

The memory is vivid. I'm in our backyard under the blazing African sun with my father, who is preparing the ground for our kitchen garden. He shows me a



special spot and tells me this area will be MY Garden. He explains that when I sell what I grow there all the pennies will be mine. All, that is, except every tenth one. Those

"belong to Jesus" and I am responsible for seeing that He gets them. Pretty heady stuff for a preschooler!

As my garden grows, supportive missionary neighbors purchase my veggies and I count the pennies. Every tenth one belongs to God. I'm stunned to think that Jesus trusts me with His money and trusts me to give it back to Him. I joyfully put my tithe into the offering plate.

By the time I was age 13, two thousand miles from home at boarding school, my financial partnership with God had become habitual.

Every boarding student was required to work, and the credit was applied to their school account. I went to the

business office to assure that my tithe would be taken out of my earnings each month.

My parents were missionaries in Africa, so I lived in Zimbabwe and Malawi for the first 17 years of my life. Since those early days my life has had perhaps more than the usual ups and downs, but my partnership with God has been constant. I've never had a lot by the world's standards, but I've always had more than enough and have been overwhelmed by God's goodness. My husband and I see our giving as a tangible connection with the One who has given us the ultimate gift.

My father has been sleeping, awaiting the Lifegiver, for almost five decades now. I regret never having thanked him for starting me at such an early age on the path of generous living. However, I plan to do just that when I see him again where the streets are paved with gold.

IT IS ALL OF ME IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

— Charlene Anderson, member Fletcher Church (pictured with her husband, Gordon)



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:

> Generous Living Team PO Box 44270 Charlotte, NC 28215-0043

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

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