship investments. They weigh the social and financial return of each of their investments.

Good management is resource allocation—making the best use of what God's given, committing resources where they will do the most good.

Problem in Resource Allocation:

\$3000	Program A	Program B	Program C
Total	\$1000 spent	\$1000 spent	\$1000 spent
Entrusted	20 saved	0 saved	75 saved
Resources	750 heard	4 heard	1900 heard
	30 teachers trained	20 teachers trained	30 teachers trained
	training 1 week	training 1 day	training 1 week
	4 new SS	0 new SS	3 new SS
	Reports on time	Reports late	Reports on time
	Reports complete	Reports incomplete	Reports complete

Manager's problem: Where should the next \$3000 go?

Donor's problem: Which program would he most want to support?

Considering principles of Biblical stewardship, what do you think the manager and the donor should do?

## THOUGHTS OF USE OF RESOURCES From John 6: 1-13

Balance—Jesus' power to meet our needs in balance with our responsibility in handling resources

What God told me through this story long ago in considering our Congo Resource Libraries-- Use what you have freely and I will multiply it.

6:5 Jesus asks them to take a big responsibility  
(Consider ECM taking on the responsibility of the children's home.)

6:7 Philip sees his inadequacy. It is good to see our inadequacy to meet the need, as long as that's not ALL we see.

6:8 Loaves & fish—What is available is so little it's also like a joke.

6:10 Jesus gave a command without explaining where He was going with it.

6:11 Jesus turns the joke on them, giving thanks for food that is totally inadequate.

The multiplication of the food—Now we see the adequacy of Jesus.

Steps to having the need met:

- 1) Recognizing our inadequacy
- 2) Giving all we do have to Jesus
- 3) Experiencing His adequacy for our need

What kind of food did they get for lunch?

Adequate food, nutritious food, but common, ordinary food. Not a king's rich banquet.

Why the gathering of fragments?

It is clear that God did not give resources in order that they be wasted, and that He is not pleased when resources are wasted. God does not intend for us to waste resources even when they are abundant.

Doing what we can & trusting Jesus—They go hand in hand.  
They are like twins, they are like lovers. They are inseparable.

Every day, in every need, we should be:

Trusting His adequacy  
Exercising our responsibility

Our responsibility involves

Prayer, Trust, Giving All we have, Using wisely all He gives, whether much or little.