

"You CAN'T have more money than you had last year!" snorted my uncle. "I was a sales manager for 30 years, and I know you can't make less money, give more to the church, and still have more left over – it's impossible!"

Teaching jobs were scarce that year. The only one available paid \$300 less in annual salary than my previous position and involved added transportation costs. With many misgivings, I signed the contract and looked for ways to economize. I had always returned my tithe, but offerings consisted of "wallet-potluck" on Sabbath mornings. Faced with less income, I decided to return a double tithe using the second one for budgeted offerings.

A few weeks into the program, I noticed that something was different. Previously, with the larger salary, I had never been able to save money. Now my bank account grew steadily.

When I mentioned this increase to my unchurched uncle and showed him my bank book, he shook his head in disbelief. "I just don't understand it," he murmured. "Economically it can't happen!" Though a career businessman who understood dollars and cents, he didn't understand that God's economics defy common sense.

During that year, I never missed the cut in salary. As a bonus, the job that looked rather unpromising at first developed into a fine educational position which has lasted more than four decades.

Through the years the tithe has grown, too. In the beginning it was returned on "take home pay" only; later, a first tithe was returned on gross income and a second tithe on "take home pay." Later still, both tithes were returned on gross income. Finally it has grown to much more than double tithe.

I truthfully can say I have never missed a penny of that money. Returning it is no credit to me. God has done a miracle by stretching the remaining funds far more than I could ever ask or think.

Moses' promises to Israel are still being fulfilled to us today.

The Lord shall open upon thee His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in His season, and to bless all the work of thine hand; and thou shalt lead unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. Deut.28:12