



GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM
APRIL

When I was baptized at age 39, I understood the tithe principle, but it wasn't easy to practice under the circumstances. My husband put up such resistance to my returning tithe that I finally opened a separate checking account, had the tithe portion directly deposited, and rented a post office box for my church-related mail. With trembling and prayer, stepping out in faith, I returned God's tithe faithfully. To my amazement, our financial condition improved!

After a couple of years I was comfortable trusting God with my pocketbook. But God rocked my boat again. The Carolina Conference was encouraging members to adopt the "10+10+" plan. We completed a series of studies at prayer meeting from *Counsels on Stewardship*, which I enjoyed. But still I felt very uncomfortable. Malachi 3:8-12 rang through my mind constantly. It talked about tithe and offerings. I had given a dollar here and there in offerings, but the Holy Spirit was convicting me to put God to the test, just as God said in verse 10 "... Try me! Put me to the test!"

I argued with God for six months. We owed thousands of dollars in medical bills for my husband's open-heart surgery, and we needed a new roof, oil for winter heat, major car repairs, and the usual living expenses. I hadn't received a raise in 16 months. I was scared.

"God, how can you expect more of me?" I argued. But wrestling in prayer

only made the conviction stronger. By December of that year I decided to test God. On the first Sabbath of the new year the Holy Spirit impressed me to give five percent in offerings.

God didn't let me down or have me wait. The next week my boss gave me a raise—for the exact amount of my offerings! Immediately, the government also notified my husband of a raise in his small Social Security check; again it was the exact amount!

I continued to increase my offerings by one percent each year until I was participating fully in the "10+10+" plan. The good news is that God's arithmetic still works! We lacked for nothing. The bills always got paid, and we were able to save small amounts for emergencies. Though I had a very sick husband to support, we never went without the necessities of life. God even gave us some things we wanted, too.

God is faithful and trustworthy—ALWAYS! I have learned that He will never let me down if I trust Him enough to be faithful.

--By Helen L. Self, member of and former part-time church secretary for the Morganton, North Carolina, Seventh-day Adventist Church. First published in He's Alive magazine, Volume 8, No. 1. Also published in Over & Over Again! Vol. 2, Edited by Ronald Alan Knott.



TELL YOUR STORY

You are part of the Carolina Conference Generous Living Team and we want to hear from you. If you have a testimony where God has been especially faithful to you or your family, please share it with us at rroberts@carolinasda.org or write to us at:

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Your testimony could be crucial in someone's life through our videos, posters, offertory readings or bulletin inserts.

Thank you for your continuous prayers.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

