

HE MAKES UP THE DIFFERENCE

What?? You mean to tell me that I've been tithing wrong after all these years?

I remembered when I was young asking my Mother about tithing. My parents were Iowa farmers, and they knew about bookkeeping. She had told me "You tithe on the net income, which is the income you have left over after all expenses are taken out".

So that's the way I always tithed until a few years ago. An article in the *Adventist Review* about tithing changed all that. As I read the article, I became convicted that I needed to change and start tithing as my husband did. My husband had always tithed on the gross. I thought to myself, *He just doesn't understand. But far from me to interfere if he wants to give more of his money to the Lord than he needs to. I'll not stand in his way.*

But the article showed me that I really did need to tithe on the gross. I had not realized that farmers and other investors, understandably, tithe differently because they have invested their money and time up front.

When my next paycheck arrived, I told the Lord, "You're going to have to help pay the bills since I'm returning more tithe". (I can get pretty selfish at times.) I wish I could say that I joyfully gave the extra at that time. I can't. But I did give, knowing I could not keep what the Lord required. Amazingly enough the money stretched just as far as it ever had.

We were in need of another car to take our son out to college at Walla Walla. Our "good" car has 350,000 on it and needed \$600 in repairs. We weren't sure where we would get the money to pay for it. So it was a big surprise when out of the blue, my brother called and told me that he had spoken with my other brother and sister, and they all agreed I should have our mother's car. He said, "You need it the most." And his wife said, "I heard of your concern about getting around over the mountains in that car."

God had also shown what we needed and certainly made up the difference created by my new understanding of tithing. He has made up the difference with other things too.

The lawn mower we used, to care for several acres needed \$450.00 of repairs. A good friend of my husband moved back into town. He told my husband that he wouldn't need his riding lawn mower anymore, so he would let us use it. What an answer to prayer!

Yes, God has made up the difference with a couch we badly needed too. Though none of these things were new, He knew what we needed. The Lord continues to make up the difference. Do we still have debts? Yes, but that's because of some of our mistakes in the past. We feel He makes up the difference when our three children are able to attend Christian colleges, when he gives good health and safety to us and our children; when he provides beautiful sunsets, bright starlit nights, and quiet peaceful living in the country.

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:4