

October 24, 2020

LUANA'S SACRIFICE OFFERING

"I am the only one in my class that doesn't have a cell phone," complained Luana Bomfim, 15, to her father, an Adventist pastor living in the South of Brazil, in the early 2000s. "Why don't you purchase one?", answered the father jocularly. "You know that I am just a student and that I don't have money", said Luana, with a complaining smile. "Then why don't you canvas?," suggested her father. "By so doing, you may, at the same time, do God's work and earn some money."

At the end of the campaign, with a students' canvassing team, she was finally able to purchase her first cell phone, after tithing and giving Promise (percentage-based regular and systematic offering) from all her income. Next year she canvassed again, earning enough to pay for her own expenses, to return God's part, and to still keep some money.

One day, her father was pondering on how to provide her with the best financial education. So, he suggested that she open a savings account, earn some interest from the money. "But I no longer have that money!" answered Luana. The father was really surprised! "How did you spend all that money?" he asked, incredulously, believing that parents share re-

sponsibility for the way their children manage their resources.

"Well," said Luana, "last Sabbath the pastor informed us that they launched a plan to renovate the church and asked those whose heart were touched by God to give a freewill offering, an offering of sacrifice, in addition to their Promise. After praying, I decided that if you suggested that I open a savings account, this would be the sign that I should invest all the money in the church's renovation. So, from now on, I no longer have that money," she said.

APPEAL: We are invited by God's word to regularly return tithes and give Promise. But He may also invite us to occasionally give freewill offerings, according to the promptings of the Spirit. Let us ask the Lord to make us sensitive to His voice when He calls us to deny self and to sacrifice for the advancement of His kingdom.

PRAYER: Lord, teach us to be wise, to trust in you as the Provider, and not to place our confidence in the things of this earth. Please, accept our offering!

43

