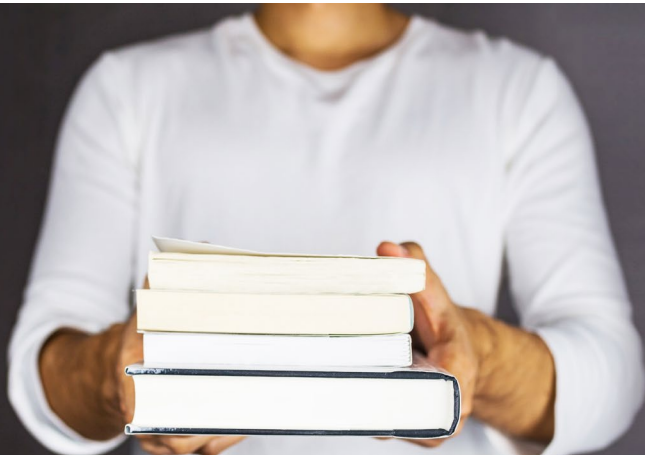


8



February 22, 2020

I AM WILLING TO SIN

"I am willing to sin, Brother Lee," Osvaldino Bomfim jocularly told the conference's cashier, a Korean immigrant working in the Sao Paulo Conference, Brazil, in the early 1960s. "Please give me a receipt," added Bomfim while delivering his tithe, "before I use this money to help myself."

What brother Lee did not know was that Bomfim was trying to make fun of something that was actually breaking his heart. Canvassing while studying theology, he left his home that afternoon with exactly CR\$36.00 (Cruzeiros, old Brazilian currency) left in his pocket, the exact amount he owed to God as tithe.

If he would pay the tithe before selling any books, he would risk not being able to buy the food necessary to feed Marcos, his 3-year-old son, who was recovering from a surgery. But he knew that to wait for the next Sabbath would be dangerous, as the temptation to use the money for personal purposes would only grow stronger. So, he decided to eliminate the risk by putting God first.

With no money left, Bomfim drove to his

assigned field and gave his canvassing talk to his first potential customer. After hearing the presentation, the customer called a friend to also listen. Surprisingly, both of them purchased a set of books each—at a price that in those times could buy a cow! Even though Bomfim did not have the books with him, the customers made out a check and paid in advance, asking Bomfim to deliver the books when he got them!

Moments later, Bomfim was back in the conference office, no longer willing to sin; instead, he picked up the books, praising the Lord for His ability to provide for His children! Years later, as the South America Division Literature Evangelism director, Bomfim taught colporteurs to also trust in the Lord!

APPEAL: Let's also exercise our trust in God as the heavenly Provider by putting Him first. His promises are still as real today as they were in the past.

PRAYER: Dear God, please increase our faith as we dare to put You first, not only while tithing and delivering our offerings, but in all aspects of our lives.