

GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM



The Blessing of the Double Ten

My FIRST pastoral position after leaving the seminary was as an intern pastor in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, where I was assigned to the Memphis First-Whitehaven district. The senior pastor pretty much let me be in charge of the smaller Whitehaven congregation, while he led out at the Memphis First congregation.

The Whitehaven church had experienced a major setback just prior to my arrival. The members had purchased a large house and were renting the living area to my predecessor while remodeling the garage into a sanctuary. But because of zoning problems they had to sell the house at a significant loss. The congregation was renting a Lutheran church and was heavily in debt.

In order to pay off the debt in a timely manner, members would need to contribute an average of five percent of their incomes for the current budget and another five percent for debt reduction. Ten percent, over and above the ten percent of regular tithe.

I had heard of the double tithe concept before, but hadn't practiced it. Dixie and I talked it over long and hard. We wanted to set an example, and knew that there was a blessing for us as well. But we were just out of seminary on an intern's pay. Dixie was pregnant, expecting our first child. We had no washer or dryer, not even a kitchen table. Pledging 20 percent in tithe and offerings seemed impossible.

But on Friday evening we got our pledge card ready and signed it, trusting in God to supply our needs. The next morning we turned in that pledge card.

And, the very next week we got a totally unexpected \$100 check in the mail. Also that very week a kitchen table, washer and dryer were given to us. We were overwhelmed with God's providence, and still are.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19, NIV

by Bill Strong

Learn more about the Generous Living initiative on the Carolina Conference website, www.carolinasda.org



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