

## The Isolated Tither

December 12, 2020

### AUDIO

Meropi Gjika, an Albanian woman, accepted the Adventist truth during the 1940s through Daniel Lewis, an Albanian-born missionary from the United States. For some reason, however, she was not immediately baptized.

Then, at the end of World War II, when a communist regime was installed in Albania, all Christian churches were banned, and Lewis was arrested. So, Meropi was isolated from the larger Adventist community for almost 50 years!

Finally, in 1991, after the government lifted some of the religious restrictions, she was found by Ray Dabrowski from the General Conference, while he was visiting Albania.

Meropi told Dabrowski that she had three great desires: first, to be baptized; second, to hand over to the church the tithes and offerings that she had set aside from her small income for 46 years (!); and third, to see an Adventist church building in her country.

The two first desires were fulfilled before her death, in 2001, at the age of 97!

Now, let me ask you something: Was Meropi foolish for keeping that money for so long, resulting in its value being eroded by 46 years of inflation? Couldn't she have used the funds to help the needy or even to support lay evangelists in a country ravaged by poverty?

### VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

sc. 01

## AUDIO

Well, apparently, Lewis had faithfully taught Meropi solid biblical principles when he gave her Bible studies, and she learned them well. The Bible teaches that:

- (1) Tithe must represent 10 percent of our income.
- (2) There is a right place to deliver it: God's storehouse (Deut. 12, 14; 2 Chron. 31; Mal. 3:8-10).
- (3) It must be applied according to God's prescription—the support of the authorized ministry (Lev. 18:21, 24).
- (4) It must be equitably distributed among the authorized ministry (Deut. 18:1-8; Neh. 13:8-14).

Tithing is an act of worship and submission to the God who established it, and gave specific directions about delivering and distributing it.

sc. **02**

## VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

sc. **03**

As you return your tithe and give your promise, ask the Heavenly Father to make you humble to accept His guidance in this act of worship.

May we put our desires last and God first.

Text animation.