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The Claim of Redemption

Mrs. E. G. White

Tithes and offerings for God are an acknowledgement of His claim on us by creation, and they are also an acknowledgement of His claim by redemption. Because all our power is derived from Christ, these offerings are to flow from us to God. They are to keep ever before us the claim of redemption, the greatest of all claims, and the one that involves every other. The realization of the sacrifice made in our behalf is ever to be fresh in our minds, and is ever to exert an influence on our thoughts and plans. Christ is to be indeed as one crucified among us.

Know you not that "ye are not your own? for ye are bought with a price." 1 Cor. 6:19, 20. What a price has been paid for us! Behold the cross, and the Victim uplifted upon it. Look at those hands, pierced with the cruel nails. Look at His feet, fastened with spikes to the tree. Christ bore our sins in His own body. That suffering, that agony, is the price of your redemption. The word of command was given, "Deliver them from going down to perish eternally. I have found a ransom."

Know you not that He loved us, and gave Himself for us, that we in return should give ourselves to Him? Why should not love to Christ be expressed by all who receive Him by faith, as verily as His love has been expressed to us for whom He died? . . .

When you see souls in the kingdom of God saved through your gifts and your service, will not you rejoice that you had the privilege of doing this work? . . .

The enemy will invent every device in his power to prevent the light from shining in new places. He does not want the truth to go forth "as a lamp that burneth." Will our brethren consent that he shall succeed in his plans for hindering the work?

Time is rapidly passing into eternity. Will any now keep back from God that which is strictly His own? Will any refuse that which, though it may be given without merit, cannot be denied without ruin? The Lord has given to every man his work, and the holy angels want us to be doing that work. As you shall watch and pray and work, they stand ready to cooperate with you. When the understanding is worked upon by the Holy Spirit, then all the affections act harmoniously in compliance with the divine will. Then men will give to God His own, saying, "All things come of Thee, and of Thine own we freely give Thee." May God forgive His people that they have not done this.

Brethren and sisters, I have tried to set things before you as they are; but the attempt falls short of the reality. Will you refuse my plea? It is not I who appeal to you; it is the Lord Jesus, who has given His life for the world. I have but obeyed the will, the requirement of God. Will you improve the opportunity of showing honor to God's work, and respect for the servants whom He has sent to do His will in guiding souls to Heaven?—"Testimonies," Vol. VI, pp. 479-481.

GOD'S GREAT PLAN

We are God's partners in giving the gospel to the world:

"The Lord has made us His stewards. He has placed His means in our hands for faithful distribution. He asks us to render to Him His own. He has reserved the tithe as His sacred portion, to be used in sending the gospel to all parts of the world."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, p. 51.

God gives specific instruction regarding the use of the tithe:

"The portion that God has reserved for Himself is not to be diverted to any other purpose than that which He has specified. Let none feel at liberty to retain their tithe, to use according to their own judgment. They are not to use it for themselves in an emergency, nor to apply it as they see fit, even in what they may regard as the Lord's work."—*Id.* Vol. IX, p. 247.

The tithe is compared to the Sabbath:

"The tithe . . . is the Lord's." Here the same form of expression is employed as in the law of the Sabbath. 'The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.' God reserved to Himself a specified portion of man's time and of his means, and no man could without guilt appropriate either for his own interests."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 525, 526.

Ministers and church officers have a responsibility in teaching the tithing plan:

"If they fail to do their whole duty in educating the people to be faithful in paying to God His own, there will be a shortage of means in the treasury to carry forward the Lord's work.

"The overseer of the flock of God should faithfully discharge his duty. If he takes the position that because this is not pleasant to him, he will leave it for someone else to do, he is not a faithful worker. . . . When the one who ministers in word and doctrine sees the people pursuing a course that will bring this curse upon them, how can he neglect his duty to give them instruction and warning? Every church

member should be taught to be faithful in paying an honest tithe."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IX, pp. 250, 251.

Who determines what an individual's tithe is?

"Voluntary offerings and the tithe constitute the revenue of the gospel. Of the means which are entrusted to man, God claims a certain portion,—a tithe; but He leaves all free to say how much the tithe is."—*Id.* Vol. V, p. 149.

What is one cause of adversity among us?

"Those who thus complain of God have brought their adversity on themselves. They have robbed God, and His cause has been hindered because the money that should have flowed into His treasury was used for selfish purposes. They showed their disloyalty to God by failing to carry out His prescribed plan. When God prospered them and they were asked to give Him His portion, they shook their heads and could not see that it was their duty. They closed the eyes of their understanding that they might not see. They withheld the Lord's money, and hindered the work which He designed to have done. God was not honored by the use made of His entrusted goods. Therefore He let the curse fall upon them, permitted the spoiler to destroy their fruits and to bring calamities upon them."—*Id.* Vol. VI, pp. 389, 390.

How are some professed Christians hindering God's work?

"The work of evangelizing the world has been greatly hindered by personal selfishness. Some, even among professing Christians, are unable to see that the work of the gospel is to be supported by the means that Christ has given them. . . . Thousands upon thousands are perishing in sin, and a lack of means is hindering the proclamation of the truth that is to be carried to all nations and kindred and tongues and peoples."—*Id.*, Vol. IX, p. 52.

How does Heaven look upon a failure to pay tithe?

"All that is withheld of that which God claims, the tenth of the increase, is recorded in the books of Heaven as robbery against Him."—*Id.*, Vol. III, p. 394.

What is one way of increasing our blessings?

"If all the tithes of our people flowed into the treasury of the Lord as they should, such blessings would be received that gifts and offerings for sacred purposes would be multiplied tenfold, and thus the channel between God and man would be kept open."—*Id.* Vol. IV, p. 474.

"God's requirements come first. We are not doing His will if we consecrate to Him what is left of our income after all our imaginary wants have been supplied. Before any part of our earnings is consumed, we should take out and present to Him that portion which He claims."—*Id.*, Vol. IV, p. 477.

How might God's treasury be supplied with sufficient funds?

"There should be an abundant supply in the Lord's treasury, and there would be if selfish hearts and hands had not withheld the tithes, or made use of them to support other lines of work."—*Id.* Vol. IX, p. 249.

When should the paying of tithe cease?

"Not until God ceases to bless His children will they cease to be under bonds to return to Him the portion that He claims. Not only should they render the Lord the portion that belongs to Him, but they should bring also to His treasury, as a gratitude-offering, a liberal tribute. With joyful hearts they should dedicate to the Creator the first-fruits of their bounties,—their choicest possessions, their best and holiest service. Thus they will gain rich blessings. God Himself will make their souls like a watered garden, whose waters fall not. And when the last great harvest is gathered in, the sheaves that they are enabled to bring to the Master will be the recompense of their unselfish use of the talents lent them."—*Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 339, 340.

The Christian who meditates upon God's great gift longs to give much more than a tithe:

"Tithes for Christ! Oh, meager pittance, shameful recompense for that which cost so much! From the cross of Calvary, Christ calls for an unconditional surrender. . . . All we have should be consecrated to God. The Majesty of Heaven came to the world to die a sacrifice for the sins of man. And how cold and selfish is the human heart that can turn away from such incomparable love, and set itself upon the vain things of this world."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IV, pp. 119, 120.

GOD CALLS FOR COÖPERATION

DIVINE LEADERSHIP ALL THE WAY

God is the invisible leader of His church; He is the head of the body; in the person of His representative, the Holy Spirit, He is seated upon His throne in His temple and is directing in all the affairs of His spiritual kingdom. His human representatives on earth, who are chosen as leaders, are not infallible; they are weak, erring men; but the Lord works through them as they give themselves to His service.

From the beginning of this great Second Advent Movement, in a special way, God has been the Leader of His commandment keeping people. Without divine leadership, and without the confidence of its adherents in the Lord's guidance, no such movement could suc-

ceed. This confidence must rest on the assurance of the divine origin of the movement, and of continued divine guidance.

From its inception in 1844 till 1915, a period of seventy years, divine guidance was extended, not alone through the Word of God, but also through the living prophet—Mrs. E. G. White. At her death she left with the church many volumes containing messages of instruction for the continued guidance of the church till its work is finished and Jesus comes to receive His faithful children to Himself.

Early in the development of this movement, the plan of systematic giving for the support of the ministers of the gospel was recommended by Elder James White. Study was given to the

tithing system as taught in the Bible and emphasized in the Spirit of Prophecy and it was adopted in 1879. This heaven-ordained plan for carrying forward God's work on earth, in which every believer, whether rich or poor, can have part, has proved to be a great blessing. It has made possible, from the financial side, a remarkable advance, till today this Message is being proclaimed in more than four hundred languages. This plan has made every believer feel that he is an integral part of this great world-wide work, that he is in partnership with God, and that the success of this divine-human enterprise is his very life.

In a letter addressed to the General Conference as recorded in the General

Conference Bulletin, 1893, Sister White wrote:

"The work is soon to close. The members of the church militant who have proved faithful will become the church triumphant. In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

How prone the human heart is to forget the good things God has done for us. Repeatedly in His Word the Lord has warned us against this danger.

"Beware," He said, "lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart." "Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God." "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping His commandments." Deut. 6:12; 4:9, 23; 8:11.

"Beware," "take heed to thyself," "keep thy soul diligently lest thou forget." How solemn these words! How soon we forget the bondage from which we were delivered, the great things the Lord has done for us, His covenant made at such infinite cost,—His own life-blood,—His commandments which angels and Jesus Himself delight to obey.

A woman may forget the child of her bosom, but the Lord says, "yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before Me." Isa. 49:15, 16. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance." Ps. 112:6. Lest we should fear that He would forget us the Lord says, "a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name." In that "book of remembrance" the names of all who do not forget God are recorded. "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." Mal. 3:16, 17.

Of infinitely more value than all the treasures of this world is the assurance from God Himself that in that great and final day of reckoning, when the books are opened and every man shall be "judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works," that then we shall be His; He will save us from the death our sins have merited.

God has instituted the system of tithes and offerings that constantly the thought of God and His claims upon us may be uppermost in our minds. When this command is obeyed every thing that comes into our possession, whether it be as wages or salary for services ren-

dered, as increase from our farms or from other sources, causes us at once to think of God's portion—the tithe. "Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." Deut 8:18. How appropriate then that in addition to the tithe which is God's we should from our portion make a thank offering as an expression of our gratitude for His wonderful love in saving us and for His constant care.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!" Rom. 11:33.

E. E. ANDROSS.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

**"GOD PLANNED THE SYSTEM
OF BENEFICENCE**

In Order
**THAT MAN MIGHT BECOME
LIKE HIS CREATOR,
BENEVOLENT**

And
UNSELFISH IN CHARACTER,

And Finally
**BE A PARTAKER WITH
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Of the
**ETERNAL, GLORIOUS
REWARD."**

—Mrs. E. G. White.

**THREE AGENCIES GOD WILL USE
IN THE FINISHING OF THE
WORK**

While the Scriptures definitely state that God "will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness," other statements given to us through the Spirit of Prophecy indicate just as definitely that God expects co-operation from other agencies. We will refer to three which God will use in these last days to gather out a people for the kingdom.

His Holy Spirit

God sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to prepare the disciples to carry a message to all the world, and wonderful were the results; but He has promised to send His Holy Spirit in the last days to prepare His people the second time to carry a message to all the world. The Holy Spirit will be manifested in power more abundant than on the day of Pentecost. John the revelator describes the effect of this power in Revelation 18:1. "I saw another angel come down from Heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." That time is near. We see evidences on every hand that the Spirit is saying, "Come," today to those who are sitting in darkness, and men and women are being

convinced of their sins and are turning to the Lord.

It is true that God is able to operate through the Holy Spirit without the co-operation of man, but in the great work of saving souls it is His purpose that this mighty power shall be manifested through men. In order to be the medium through which the Holy Spirit will work, man must put away every sin and bring his life into harmony with every requirement of God. Because the people of God have been slow in making this preparation the latter rain has been delayed. These agencies, which God will use in the finishing of the work, are so closely associated that it is difficult to mention one without referring to another, and so we have already referred to the second agency which is

His People

The work would have been finished years ago had the responsibility of soul-winning been placed with angels, but God has definitely stated that this work will never be finished until men and women make preparation for the reception of the Holy Spirit, and unite in this work in which all Heaven is interested. The following quotation from the Spirit of Prophecy appeared in the *Review and Herald*, March 1, 1887: "We must be laborers together with God; for God will not complete His work without human agencies." The people of God have the privilege of either hastening or retarding the coming of Christ. This is stated in "Christ's Object Lessons," p. 69: "It is the privilege of every Christian, not only to look for, but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." This being so, the preparation to receive the Holy Spirit, and the responsibility to co-operate with God in the finishing of the work should be matters of deep concern to the people of God.

On Oct. 23, 1879, Sister White beheld in vision the scenes of the judgment now in progress in Heaven. After describing the "Ledger of Heaven," which contains the names of those who claim to believe the truth, another book is referred to in the following words:

"Another book was opened, wherein were recorded the sins of those who profess the truth. Under the general heading of selfishness came every other sin. . . . One class were registered as cumberers of the ground. As the piercing eye of the Judge rested upon these, their sins of neglect were distinctly revealed. With pale, quivering lips they acknowledged that they had been traitors to their holy trust. . . . True, they had not such confessions to make as had the vile and basely corrupt; but, like the fig tree, they were cursed because they bore no fruit, because they had not put to use the talents intrusted to them. Like Meroz, the curse of God rested upon them for what they had not done. They had loved that work which would bring the greatest profit in this life; and opposite their names in the ledger devoted to good works there was a mournful blank."—*Testimonies*, Vol. IV, pp. 384-386.

The great sin of selfishness decided the eternal destiny of the souls referred to in the quotation; and it is this same sin which prevents God from using the third agency in the finishing of the work.

His Money

It is true that God has money invested in this world, for we read in Psalms 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 thee: for the world is Mine, and the fulness thereof." The only reason God claims this investment in this world is to carry forward the work of saving souls, and He has intrusted all His property to men as His stewards; but a certain portion is to be reserved as sacred. "All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord." Lev. 27:30.

If man withholds any part of this tithe and uses it for his own purposes, he has committed a sin which will be written in indelible letters in the Ledger of Heaven. The following statement in "Testimonies," Vol. III, p. 394, names the sin: "All that is withheld of that which God claims, the tenth of the increase, is recorded in the books of Heaven as robbery against Him."

This is the time of the judgment. Every professed Christian has a case pending there. What will be the prospects for eternal life for the individual after whose name is written "robbery"?

There is a peculiar relationship between these three agencies which God will use in the finishing of the work. The people of God can accomplish nothing in the work of saving souls without the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit will not be given to them if they withhold the Lord's tithe. We read in Mal. 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

The windows of Heaven were opened when Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The windows of Heaven were opened on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended in mighty power upon the disciples. Now in these last days God has promised that He will again open the windows of Heaven if His people will bring His tithe into the storehouse. If God's people will comply with this request there will be sufficient means to carry forward the work of God, and the people of God will have sufficient power quickly to finish the work: for God will surely

open the windows of Heaven and give this promised blessing. The curse for not complying with the request of God is of such a serious nature, and the promised blessing is so wonderful if all the tithe is brought to the storehouse, that those who desire to see the work of God quickly finished and to enter into their eternal reward should have no difficulty in deciding concerning their course of action.

What wonderful results would follow the complete co-operation of these three agencies! All the tithe and offerings laid upon the altar for the finishing of the work; the complete consecration of the people of God; and the mighty outpouring of the Spirit of God in the latter rain. In a few months the last warning Message would sound to earth's remotest bounds, and the people of God would start on their journey to the New Jerusalem. C. E. WOOD.

Mexico City, Mexico.

Our King's Money

If we only had the money that belongeth to our King,

If the reapers of God's harvest would their tithes and offerings bring,

Then the windows of the heavens would open wide at His command,

And He'd pour us out a blessing that would overflow the land.

If we only had the money, it would give redemption's song

To weary hearts now crying out, "How long, O Lord, how long?"

And the thirsty land would blossom, and the waiting isles would sing,

If we only had the money that belongeth to our King.

It would gild those saddened faces with the beams of Bethlehem.

And the "solitary places" would rejoice and sing for them.

O ye stewards! Get ye ready! Soon will come the reckoning,

When you'll answer for the money that belongeth to our King."

—Missionary Review of the World.

THE WHY OF TITHING

Why should we pay tithe? Is it that God is dependent upon man's resources in the carrying forward of His work in the earth? "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Ps. 24:1. Since the earth is the Lord's, surely He is not dependent upon man. Not only does the earth itself belong unto the Lord, but all the "fulness thereof."

"The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts." Haggai 2:8. "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 thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof." Ps. 50:10-12.

From these and many other statements in the Bible it is clear that God

owns all, for He is the Creator of all, and as Creator is not dependent upon man. Yet in the beginning God gave man dominion over all of His works of creation in this world. [See Genesis 1:27, 28.] But because of sin, man lost his right and title to the earth. It could be regained only by redemption through Jesus Christ. So now man occupies the earth and uses its possessions as a steward. And "it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful" declares the great apostle Paul. In the parable of the unjust steward, who wasted his lord's goods, we read, "Give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward." As the Lord's stewards, how important that we be found faithful, for every man must give an account of his stewardship.

While the Lord entrusts to man, even since his rebellion, a portion of His goods, He, as Lord and Creator, reserves a certain portion of all that He intrusts to man in order that we fallen creatures of His hand may be led continually to recognize the claims that God holds upon us, and the all important fact that we are dependent upon Him, "seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." Acts 17:25. Again: "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." Deut. 8:18. All our strength and power come from God.

How fitting, since the Lord gives power to get wealth, and since we are dependent upon Him momentarily even for the breath we breathe, that He should require of us a portion of all His intrusted goods, and that we should show our appreciation as faithful stewards! And what portion does the Lord require of all that with which He intrusts us?

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord . . . and concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, . . . the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord." Lev. 27:30-32.

The tenth—or a tithe, for the word tithe means tenth—is "holy unto the Lord." This portion He, as Creator, reserves unto Himself, not that He needs it or is dependent upon it, but rather that we need the blessings that come to us in recognizing the claims that the Lord has upon us. If we truly love the Lord, it will be a pleasure to return to him a tenth for carrying forward His work in the earth. Really a tenth is a small rental, is it not? Men require much more than a tenth for the rental of their possessions.

"And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that Thou shalt

give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee."
Genesis 28:20-22.

So Jacob was a tithe payer in recognition of the claims and blessings of the Lord. Thus it must be clear that the WHY of tithing is that we may in all of our earthly possessions and income be led continually to recognize the claims that Heaven has upon all that we have in this world. Again the tithe is required that we may obtain the blessings that come from faithful service. God has dedicated the tithe to the great work of saving men. It is to be used for carrying the gospel to earth's remotest bounds. Thus through the tithing system we become co-partners with the Lord in the blessed work of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom in all the world. A. R. OGDEN.

Havana, Cuba.

"IN THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION"

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12:17.

Rebellion originated in heaven in the heart of Satan, and the great rebel induced multitudes of the angels to join him in his effort to establish a new form of government. His purpose is revealed in Isaiah 14:13, 14:

"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High."

His determination to do this led at last to open war as told in Revelation 12:7, 8:

"And there was war in Heaven: Michael and His angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in Heaven."

When Satan was banished from Heaven he at once sought to win the innocent couple in Eden to his side. The story of how he approached Eve and led our first parents to join him in his rebellion against God is told in the book of Genesis.

It is the purpose of God to save mankind from the results of transgression, and to crush the rebellion and its leader.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Heb. 2:14, 15.

This is no mimic war. It is a war to death. It is the purpose of Satan to overthrow the government and throne of God if he can possibly accomplish it. This of course, is impossible; but a look at the cross with the Son of God dying on it is enough to show the dreadful

nature of the struggle now going on in this world. The gospel is God's plan for winning men back to their allegiance to Him, and for their salvation from sin. It is God's purpose to bring as many back to their allegiance to Him as will consent to return; and when this has been accomplished, God will make an end of sin and sinners. The preaching of this gospel has been committed to men; and to provide the means necessary for the prosecution of the work God claims the tithe and offerings. This money, *all of it*, God has dedicated to the work of salvation.

When the existence of a country is endangered by the approach of an enemy from without, or by rebellion with-

TOO MUCH

*The usher passed onward from pew to pew,
And noted the offerings, scant and few,
Till he came where the widow McWiley sat,
With her plain, poor gown and her remade hat;
And there he but badly concealed a thrill
When she placed in the basket a large new bill.*

*Warm in his great, grand house that night
The usher sat by the soft-hued light.
"The widow McWiley, I've never supposed,
Could give so freely," he dreamily dozed.
"She's only a widow, and poorest of such,
And I believe truly she gave too much."*

*But down in a little room chill and bare,
The widow bowed in her good-night prayer:
"I thank Thee, Lord, for my daily bread,
And for all that Thou helpest me give," she said.
"And I pray that Thy gifts may the larger be,
That I may have more to return to Thee."*
—Eugene Rowell.

in, the loyal citizens spring at once to the defense of their land, and they count no sacrifice, either of life or money, too great that their country may be preserved. Should they refuse to defend their country, but should, on the other hand, give aid and comfort to the enemy of their country, it would be an act of treason, punishable by death. So it is in the great spiritual conflict now going on in this world. The government of God is threatened, and millions of men are losing eternal life through the work of the great rebel leader, Satan. The tithe and offerings are to be used to meet the expense of carrying on the work of the gospel—the great campaign now being waged against Satan and his forces; and there never was a time when funds for the prosecution of the work were more needed than now. To withhold the tithe and offerings now, is giving aid and comfort to the enemy. Is it not, in reality an act of treason against God to withhold the tithe at such a time?

In these difficult and trying times men find their incomes greatly reduced. It is increasingly difficult to find work, and many do not know how they are to make a living for themselves and their

families. But none of these things release men from the duty of paying tithe. It is the duty of the Christian to give to God that which He claims as His own at all times, and then to believe God will do exactly as He says: He will—open the windows of Heaven, and pour him out a blessing. [Malachi 3:10.]

We are now in the beginning of sorrows. Before us is the darkest hour this world has ever known, "And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time." Dan. 12:1. Just before us is "the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth." Rev. 3:10. Satan will do all in his power at this time so to hedge up the way, that the people of God will lose their faith and confidence, and come to think themselves unable to pay tithe or to give offerings for the support of the work; but it is just at this time that the people of God should strive to be most faithful in the support of the work, and in the discharge of every duty and obligation. If we supply the funds so greatly needed now for the prosecution of the work, the work can soon be finished and the Lord come. There will be means for the work, if the people of God will do their duty in this great hour and will support faithfully the work with their tithe and offerings.

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, [margin says riches] who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, [the tithe belongs to God] who shall give you that which is your own?" Luke 16:10-12.

Let us never forget that the hour which is to try them that dwell on the earth, also will try the people of God, and let us be faithful in the little things, as well as in those that we consider to be weightier. W. R. ELLIOTT.

Port of Spain, Trinidad.

THE FAMILY TITHE

When God called Abraham from his home and kindred and established his covenant with him whose descendants were to become God's chosen people, the Jewish nation, His reason for choosing him is given as follows: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him." Gen. 18:19.

Among the many things Abraham taught by precept and example was tith-

ing. After his recovery of the stolen goods taken from Lot and the inhabitants of Sodom by wicked men, he honored God, recognizing Him as the owner of all things, by paying a tithe of all to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High.

So careful was he in training his children in this duty and great privilege that we find his grandson, Jacob, following his example and making this solemn pledge to God: "Of all that Thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto Thee." Gen. 28:22. God says of us, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Gal. 3:29. Furthermore He says that if we are the children of Abraham we will do the works of Abraham.

From these two texts it is clear that when we become Christians, when we have given ourselves to Christ, we become the seed of Abraham and God expects of us the same work that Abraham did. Thus we should teach our children in the things of God just as earnestly as Abraham did, and among the things taught will be the tithing system.

I cannot think of a more beautiful picture than a well ordered family where the father and mother are real Christians and united in the pleasant work of teaching their children in the way of the Lord. Daily practical lessons in Christian living are taught by both precept and example. As the seed is sown in the ground the children are taught that it is God who causes it to grow and produce a harvest and that as a tribute of honor to God in recognition of His ownership of all, we are to return to Him a tenth of all He gives us. From very tender years the children can be taught that the tithe is holy unto the Lord. Lev. 27:30.

Perhaps at first they can be given a plant as their own and after they have watched it and cared for it until it is ready to harvest and their own hands have gathered in the golden grains, they can be shown what part is the Lord's and with care they can be taught to put aside the tithe for Him who sent the showers to water the plant, the sun to warm it, and the earth to nourish it, because He loves us and wants to make us happy. As they grow older, larger responsibilities can be entrusted to their care.

If the family lives in the city the children can be given some work to do for which they can be paid what they earn and then they can be shown how to put aside for the Lord His portion in recognition of the truth that "it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." Deut. 8:18.

As the children are taught the true principles of tithing and are helped by their parents to calculate and put aside

their tithe, this Christian duty becomes a real pleasure to them. With delight they will arrange their tithe envelope and drop it into the church offering and, no matter how small the amount, the child should be permitted to drop in his own tithe envelope and should receive his receipt. As these lessons are taught in the home by the parents the children, as well as parents, will learn to appreciate the value of the things God gives them day by day and greater care will be exercised not to waste His bounties. It is well for us to often repeat the promises God has made to those who faithfully return to Him His own. [See Mal. 3:10-12.]

As I write these lines I find crowding into my mind the experience of a faithful family down in Guiana. The family was quite large. They were always all on time for Sabbath school although they lived many miles down the river. Every member of this family had for years maintained a perfect Sabbath school record. Upon inquiry I learned that they were very faithful in tithing also, and as a result the Lord had protected their crops while others were unable to grow anything because

Getting Interest

"I just don't have any interest in missions!" exclaimed Fannie Smith petulantly and, if truth must be told, a bit superciliously as she left one of our thrilling meetings in company with an older lady, presumably an aunt or other relative.

We were near enough to hear her answer. "No, dearie," came the pitying response; "'t isn't to be expected you should—yet awhile. It's just like getting interest in a bank; you have to put in a little something first; and the more you put in, the more interest—time or money or praying, it doesn't matter which. But something you have to put in, or you never will have any interest. Try it, dearie—just put in a little something, and you're sure of the interest."—Selected.

of ants and other pests. All the people up and down the river remarked that the Lord marvelously protected the crops of this family, and it was clearly evident that the Lord protected this brother's crops because he was faithful in the payment of his tithe.

We are living in a time of crisis and nearly every family is feeling the effects of this depression. This is a good time for each one to reflect carefully to see if he has been truly faithful to the Lord in rendering to Him an honest tithe. If you find you and your family have been somewhat careless in this duty and you will with a firm resolution change your course and be faithful in paying a full tithe into the Lord's treasury, you will find Him ready to pour upon you rich spiritual and temporal blessings. W. E. BAXTER.

San José, Costa Rica.

HOW TREASURERS MAY ASSIST

We are made to realize that the serious financial situation through which the world is passing is not only affecting certain sections of the country, but is international. Recently there appeared a survey in the *Literary Digest* showing graphs outlining the trend of affairs. On these graphs, covering incomes, wages, sales, commodities, employment, business, and manufacturing, there was a very decided trend downward, while the cost of operating municipal, state, and national government, since 1913 and even 1924, has gone upward. This was brought out very strongly by the president of the United States in an address before the governors' conference in Richmond, Virginia. It was really a plea for the tax payer by the chief executive of the United States. He said, "a dominant national necessity is to reduce the expenditure of all our governments. This is not only the need: it is the universal demand."

In our conference and mission work we have realized a considerable reduction in income of tithe, and in addition to this the appropriations to the fields have been reduced over one-fourth within the last sixteen months. This has brought upon us a situation that calls for careful study;—*first*, how we may reduce expenses as much as possible and still go forward with the work; *second*, how we may hold and increase our tithes and offerings. This responsibility rests, not alone upon the conference and mission officers, but upon every believer within the Inter-American Division. Each treasurer should keep in close touch with the believers in the conference or mission, and keep them informed as to the needs. They should furnish monthly comparative statements on tithes and offerings received.

I was impressed recently in reading the experience of Israel in the building of the tabernacle when Moses made the call to that vast company to assist. They brought their offerings until there was sufficient, and the word went out that there was no need for further help.

During the first part of this year I have been in Colombia, Mexico, and Cuba. There is an urgent plea for help, and the task seems nearly beyond the workers, with the reduced budgets; but we know the work is to go forward. The need is urgent now. Who knows but *just a little while from this* that the word may go forth: "There is no further need of help." At that time it will be a great joy and blessing for us to look back and realize that we did what we could in bringing financial help to the cause, and that because of our sacrifice men and women have been saved from sin to enjoy the pleasures of eternity. F. L. HARRISON.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

☪ ☪ THE BLESSINGS OF FAITHFULNESS ☪ ☪

GOD'S BLESSING ADDETH NO SORROW

Cristobal Lucio lived in the rolling hill country of the state of Hidalgo. He was the son of a prosperous farmer and cattleman and succeeded fairly well on the farm and in his little shop where he sold *pulque*, the native intoxicant made from the maguey plant.

Some of his friends had heard of a new religion that had come to the nearby town of San Toman and he decided to go to hear. As a result he united with the Adventist church.

Of course, the *pulque* shop must be closed. But as that was the source of greatest income, and he and his family had had it all their lives, it was a struggle to give it up. However, they decided to obey come what would and trust the Lord for His promised blessing. They heard the promise that if they would return to God His own, He would open the windows of Heaven and pour His special blessing upon them.

Lucio soon noticed that God was fulfilling His promises. He found that where he expected a crop of seventy *cargos* he received one hundred, and his stock began to increase. Our worker testifies that the blessing of God is seen in all of the work and that the number of believers is increasing. Surely God's blessing adds the greatest joy.

C. E. MOON.

Mexico City, Mexico.

☪☪
GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE

In Mal. 3:10 the Lord says, "Prove me now herewith, . . . if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." To every man who really has tried Him, He has sent the promised blessing. He fulfilled His promise to my father, who was a faithful tithe payer, in the following way: Father had a small farm in Jefferson County, New York, U. S. A. Around him lived several other men who owned about the same sized farms. But somehow father's farm produced better than the others did; and, while the crops would fail on the neighboring farms, father always had a crop. His barns were always full, and he often had to pile up stacks of produce outside, because there was no room inside, while the others never got their barns full.

One day two neighbors were talking. One said to the other, "Gardiner has a good farm, and if he were not always giving away ten cents out of every dollar, he would soon get rich." Father overheard the remark, and stepping up to them said, "Friends, that is just why

my farm produces so well. God and I are partners. I return to Him his part, one tenth, and in turn He blesses my farm that it may produce more; while you rob God of His part of the products of your farm, and use it for yourselves, so God withholds His blessings and your crops fail."

God very remarkably proved His word true in another case: A young man, who was working hard for the world, was not very faithful with his tithe. He received big wages, but somehow he could not save a penny. At the end of the year he had no more than he had at the beginning. God called this young man to attend school and prepare to work for Him. But he had a wife and child to support, and if he

Give Unto the Lord His Own

"The earth and the fulness with which it is stored

Is Mine," saith the Lord in His holy Word.
"The cattle and sheep on a thousand hillsides,
The gold and the silver are Mine, too, besides."

"To man have I given these treasures of Mine,—
Of ten parts to use for his purpose just nine,
For one tenth is holy—and claimed as My own—
Just one little portion to use as I've shown."

"Bring into My storehouse My tithes," saith the Lord.

"A blessing abundant on you will be poured;
No room will you have to receive its full store,
Your cup of blessing will be running o'er."

"Ye have robbed Me, O men, of that which is Mine—
My tithes and My offerings,"—saith the Master divine.

"Ye are cursed with a curse, and reap what you sow,
Instead of the blessing I long to bestow."

O render to God what is His, my friend;
And speed on the tidings, and hasten the end.
Be faithful, O brother, in the race to be run,
Press on till you hear the Master's "Well done."

P. T. BEAUMONT.

Port Limon, Costa Rica.

should stop work and attend school, where would the money come from? God kept bringing to his mind these words: "Bring ye *all* the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove Me." So he took God at His word, and the result was that he never lacked anything he needed. His clothes wore longer, his shoes actually lasted longer, and always they had plenty to eat. He left school with his bills all paid, and the college gave him a small balance due him in cash when he finished.

Dear friends, prove God by paying an *honest tithe* and He will reward you too.

L. H. GARDINER.

St. John, Antigua.

AND HE FAILED NOT

In a small village in Trinidad lived a poor brother who was confined to his bed for over three years. When young he worked very hard, but during his years of illness he was dependent mainly upon a daughter for his support. Sometimes a few kind relatives or friends would pass on to him a little to help him along.

On my visits to this brother I was always encouraged by his strong faith and hope. His life is vividly before me still. His cheerful countenance and courageous words still are fresh in my memory. When we spoke of the glad hope we have of seeing our Lord in the better land his afflictions seemed to be forgotten. For more than three years this loyal brother lay confined, but one quiet morning the Lord called him to rest.

There is one act in this brother's life which stands out more clearly before me than all others and which helps me to understand more fully his deep love to God, his fellow-men and this Message. On one of my visits he took out a small parcel which contained money. "This," he said, "is my tithe which I want you to hand to the church treasurer." I quietly took the parcel and thanked God for permitting me to behold this wonderful faithfulness of one of His afflicted children. I later learned that whenever a gift of money was made to him, he never failed in faithfully laying aside what was the Lord's. To see such faithfulness in one who was almost helpless, I trust, will be always an inspiration to loyalty to principle in my heart.

He is now dead but his deed lives on. He was poor, unrecognized in this world, but his name may shine forever in the land of eternal day. And shall not we who are left behind emulate his worthy example and manifest the same generous spirit by continually giving to aid in finishing the work?

"I saw that in the arrangement of systematic benevolence, hearts will be tested and proved. It is a constant living test. It brings one to understand his own heart, to see whether the truth or the love of the world predominates."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 22.

May we each be so faithful in tithe paying that our established principle ever will keep us on the victorious side in this "constant living test."

C. MANORAM.

Georgetown, British Guiana.

☪☪

"Man does not own the earth; he has it from God as a lease; and the rent charged is ten per cent of its value and a liberal offering besides."

"Circumstances are nails upon which the weak hang their failures; with which the strong build their success."

TITHE-PAYING BRINGS A BLESSING

Did you know that William Colgate of the Colgate Soap Company, Harry Judson of Chicago, Mr. Baldwin, the founder of the Baldwin locomotive and William Gladstone of England, were tithe payers? Years ago during a financial depression, the directors of the Baldwin Locomotive Works decided not to pay tithe that year. What did Mr. Baldwin say? He told them that then was the time to trust God. The tithe was paid, and the company did not go into bankruptcy.

In a certain family there were five children. The oldest child was a girl and she was chosen unanimously to act as the family treasurer. Her business was to collect the tithe and offerings from the members of the family. The plan worked so well that the whole family became intensely interested.

My mother, who is now sleeping, was the first one to tell me about the tithe. One day on my way to school, I found a dime in the road. During the day, a lad about my age, sold me an old mouth-harp, and I paid him for it with the dime. Arriving home that evening, my brother told about it in the presence of my father. Father mounted his riding horse and went three and one-half miles to return the harp and bring back the dime I had found during the morning. He gave it to me. Then mother took me into her care and told me how I should save my money and that one cent out of every ten cents belonged to Jesus. A foundation was laid that I have never forgotten.

A parent said not many years ago: "When I see how difficult it is for many grown-up people to be honest and business-like in their financial dealing with their Lord, I am thankful that I learned to pay tithe when I was only a child. I can remember that one cause of my father's failure as a Christian was due to the fact that he found it difficult to see the necessity of paying tithe. I am thankful that my mother taught me to enjoy the privilege of paying tithe on what little cash fell into my hand when I was only a youngster."

Here is what another says: "When I got my first money on a Friday, daddy read to me from the Bible about tithing and handed me a tithe envelope. I know the Lord blesses me, for this year when I raised my chickens only one of them died. When I get big like daddy I am going to pay a second tithe as he does."

"I was born on Friday evening, August 17, 1917" said another young friend. "The following Monday my cousin gave me thirteen cents, and with my mother's help I became a tithe payer and have been faithful ever since. I work after school and on Sundays and am saving

Always Enough

*In time of drouth the spring will fail;
The cattle on the beaten trail,
The birds perched on the dusty brink,
Search vainly for the cooling drink.
The grass is brown, the blooms are dead
Along the little stream's dry bed.*

*Not so God's Fountain! Drouth nor heat
Can check its waters clear and sweet.
For all the thirsty souls of earth
It gushes forth—there is no dearth.
Abundant, free, an endless flow
While countless ages onward go.*

—Anne Porter Johnson.

up for college expenses. I pay tithe just as gladly as I eat my breakfast."

Dear reader, if you have been unfaithful or negligent in tithe paying, will you not resolve to be prompt in sending to the treasurer God's share that you have in hand? In closing let us read Eccl. 12:13, 14:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Havana, Cuba.

F. I. MOHR.

LENDING TO THE LORD AND RETURNING HIS OWN

If giving to the poor is such a blessed thing that it is termed lending to the Lord, how much more precious must it be to deal directly with the Lord Himself as we do in tithes and offerings. It is a blessed partnership. Our heavenly Partner is ever faithful and honest. Ought we not to be like Him? He has said: "Bring ye all the tithe into the storehouse." That is a safe place to leave it. Let us be careful not to leave it anywhere else. Let us also be sure that we leave it all in the right place. Otherwise the Lord can never truthfully say we have been faithful, and we really do not expect Him to say anything that is not true. It is a blessed thing to be faithful now and here; and it will not be less blessed to hear it pronounced then and there. PETER NYGAARD.

Santo Domingo, R. D.

PAYS TITHE AND HAS MORE

After a Bible study on stewardship, given in a missionary meeting in the Fort-de-France [Martinique] church, the following testimony was given by a sister who is a clerk in a store:

"Immediately on learning that 'the tithe is the Lord's,' I began to pay tithe, and the Lord has greatly blessed me. Every week, though the other clerks work one day more than I do, my percentage is more than theirs, and I have more for myself after paying tithe than they do."

M. D. HOWARD.

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

"I WILL REBUKE THE DEVOURER"

A family that paid a faithful tithe was rewarded in this way: Their ground joined another lot. Potatoes were planted on both sides of the wire fence that divided them. The crop of the other man was found to be very badly diseased and he plowed them all under without saving one. Seeing this the tithe-paying family looked to see if they had any potatoes and found that theirs were not diseased in any way. They dug theirs and had enough even for seed the next year. The neighbor marveled at this. He could not understand why his were bad, and the others good. Of course, our brother explained all about it and the man shook his head and said he never saw anything like it before.

L. J. BORROWDALE.

Santurce, Puerto Rico.

GOD BLESSES AND PROTECTS

In one of the country districts of Japan is a little church of faithful God-fearing farmers. They love the Message. One spring during rice planting time a real test came to the elder of this church. The rice plants had been delivered on Thursday ready for planting on Friday. But due to a storm it was impossible for the plants to be set out. Sabbath morning was bright and clear and on all sides neighbors were busily setting out plants, but this brother, along with the other members of the church, was faithful to the command of God.

His neighbors laughed at him and told him his plants would be ruined and his crop a failure. Then they laughed at his religion and his God. But our brother prayed God to fulfill His promise. Although his plants did look a little wilted, in a few days they were growing well and before long were ahead of the plants in the neighboring fields. By harvest time our faithful member had the largest crop in the neighborhood. It was an astonishment to all!

At harvest time God especially protected this brother's crop. A great storm came beating the fields of grain into the ground, but our brother had been impressed to work one whole Saturday night taking in his grain; and when the storm came his crop was safe. The neighbors all said his God had blessed him. God does bless those who will pay their tithe and keep the Sabbath. He will pour out his blessing in bountiful measure.—V. T. Armstrong in *Far Eastern Division Outlook*.

"We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God. Many things He asks us to yield to Him, but in doing this we are but giving up that which hinders us in the heavenward way. Even when called upon to surrender those things which in themselves are good, we may be sure that God is thus working out for us some higher good."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 473.

FAITHFUL IN TITHE AND WORK

A certain member says that he has proved that the Lord is faithful. He is happier than ever in his Saviour and praises Him for calling him to follow His footsteps.

For some time this man has been a government employee and has managed to get the Sabbath off. Each time his superior is changed he has to go through the same scrutiny. They do not find fault with his work, but the Sabbath is a thorn in their eyes. Twice he has lost his work, but each time they have sent for him and he is still at the same work. Not very often do they send for a man that has been discharged and is without political friends. But in this case the same men that have discharged him have sent for him again. The Lord has blessed him for his faithfulness. He says, "I have been faithful to the Lord and He will do the best for me." Each time he lost his work he asked the Lord to give it back to him and renewed his vow in regard to faithfulness in tithing and in his work. The Lord has blessed him and he is happy in the Lord.

May we not all try the Lord's faithfulness?

PETER NYGAARD.

Santo Domingo, R. D.



TWO GREAT BIBLE TESTS

The Lord is going to have a tried and tested people to take to Heaven when He comes. He has many ways by which He tests His children to see if they will be loyal when the way seems hard. Many face the world without a job to keep the Sabbath, yet it is only a test that the Lord is sending to see if we have faith to believe that He will care for those who are willing to make the sacrifice.

Since moving to Belize, I recall the experiences of two individuals who had a struggle to come into the church for fear that they would not be able to make both ends meet and keep the Sabbath. The Lord helped them to take their stand for the truth. You will be glad to know that both of them are getting on better now than when they were in the valley of decision. The Lord is good and will stand by His children.

Another great test to some is tithe-paying. In these times of depression when money comes slowly and many are out of work most of the time, it seems to be a big test to take out the Lord's part from the little that comes in. I thank God that He has a loyal people in the earth and many of them are faithful in keeping the Sabbath and paying their tithes. The readers of the MESSENGER will be glad to know that April has the best record in tithe-paying in the history of this church. You would be happy to see the number of tithe envelopes coming in every Sabbath from our loyal members. Other

Always Giving

*Giving, giving, always giving,
Is my Lord to me;
Giving of His grace and blessing,
Sinful though I be.
And shall I withhold from giving
While he gives to me?
Cling to earth and earthly treasures,
Though the need I see?
No, I'll give to spread the Message,
Give to Him I love,
Give to herald wide the coming
Of my blessed Lord;
Give as I have been forgiven,
Give to send His word
To poor souls who sit in darkness,
Knowing not the Lord.
—C. P. Bollman.*

churches in the mission are keeping up with their tithes and offerings. The La Ceiba church has been doing remarkably well and others are also doing well but have not as large a membership.

God made the Sabbath holy and let us do our best to keep it holy. The tithe also is His and He says it is holy, so may the dear Lord help us not to use holy time in a common way, nor to use holy money for buying that which is not holy. Let us stand for God in these closing hours, and determine that we will be true to the end. Jesus is coming in our day—coming for His children. But a great work is yet to be done before that glad day shall be ushered in. Let us furnish the means that the Message may be finished quickly and we go home to dwell in the earth made new. Friends long separated will meet in that glad day to separate no more forever. May the Lord's family here in this great division be true to the Bible tests and stand faithful to the end.

C. B. SUTTON.

Belize, Br. Honduras.



A CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?"

This call to faithfulness is made by Jesus just after His statement, "therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." In answer to the question put to Him by His disciples, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and the end of the world?" He had given them many signs whereby they might know when the end was nearing. Yes, He had pointed out the signs by which they might know the last generation; and to His people in the last generation, His command is: "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." And because we can not know the hour, we should be in a "ready" condition whenever the call shall come, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him."

The signs spoken of by Jesus have all been fulfilled. We have been in the last generation now for many years. Yes, we are in the very last part of that generation. It is not a time now to get ready, to meet our Lord, but we should be ready, "for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." We are now living in the time when this call to faithfulness is made.

The Only Way to Be Ready

Faithfulness in every duty is the only way to be ready to meet the Lord. It was because of unfaithfulness in one command that our fore-parents were driven from their beautiful home in Eden; and it is evident that the Lord can never permit us to re-enter there until we learn the lesson of faithfulness wherein they failed. If He should give us the privilege of re-entering without learning that lesson, He could give no reason why He drove them out in the beginning. Partly following the Lord will never meet His approbation.

When the children of Israel, in their journey to the land of Canaan, reached Kadesh-barnea, they sent twelve spies to "search out the land." After searching the land for forty days the spies returned and reported that Canaan was a beautiful land "flowing with milk and honey." "Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled and very great." "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we." but Caleb stilled the people and said,

"If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it to us. . . . Only rebel not against the Lord. . . . And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? How long will it be ere they believe me? . . . Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it; But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land wherein he went; and his seed shall possess it."

It is a sad lesson to repeat, but that whole host that came out of Egypt died in the wilderness and only those who "wholly followed the Lord" entered the land. Like many today, Israel partly followed the Lord; but they were forbidden to enter that beautiful land. What a lesson to us who are about to enter the heavenly Canaan. We must learn the lesson of *wholly following* the Lord if we ever expect to enter that land.

Faithfulness the Test of Character

The Lord's approval will not be given for the many great things that we do, but for faithfully performing the little things that come to us day by day. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." The test of character in the sight of God consists in fully following every known duty. It is only to such that the pearly gates will be thrown open.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." 2 Cor. 9: 6-8.

"Those who come up to every point, and stand the test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the LATTER RAIN, and thus be fitted for translation."—"Testimonies," Vol. I, pp. 187, 188.

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 214.

One of the first tests given to Adam and Eve was upon the point of recognizing ownership. The Lord gave them free access to all the trees of the garden except one. By their not being able to eat of this tree, they recognized that they did not own the garden, but that it was a gift from the Lord. They failed upon this test, and sad has been the result. After the fall the Lord gave the command regarding the tithe that men might always remember that the Lord is the owner of this earth and that all our blessings come from Him. This is a test that comes closer to a man than almost any other. The man is left free to himself before His God to decide whether he will pay a *faithful tithe* or not. No one, but himself and the Lord, knows whether he is paying a just tenth of all the Lord gives him, or whether he is just paying a little conscience tip. If the records could be seen, it would be found that many in the church are not paying the faithful tenth of all the Lord has given them.

Brethren, we should be *faithful, ready* to meet our coming Lord. Is it not a time when we should look into every act of our lives and see if we are faithful? With some it may be one neglect, with another it may be another neglect; but whatever it may be that would mark us unfaithful, we should correct it and be *ready* and waiting for the coming of the Son of man.

L. V. FINSTER.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

THE COLPORTEUR, TITHE-PAYING AND SUCCESS

"Some have brought themselves and their families into most distressing circumstances through poor management in book canvassing."—"Manual for Canvassers," page 62.

The above quotation is taken from the writings of Sister White. It is speaking of the colporteur and the management of his finances. It will be noted that that which is responsible for bringing some colporteurs and their families "into most distressing circum-

stances" is not the canvassing work itself, but **poor MANAGEMENT.**

Frequently we find colporteurs with little ability to make large sales, yet because of careful management in matters of finance, they are able to supply their needs and have more cash to their credit than the colporteur with a much larger sales' record, but who is careless in the management of funds.

It is impossible to enter into the details of the subject of good management in this article for there is much involved, yet there is one phase of this question that we would like to speak of. We believe its relation to success is vital. It is the matter of faithfulness in paying an honest tithe, and in giving liberal offerings. You may say, What does tithe paying and offerings have to do with good management in the colporteur work, or in any business? Let us see.

In an article written by H. E. Rogers, the statistical secretary of the General Conference, published in the *Review and Herald* of March 1, 1928, reference is made to a survey of the membership of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in North America. One of the purposes of this survey was to secure information concerning the business men of this denomination. Concerning the information gathered on this subject the article states:

"The recent survey respecting this denomination as to membership in this country shows that of 342 Adventists in business on their own account, only eight reported to have failed during the past seven years, and not one of these had been a regular tithe payer. Of the 334 successful business men 318 were reported to be regular tithe payers. . . . The survey shows the significant fact that of the number engaged in business, not one who is a regular tithe payer has failed in business during the past seven years."

Is it not clear that it was poor management on the part of the eight business men, who failed, to have overlooked a principle so important in their business operation? It is just as truly poor management for a colporteur to be careless or neglectful in the payment of tithes. In other words we cannot afford not to pay tithes, for in the end we are losers.

The Lord puts this question before us in the form of a challenge. He says:

"Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour [empty out, margin] you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits

of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts." Mal. 3:10, 11.

Really to fail to pay an honest tithe and to be liberal in our offerings (according to verse eight of Malachi three it is plain that offerings are included) is simply limiting the hand of God that is outstretched to help us in our work. We are making it impossible for Him to open the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing upon us. We are virtually saying, "Lord, you need not rebuke the devourer, for we are able to contend with him ourselves." As colporteurs in these trying times can we afford to take this position? On the other hand, if we will but meet the conditions outlined in these verses, and bring all the tithes into the store house, as the Lord has stated, then we may expect God to comply with His part, and He will do it to the limit; yes, He will more than do His part.

Of course, the motive that prompts faithfulness in paying our tithes and offerings, should not be that of fear of financial loss, nor should it be that of desire of financial gain. All our gifts to the Lord should be made because we love. They should be given because we appreciate the many things the Lord has done for us. When thus given we may be sure of the blessings of the Lord, for "God loveth a cheerful giver."

So, my dear co-worker, if you have been negligent in this matter of tithes and offerings in the past, just remember when tempted the next time to keep them back, or to withhold even a small portion, that it is "poor management." Even should it take the last penny you have, it is better to have an empty purse, but have God with you, than to have your pockets filled with money without God. W. A. BERGHERM.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

"The secret of success is the union, of divine power with human effort." These words come to us from God, through His servant and prophet, Sister White. Let us treasure them in our hearts and live them out in our lives. She also says, "Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the Almighty Arm," and again, "The men of prayer are the men of power."

United we stand, divided, we fall. When anything falls, our first impulse

Looking up to heaven in supplication, present yourselves to God as His servants, and all that you have as His, saying, "Lord, of Thine own we freely give Thee." Standing in view of the cross of Calvary, and the Son of the infinite God crucified for you, realizing that matchless love, that wonderful display of grace, let your earnest inquiry be, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" He has told you: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.—"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 480.

is to restore it to its original position by lifting or raising. Right now our treasurers and secretaries are facing a money-slide. Land-slides and snow-slides are dreaded for they endanger life. Just so a money, or offering-slide brings perplexity and danger to our mission work. So it behooves each one in our ranks, great and small, to hasten to the rescue and "lift, brother, lift."

This is how the Sabbath school department of the General Conference during Spring Council resolved to help:

First, by asking everyone in North America to give through the Sabbath school an additional offering of at least five cents—a nickle a week—to help bridge the present crisis.

Second, by asking each minister and other worker to promote strongly the idea of giving a few cents more each Sabbath for missions.

Third, by requesting all our people in divisions outside of North America to arise to the present need by an increase in their offerings of from one to three cents.

Fourth, by keeping constantly before our Sabbath school and church membership not only the seriousness of the present times, but the unparalleled opportunities that can be improved only through the gifts and loyal service of the entire church membership.

Fifth, that all conference and church workers be asked to enlist 100 per cent of the Sabbath school members to "invest" for missions.

In Puerto Rico six members received a dime each to "invest" for missions, and later brought in a harvest of over \$16.00. A member in the South Caribbean Conference promised the Lord three cents from every dollar he received. From then on he always had work and thankfully brought in \$25.00 for Investment Fund during the year.

Birthday offerings are sanctioned by the Spirit of Prophecy thus: "For life, health, food, and clothing, no less than for the hope of eternal life, we are indebted to the Giver of all mercies; and it is due God to recognize His gifts, and to present our offerings of gratitude to our greatest Benefactor. These birthday gifts are recognized of Heaven." A further resolution was made, that greater effort be made to induce those who have lived long and thus enjoyed many blessings and mercies of God, to acknowledge such in making a birthday offering to the Sabbath school.

Let us hearken again to God's servant, in "Patriarchs and Prophets":

"God intended that His people Israel should be light-bearers to the inhabitants of the earth. . . . The Lord has ordained that the diffusion of light and truth in the earth shall be dependent upon the efforts and offerings of those who are partakers of the heavenly gift. . . . The principle laid down by Christ is that our offerings to God should be in proportion to the light and

**\$13,000 MORE FOR
MISSIONS
IN
ONE YEAR
IN THE
INTER-AMERICAN
DIVISION
THROUGH THE
SABBATH SCHOOLS**
(See article by Viola E. Cooke in
this issue.)

privileges enjoyed. . . . As our blessings and privileges are increased,—above all, as we have before us the unparalleled sacrifice of the glorious Son of God,—should not our gratitude find expression in more abundant gifts to extend to others the message of salvation? The work of the gospel, as it widens, requires greater provision to sustain it than was called for anciently." *Pag 528.*

Surely it is high time to lay up treasure in heaven, for this earthly home is proving very unreliable. But let us not allow the gloom of uncertainty to cast shadows in the Sabbath schools. Some special songs have been arranged to fit familiar tunes in our song books on "giving a nickle more" or "a little more." May every Sabbath school secretary of conference or mission co-operate by supplying these words to their schools, and while we ALL join in singing it, may we also join in DOING it. Remember, it is "the union of divine power with human effort" that brings success.

VIOLA E. COOKE.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

GOD NEEDS YOU

"Young friends, the fear of the Lord lies at the very foundation of all progress; it is the beginning of wisdom. *Your heavenly Father has claims upon you; for without solicitation or merit on your part He gives you the bounties of His providence; and more than this, He has given you all Heaven in one gift, that of His beloved Son. In return for this infinite gift, He claims of you willing obedience. As you are bought with a price, even the precious blood of the Son of God, He requires that you make right use of the privileges you enjoy. Your intellectual and moral faculties are God's gifts, talents intrusted to you for wise improvement, and you are not at liberty to let them lie dormant for want of proper cultivation, or be crippled and dwarfed by inaction.*"—*Messages to Young People,*" p. 39.

What a precious thought that our "heavenly Father has claims upon" us.

It is the assurance that He is interested in us and in what we are doing and that He will do all in His power to help us to meet those "claims."

The Message is spreading, calls are coming from every side. Just now God needs the young people that He may fit them and others through them to hear the "Well done" from the lips of Jesus just a little way in the future. Will you not give of your time to tell others around you? of your means to send the light to those who are too far away for you to tell? "He who follows Christ's plan of life will see in the courts of God those for whom he has labored and sacrificed on earth. Gratefully will the ransomed ones remember those who have been instrumental in their salvation. Precious will Heaven be to those who have been faithful in the work of saving souls."—*Messages to Young People,*" p. 302.

Although our days are full and only a few minutes at a time can be given to telling others this Message; although we have but little of this world's goods from which to add to the gifts in the treasury, let us remember that if we faithfully use *all* our talents we may rest happy in the assurance that:

"However small your talent, God has a place for it. That one talent, wisely used, will accomplish its appointed work. By faithfulness in little duties, we are to work on the plan of addition, and God will work for us on the plan of multiplication. *These littles will become the most precious influences in His work.*"—*Messages to Young People,*" p. 298.

ESTHER PIERCE.

Balboa, Canal Zone.

CALLED TO REST

Samuels.—Leo Samuels was born in Panama City, Panama, August 11, 1917 and died April 11, 1932 as a result of internal injuries caused by a blow. He was a member of the New Providence church baptismal class. Leo leaves behind him his mother, stepfather, two brothers and five sisters. We expect to see him again when Jesus comes. E. J. LORNTZ.

Cristobal, Canal Zone.

Rose.—Joseph Rose was born November 1, 1861 in St. Thomas, Jamaica, and died May 15, 1932 at the Gorgas Hospital in Ancon, Canal Zone. Brother Rose was a Christian from his youth. Since 1927 he has been a member of the Frijoles church and remained faithful to the end. He was a real Christian gentleman, quiet and dignified in his way, and his passing away is felt by us all. However, we look forward to the glad day when the Life-giver shall come and gather His children, and we expect then to meet our brother again. He leaves to mourn his wife, a son in the States and an adopted daughter residing in Panama City.

Cristobal, Canal Zone.

E. J. LORNTZ.

FROM ASHORE AND AFLOAT

After more than five years of faithful service in Inter-America, Brother Stilson and his family sailed May 31 for the States for a furlough much needed as well as abundantly deserved. For several years Brother Stilson has served as our division cashier as well as the ever-ready helper in caring for the division houses. Sister Stilson was our compound hostess, ministering to the needs of our division office guests. Homer has been one of our faithful office workers here for more than three years, while Donald, the younger of the two boys, had already developed into an expert mimeograph operator. So they will all be greatly missed, as will also Sister Stilson's mother, our dear compound Grandma, who ever radiated sunshine. But our earnest prayers go with them for Heaven's choicest blessings all through their sojourn.

Sunday, May 29, brought some of the members of the division family a rare treat, as they stood on the banks of the Panama Canal at Mira Flores while two boats passed through the locks there. It was nothing strange to have two boats pass through the locks at the same time; but it was a bit unusual to have two boats there at the same time with Adventist missionaries from far removed points.

The first boat brought Brother and Sister G. A. Schawerin from Ecuador. They were on their way back to America in search of lost health. As their boat slipped out of one lock and we waved good-bye to them, another boat crept slowly into the locks on the other side. On it were Brother and Sister A. W. Cott and little Joycie who were returning from their furlough to resume their work among the Indians in British Guiana. They all looked well, and their beaming faces must have been an index to hearts beating with gratitude for the privilege of returning once more to those children of the wilds that they learned to love so much.

Once again the division family, which so seldom is together, is beginning to gather. Late in May Brother Harrison returned from auditing visits to the Mexican and Antillian Unions; and early in June we also had the pleasure of welcoming once again Brethren W. L. Adams and L. V. Finster. The former had been spending some time in the Mexican and Antillian Unions in the interest of our educational work, and the latter came from attending meetings in Venezuela as well as the Caribbean Union committee meeting in Trinidad.

Sister E. M. Trummer and her two children, Sarita and Max, spent Sabbath, June 4, with the division office family. We were very glad to welcome her and the children back to Inter-America after a long absence of about two years.

"SAVE OUR MISSIONS"

An envelope has just come to my desk having on it the words:

"SAVE OUR MISSIONS"
"Give a Dollar or More"

We are in days of unusual distress—days that threaten to force back our advancing lines of missionary endeavor. But this is no time for heaving a retreat! No not now when our feet are touching the waters of the Jordan. The eternal home is just beyond. **WE MUST ADVANCE.**

We are not passing on to you the envelope, but we are passing on to you the appeal to help **SAVE OUR MISSIONS.** It may be little you and I can do, but think what 25,000 little gifts will accomplish!

August 20 will bring you a special opportunity to help **SAVE OUR MISSIONS.** That is **MESSENGER Day.** That is the day we give for the support of the paper that travels over this division to tell us of what God is doing for Inter-America. It comes to us throughout the year, without asking favors or funds, and so it is planned that on August 20 we shall each have the opportunity to say thank you for its visits and contribute toward its traveling expenses.

But what has that to do with the cry **SAVE OUR MISSIONS?** Very much indeed. It costs much to keep the **MESSENGER** traveling over the division. Still we feel that it is a worthwhile missionary. If you think so too, please help pay its traveling expenses. Thank you. All that is given on **MESSENGER Day** will help just that much to **SAVE OUR MISSIONS!** Let us say by our offerings on August 20 that there shall be no retreat in our missionary work.

The children have grown remarkably, but Sister Trummer is still far from being entirely well; however, we earnestly pray that she may continue to gain in strength as she returns to join her husband in gathering the precious sheaves in Colombia's harvest field.

Pastor W. E. Baxter spent a few days at the division office about the middle of June. We enjoyed his visit and his report of the onward march of the work in Central America.

Brother F. L. Harrison and his younger daughter sailed for Costa Rica, June 17. Thelma is accompanying her father on this trip to have a few weeks in a cooler climate. Later Brother W. L. Adams from the division office and E. J. Lortz of the Panama Conference sailed for Costa Rica to attend the Central American Union meeting in San Jose.

Pastor N. H. Kinzer and wife arrived in Balboa, June 11. Sister Kinzer sailed the next day for the States to spend a few months with her mother and other relatives, while Brother Kinzer returned

Save your July copy of the MESSENGER for you will need it for your Messenger Day program, which will appear in the August issue.

to the Pacific Colombia Mission where the Lord has been adding many believers.

We are happy to have Brother E. W. Everest back at his post in the Canal Zone after his extended tour through the Mexican and Antillian Unions.

Sister A. V. Larson of Honduras has been very ill. Let us add her name to our prayer list.

WE ARE GRATEFUL

It was May 23, that we were privileged to return to the division office after an absence of practically two months in Colombia. Enough has been said about the accident sustained in Bogotá but we feel that we never can say enough about God's goodness to us during those weeks of waiting for restored health.

The accident necessitated our remaining for several weeks in a strange land among people speaking a tongue unknown to us; but we found that we were among kind friends. Brother and Sister Westphal, in whose home we were made more than welcome, and the dear brethren and sisters of the Bogotá church did all in their power to make our stay a pleasant one.

Permit us to take this way of thanking you all for your Christian love and prayers, and of assuring you that your prayers were heard and answered. Truly the Lord is good, and we praise His holy name. He not only granted an unusually speedy recovery; but so often He came preciously near by His Holy Spirit to relieve physical pain instantly in answer to prayer and to give comfort and courage or new glimpses of those better things in store for those who love Him. For all blessings received we give thanks today, and our daily prayer is that we may from this time forth render our blessed Lord and Master better service as we press forward by your side in this rapidly closing work. God bless and keep you one and all.

E. E. AND MRS. ANDROSS.

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L. V. Finster	- - -	Field, Home Missionary and Ministerial Assn. Sec'y
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