

November 7, 2020

A WEEKLY APPOINTMENT

Heavily addicted to alcohol and living with his family in the Amazon jungle, Luis Augusto was never sober whenever he returned home from the small city of Rodrigo Alves, Acre, Brazil. Sometimes he would be gone, drinking, for several days, which was harmful not only to himself but also to his family. But this time he was going to town for a different reason.

While watching an evangelist preaching on Novo Tempo TV (Brazilian Hope Channel) days before, Luis decided for the first time to accept the Lordship of Jesus and to look for the Adventist church he had learned about from the TV program. The following Sabbath, he left his home at 3:00 a.m. for a four-hour walk through the jungle, looking for the Adventist church. Not able to locate the church, he sat on a curb for a while until some people passed by dressed for church. By following them, he finally found the house of God. When the receptionist asked him if he was visiting the church, his answer was clear: "No. I came to stay." And so he did!

After the Lord delivered him from his bad habits, Luis was baptized. Then his family joined him every Sabbath, walking four hours one way to church! Some may wonder whether it was worth that sacrifice. Would it not be more convenient to stay home and watch religious programs on TV,

"as in the manner of some"? (See Heb. 10:25.)

God's Word is clear when it says that "in order to stir up love and good works," we need to "consider one another" (Heb. 10:24), connecting with them constantly. And the next verse warns us: "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as in the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (vs. 25).

The Lord indicates, and Luis understood, that there is no virtual experience that can replace regular worship with our brothers and sisters in church. The church is also the outpost of the storehouse, the place where we are commanded to bring tithes and offerings. Putting convenience last and God first, we connect all family members to Him there by (1) praying, (2) singing, (3) studying His Word, and (4) worshiping Him with tithes and Promise.

APPEAL: May we return our tithes and bring our Promise, presenting them as reminders of what the Lord had done for us this week! May we rejoice and worship Him!

PRAYER: Dear God, Creator of the universe, please accept the offering of our heart! Take it and cleanse it, making it Yours.

45

