

Over & Over Again!

2

Edited by

RONALD ALAN KNOTT

Over & Over Again!

2

150 Adventists Share

Personal Faith Stories

About Stewardship



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH

North American Division

Copyright © 2000
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

Over and Over Again! Volume Two

General Editor and Project Coordinator, Ronald Alan Knott
Line editing by Bill Knott, Ronald Alan Knott
Copyediting by Eugene Lincoln, Madeline S. Johnston, Esther R. Knott
Text design by Bill Kirstein
Cover design by Willie Duke, adapted by Matt Hamel
Electronic layout by Renee Skeete
Data entry by Ramnarine Ramharacksingh, Esther R. Knott
Typeset: 10.5/12.5 Galliard

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture references in this book are from the King James Version. Other versions used:

Scripture quotations marked NASB are from the *New American Standard Bible*, © The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977.

Texts credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Texts credited to NRSV are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.

Texts credited to RSV are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1946, 1952, 1971, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.

Texts credited to Today's English Version are from the *Good News Bible*—Old Testament copyright © American Bible Society 1976, 1992. New Testament copyright © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992.

Verses marked The Living Bible are taken from *The Living Bible*, copyright © 1971 by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Ill. Used by permission.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
THE FIRST MEETING	
Three Inches, Five Gallons, and More Than Enough, by Walter L. Wright	14
The House and the School, by Lori L. Hopkins	15
She Said, He Said, by Katherine and Reger Smith	16
The Best Way to Fly, by Victor Czerkasij	18
Cold Comfort, by S. L. Bailey	19
Heaven's Bank Window, by Bryce R. Hickerson	20
A Roof and a Prayer, by Timothy Atolagbe	21
Time to Be Like Jesus, by Jerry Page	23
He Makes Up the Difference, by Jeanette Rawson	24
One Potato and a Homecoming, by Stella Bicky Hill Young	25
THE SECOND MEETING	
A Builder Keeps the Sabbath and a Banker Breaks the Rules, by John J. Jones ..	28
A Widow's Tithe, by Yvonne Thomas	29
God's Everyday Ways, by Ann Heck	30
Nothing to Hide, by Albert E. Hayward	31
The House God Provided, by Linda Hicks Dowell	32
Cast Your Nets, by Rudolph Carlson	34
The Battle Belongs to the Lord, by Dianna Brantley	36
Packing a Lunch and Waiting For God, by Gary A. Brodis	37
Trapped in a Vacation, by Dena Guthrie	38
Faith at the Mall, by Tari C. Popp	39
THE THIRD MEETING	
Seven Months of Miracles, by Jack Stout	42
Friendship Over Rice and Beans, by Valerie Hamel Morikone	43
A Mother's Lesson, by Nancy Arellano	44
Three Times Fired, by Dennis T. Ranalla	46
Real Needs, God's Words, by Matt Fivash	47
God's Economics, by Charlotte Groff	48
Willing Spirit, Empty Tank, Faithful God, by Ann Morrow	49
A Week's Pay And a House of Furniture, by Stanley S. and Bennie Beth Will ...	50
Keeping My Promise, by Diane Gordon	51
Last Door, First Contact, by Thomas J. Mostert, Jr.	52
THE FOURTH MEETING	
He Knows My Shoe Size, by Randall Murphy	54
God's Plan Is Always Best, by Edwin C. Beck	55
The End of "Fun," and the Beginning of Faithfulness, by Larry Owens	56
Between Faith and Despair, by John Moyer	57
Three Pleas, One Answer, by EuGene Lewis	58
Prayer, Patience and Perseverance, by Olla Gillham	59
Starting Over and Doing It Right, by Frank Barton	61
"What Do You Think You Are Doing?" by Victor Chant	62

Abandoning Myself to God, by Blanche Yates.	63
Jackhammer Faith, by Douglas L. English.	64

THE FIFTH MEETING

Just Say "NO!" by A. Monise Hamilton.	68
"Okay Lord! Here It Goes!" by Rick Dahlberg.	69
Raw Vegetables, by Lee-Roy Chacon.	70
Generous with Someone Else's Money, by Viki Blanks.	72
Challenging God, by Denzle Harrison.	73
A Reading Lesson, by Marcia H. Singleton.	74
Time with My Savior, by Joan Manzella.	75
God's Waterworks, by Jeanette S. Baldwin.	76
Taking Care of a Mystery, by Raj Attiken.	77
Eight Dollars of Tithe and 80 Tons of Hay, by Curtis Thurber.	78

THE SIXTH MEETING

Off the Top, by Dick Mackie.	82
Ask for Help, by Wallace Boddy.	83
A Commitment, a Car, and a Credit Union, by Ray Hartwell.	84
Troubles with Joe, by Newton Sinclair.	86
A Saddle for Amy, by Kandy Light.	87
Praying for a Prayer Ministry, by Dale A. Fleming.	89
Out of the Way, by Robert L. Willis.	90
A Bed to Make, by Lily Dalupan.	91
An Accountant's Accountability, by Wayne R. Vail.	92
"You Mean You Give it Away!" by Elizabeth Boyd.	93

THE SEVENTH MEETING

Mountains of Blessings, by Myrtle Brown.	96
Lord of the Mail, by Linda Basquez.	96
Blessed Assurance, by Edward Atwood.	97
The Blessings of Faithfulness, by M. Kay Cote.	99
Opening Day, by Olga Speer.	100
A Commentary on Assurance, by Jere Patzer.	100
Our Ways, His Ways, by Dan Jackson.	102
Money Back—Or Ahead? by Jack McNeilus.	103
Only a Dream, by Jim Ashlock.	104
Spiritual Doing and Spiritual Being, by Gordon Bietz.	105

THE EIGHTH MEETING

A Balm for Bitterness, by James Brauer.	108
A Correlation of One, by Raymond O. West.	108
The Joy of Liberal Frugality, by Evelyn Johnson.	110
I Love My Job, but the Lord Comes First, by D. G. Gordon.	110
All Greek to Me, by Eugene F. Durand.	111
A Tax on Trust, by Sherian Atkins Wills.	113
Affirmation at a Rummage Sale, by Mary Ann Conrad.	114
His Eye is on the Sparrow, by Sandra A. Smith.	115

Right on Time, by Roscoe J. Howard III	117
The Promise Did Not Say “Maybe” by Robert L. Davidson	118

THE NINTH MEETING

The Sabbath and Security, by Ofelia A. Pangan.	122
A Priceless Three-Dollar Answer, by Liz Sunbeam Robert	123
Exactly Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars, by Gloria Ann DePalma	124
Blessings Beyond Understanding, by LeRoy Finck	125
Not Forsaken, by James Gilley.	126
Principles Set in Cement, by Larry D. Word	127
The Lord Makes the Harvest, by Gary and Don Emelander.	128
A Puzzle for the NIH, by Charlene VanVliet	129
Tested and Proven Faithful, by Ronald J. Goss	130
The Potato Field, by Sylvia Davidson	131

THE TENTH MEETING

A Textbook Case, by Christine Ewing	136
God Is Not My Co-Pilot, by Josh Sink.	137
God Finds the Way, by John G. DePalma.	139
A New Way of Living, by Sylvia A. Germany	140
A Dream to Serve, by Lorin Wentland	140
The Guarantee, by Andy Moore	142
My Mother’s Legacy, by Margarita Jones	143
Turnaround in Arizona, by Donald W. Maddy	144
Difficult, Worthwhile, and Blessed, by Stephen L. McPherson	145
A Full Trunk and a Full Heart, by Lorna Baker.	146

THE ELEVENTH MEETING

Wonderful Windows, by Jill McCann	150
Bad Debts and God’s Goodness, by William D. Fisher	151
A Place to Serve, by Tamie J. Faw	152
The Man in the Iron Lung, by Margaret Roelke McNitt	153
The Carrel or the Chapel, by Eckhard Hubin	154
A Time for Everything, by Beth Davis Nelson.	155
Work Less, Receive More, by Ernest Dunning	156
Empty Cupboards and a Mother’s Prayer, by Mike Mamoulelis	157
A Message at Calving Time, by George N. Walker	158
Giving and Receiving, by Bryan A. Richardson	159

THE TWELFTH MEETING

Just In Case, by Evelyn J. Lewis.	164
Cheering Up the Giver, by Robert Thompson	165
Are You Hearing Me? by Fernando Munilla, Sr.	166
Refinancing on Faith, by Josephine Varley	167
An Unlikely Candidate, by James Kincaid.	169
The God Who Surprises, by Larry R. Evans	170
Twice Blessed, by Ruth Ericson	171
The Worst for the Best, by K. Jollimore	172

Testing the Lord, by Conrad L. Neft	174
A Heritage of Faithfulness, by Elsworth A. Hetke	175

THE THIRTEENTH MEETING

Stuffed Strawberries and a Full Heart, by Glenda-mae Greene	178
Crazy Ed, A Little Church, and 21,000 Russian Bibles, by Emma Van Komen .	179
A Peculiar Ministry, by April McNeil	180
No Need for Subterfuge, by Virginia Casey	181
This Is Your School, by Donald W. Murray	182
Give and it Shall Be Given, by Gary S. Force	184
A Test of Time, by Suzanne Waters Street	185
From Housebound to Homeward Bound, by Frances Johnson	186
The Words of David, by Clinton Jones, Sr.	187
God’s Different Timetable, by Carol and David Tasker	188

THE FOURTEENTH MEETING

A Bible and a Bus, by Elizabeth R. Buck	192
The Pie Lady, by Joan Waterman.	193
And Then My Red Sea Opened, by Robert L. Thorpe	194
A Walk in the Woods, by Dagmar Cepica.	197
Faith Finds a Place, by Martha Walwyn	197
The Blessing of the Double Ten, by Bill Strong	199
Honesty at Customs, and Customary Honesty, by Bryce Newell	200
Garden Pests, by Larry E. Stapleton	201
“Inasmuch . . .” by Beverly Moody	202
Catching Up, by Esther Ramharacksingh Knott	204

THE FIFTEENTH MEETING

God Paves the Way! by Dan Trafford	208
God Never Gives Up, by Donna M. Dunbar	209
A New Teacher’s Dilemma, by Donald R. Halenz.	210
His Protection, My Witness, by Sara McGuire	211
Sacrifice and the IRS, by Carl Irby	213
God’s Mortgage, by Elsie and Art Hiebert	214
The Best Insurance There Is, by Rosa M. Ferreras.	215
Letting Go to Grow, by Bonnie Conklin-Mayer	216
God’s Arithmetic, by Helen L. Self	217
A Family, a Farm, and a Faith, by R. Patricia Anderson	218

INDEX OF AUTHORS	221
-----------------------------------	-----

ABOUT THE EDITOR	223
-----------------------------------	-----

PREFACE

GROWING up in Massachusetts, I inherited a time-honored and dubious New England work ethic stated simply as follows: “No matter how big the woodpile is, it’s never big enough.” So when I actually installed a woodstove in our home two years ago, I knew I was tempting temptation.

Our corner of Michigan enjoys relatively modest electric rates, so we certainly didn’t need the stove to balance the family budget. We just wanted to enjoy that extra measure of homey comfort only wood heat can provide; and, encouraged by uncomfortable experience, we wanted a backup for our electric-driven geothermal furnace, should the power go out for a day or two in mid-winter. That, supposedly, was all.

We set the furnace thermostat at a generous baseline of 70 degrees and used the woodstove to keep the furnace off. But as I learned the tricks of managing the stove efficiently, I soon realized that the hobby of staying a degree or two ahead of the furnace thermostat was quickly becoming an obsession. No longer were lower electric bills a pleasant side benefit to the cozy comfort of radiant heat. Lower electric bills were becoming a vital requirement for my mental stability. How easily things get out of joint.

And then some Michigan-winter morning as I gazed out the window, gloating over my impressive woodpile, and rejoicing for the silence of a house where the furnace fan wasn’t blowing, the thought occurred to me that I should tithe the woodpile. Initially, I objected, but I was in a mellow, honest mood. Given my recent obsession with the electric bills, I couldn’t deny that the wood had economic value. So I figured the value of wood and the next Sabbath at church I turned in a tithe check for \$100. Soon enough, of course, the electric bills got even lower, and, by the grace of God, so did the temperature of my acquisitiveness.

That’s just one of the little ways this book and its forerunner (the first volume of *Over and Over Again!*) have influenced my life. They have put me on a path of intentionality. That is, they’ve helped me actually think about the mundane matters of everyday life, and put them more clearly in the context of a Heavenly Father who lovingly presides over everything I do. I am a better steward, and, more importantly, I earnestly want to be a better steward.

This new intentionality is like a benevolent virus that, when given half a chance, gloriously infects other aspects of my life. For example, I decided—not for any legalistic reason, but simply as an expression of thanks to God—that I would give the woodstove and myself a break on Sabbaths. And I decided that I’d be more thoughtful about what I asked the people at FedEx and the post office to do for me during Sabbath hours. That is, I refrain from shipping things on

Fridays if, in my heart, I know I would want them to move on Sabbath to meet my business agenda. Whenever my wife and I must stay in a hotel over Sabbath, we leave a double tip and a note for the housekeeper on Sabbath morning. Our typical note reads:

Dear Housekeeper:

We invite you to take a break.

You need not clean or make up our room today. As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we believe that God's word in the Bible calls us to enjoy a blessing of rest from normal work on the seventh-day Sabbath—Saturday. Where possible, as He asks, we try to extend that blessing to others, and are delighted to extend it to you.

God bless you, and Happy Sabbath.

We have found our gesture to be greeted with genuine appreciation, and we can only pray that by God's leading it may have some influence for good.

The simple stories in these books have also inspired me to be intentional about how I take care of my body, and so I am much more thoughtful about diet, rest, and exercise. And of course these testimonies have encouraged me, yet again, to enlarge still further my understanding of how God can use my means to advance His interests through His church and its various ministries. It's my earnest desire that these books will do for every reader what they are doing for me.

Of course, I can't let this go to press without thanking some who have made it possible. Kermit Netteburg, from the North American Division, engineered for the second time the opportunity for me to do this good work. And again, my loving family has contributed enormously. My darling wife Esther has been, in effect, the second editor, gently offering the most helpful counsel, and giving up vacation time and free time for typing, reading, correcting, and more reading and more correcting. Esther's parents, Alice and Ramnarine Ramharacksingh, ran our household for many days while I was preoccupied on this project and Esther was engaged in her full-time ministry as a pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church. And Ram logged scores of hours himself typing stories, managing data, making telephone calls and sending faxes. Our daughter Olivia, a five-year-old, had the grace and understanding to accept that some fun things to do on a sunny spring afternoon would have to be postponed—as she volunteered—“until the book is done.”

Finally, we all owe a great debt to the writers of these stories. By the grace of God, they opened their hearts and their schedules to share personal testimonies of faith for the benefit of the larger church family. What richer, greater benefits await that family when each of us fulfills our God-given obligation to do the same.

Ronald Alan Knott
Berrien Springs, Michigan
May 11, 2000

*O*ur confession of His
faithfulness is Heaven's chosen agency
for revealing Christ to the world. . . .

*That which will be most effectual
is the testimony of our own experience.*

*We are witnesses for God
as we reveal in ourselves
the working of a power that is divine.*

*Every individual has a life
distinct from all others, and an
experience differing essentially from theirs.*

*God desires that our praise shall ascend to Him,
marked by our own individuality.*

*These precious acknowledgments
to the praise of the glory of His grace,
when supported by a Christlike life,
have an irresistible power that works
for the salvation of souls.*

—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 347

