This study addresses the essence of establishing a livelihood program in the West African Seventh-day Adventist church that may meet the socio-economic needs of both members and Church institutions. The proposal revolves around plans for starting a support system for church members who are unemployed, underemployed, or unskilled. The plan if implemented shall help those laid off from their places of employment, the poor who are able to work, and those who have lost jobs due to becoming Adventists. The plan will also help to improve the resources of the Church, leading to self-reliance in the face of limited appropriation from the General Conference.

Theologically, a livelihood approach derives from the Church’s emphasis on a holistic outreach to human beings, based on the Bible. The need for a holistic outreach is augmented by the economic condition of this sub-region. The second theological supporting idea is stewardship.

The West African Church is increasing in membership, in spite of poor economic conditions. Both the Church and its members are victims of socio-economic deprivations. Several biblical teachings support the urgency for a well-planned livelihood program.
method of evangelism is a model to be emulated in its outreach to the physical, mental, social and spiritual aspects of persons.

Analysis of some existing livelihood programs demonstrated the practicability of a livelihood venture, and that the needy have potentials to solve their own problems if given an opportunity. Jobs and training for needy members strongly correlates with improved living conditions and reduces backsliding rates.

This paper proposes the creation of a Research and Human Development (RHD) department in the Adventist Church. An RHD department could effectively handle the necessary research and implementation of projects and would be instrumental in solving the problems addressed. The Church benefits from a holistic ministry to mankind. Members’ improved welfare will be reflected in increased tithes, offerings, and donations that may well make the Church self-supporting.