

# GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME  
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

MAY



**E**ach time our grandchildren visit overnight, we have to make certain we have a working flashlight for each one of them. As my wife tucks them in, she reassures each one that all they have to do is press the power button on the flashlight and they can instantly light up their room, sending the darkness and unknown away. Like our grandchildren, we all fear the unknown, the things we can't see, and the tomorrows that worry us.

In the book *Plan B*, author Pete Wilson writes, "We don't really have a fear problem. We have a faith problem. We've lost confidence that our heavenly Father will take care of us." We lack the faith to release our children, our financial problems, our marital relationships and our health concerns to the One who created and loves us. We trust God with our eternity, but why do we not trust Him enough to let Him control our tomorrows?

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus teaches us how to conquer our fears. He says, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you ." As humans we develop the "me first" attitude. Jesus invites us to think differently and to live differently, putting God first and others second. He is asking us to make God's kingdom,

God's plans and God's agenda our top priority.

To do this, we must develop a growing personal relationship with Him. We must be able to hear His still, small voice; we must spend time with Him. We must learn to be faithful with every aspect of our lives—our time; our talents; our body, which is the Lord's temple; and our finances or treasury. After all, the things that we have are not really ours—they are loaned to us by our Creator. Life is a test He gives us to see how well we will manage the things He has loaned to us. The tithes (required by Malachi 3:10) and offerings we give are really His and never were ours!

Trust allows us to put all our fears in the hands of the One who created us, who knows everything about us, and loves us beyond measure. We can move forward with God's plan for our lives and His work because we place our complete trust in Him—even in the times and circumstances we fear, even in the darkest night! All of me in response to all of Him.

--Rick Hutchinson,  
Director of Generous  
Living & Planned  
Giving and Trust  
Services, Carolina  
Conference



# 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](mailto:rroberts@carolinasda.org) or write to us at:

Generous Living Team  
PO Box 44270  
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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

