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August 8, 2020

A BIRTH OFFERING

Herbert Boger was pastoring a district in Canoas, Brazil, when Beth, his wife, became pregnant. During her third month of pregnancy, the couple was visited by a pastor of their conference, who read to them some texts from the book, *Child Guidance* by Ellen G. White. Among other things, he suggested that they bring a Thank Offering when they dedicate the child months later. And so they prepared an envelope with an offering for the occasion.

But life became very challenging! Besides suffering from severe anemia during her seventh month of pregnancy, the upper part of Beth's uterine bag broke, and the amniotic fluid poured out. She rushed to the hospital and was told to get total rest until the baby's birth. But then she got an infection, which continued to worsen to the point where the physician told her that if he wouldn't be aware of the peculiarity of her case, the exams, taken alone, would suggest terminal leukemia.

Beth's situation was very risky, and with sadness she and Herbert considered what to do with the offering in the envelope if their baby did not survive. The couple spent much time in prayer; the pastors attending a ministerial council at the time also joined them in prayer, stopping their meeting to pray together a full

hour for them. Later that same day Beth had additional tests, which showed that her infection was no longer growing. So the doctors scheduled and performed a Caesarean Section.

Herbert and Beth know that the birth of their son, William, on March 12, 2005, was a miracle. Mother and baby stayed in the hospital for two weeks until Beth's infection cleared up. While there, the same pastor visited Beth again and assured her that an angel of God had been caring for William since his birth. After Beth was discharged and went home, she and Herbert* added to the envelope five times more than the original amount, concluding that no sum, however large, could represent their gratitude to the Lord!

In front of all the church members the couple not only dedicated William to God, but with tears in their eyes they placed the envelope into a basket held by a deacon.

APPEAL: Let's thank God now, and recognize His wonderful workings with our offerings!

PRAYER: Please, God, accept what we place in Your hands today!

*Herbert Boger is now the Personal Ministries director for the South America Division.