

Stewardship Sabbath Children's Story
November 4, 2017

A Commitment, a Car, and a Credit Union

By Ray Hartwell

(Adapted from the book, Over & Over Again 2. To go along with the sermon, "Is Money Really the Problem?" Scripture Text: Matthew 6:21, "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be" (NLT).

Many years ago, a group of Adventist musicians from the Ukraine visited our church on their way to the General Conference Session. Many people where they lived were just beginning to hear about Jesus. Before that time, it was illegal to preach about Him, so Christians had to hide the fact that they were Christians.

My wife, Jeanne, and I, met these people from the Ukraine and felt impressed to do all we could to help our local church here in America to sponsor a building in the Ukraine for an Adventist congregation so they could have a place to worship. Since we had just paid off everything we owed on their car, we promised our church we would make four payments to the church building in place of the four car payments we normally made.

Unfortunately, Jeanne got very sick and had to have major surgery. It took a lot of money to pay the medical bills, so we weren't sure we would be able to keep our promise to the church. Plus, we really needed another car so Jeanne could go back to work. But as we prayed, we felt that the need to help the churches in the Ukraine was greater than our need for a second car, so we continued to honor our promise to our church.

One day, I dropped Jeanne off at the grocery store and went looking around a new car dealership lot. I hadn't intended to buy a car; I was just "killing time," as we say, waiting for Jeanne. Of course, an eager car salesman came by asking if I wanted to buy a new car. I said no, not for a few months, but the salesman asked me a few questions about what I'd like in a car. The salesman found the right type of car, and it was affordable, but Jeanne and I still wouldn't be able to buy one for several months.

Then an announcement came in the mail from a credit union, offering 100 percent financing. That meant that we wouldn't have to pay anything other than the loan payments each month, AND the company who loaned the money wouldn't require us to make a car payment until AFTER we completed our promise to our church!"

God loves to help us keep our promises to Him! Sometimes people in the church say, "Oh, we don't have enough money to help people in other countries build a church," or, "We can't afford to give hungry people food and clothing." Well, God owns it all, so, really, we *do* have enough money! It's just that we have to trust God with our money. We have to spend it on what God thinks is important, and He promises that He will take care of our needs, just as Ray and Jeanne trusted God to take care of their needs when they kept their promise to Him!

