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Good Words - March 1967

Brethren in Christ Church in Africa

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AMAZWI
AMAHLE

MAJWI
MABOTU

GOOD WORDS

MARCH-1967

PRICE 3d

HOW TO STRETCH YOUR MONEY

Chester R. Heisey

Can you really stretch money?

Well, you know that if you pull a pound note to make it the size of a five-pound note you will get little pieces of paper and not five pounds. So what do we mean when we say we can stretch our money?

We have seen people who always dress nicely. They have nice things such as wirelasses, bicycles and gramophones. They never have to ask their friends for money.

We also know other people who never have money. They do not have nice things because their money is always gone. Why does one person have money and the other person does not?

It is because the person who has nice things has learned how to stretch his money.

Before this person goes to the store he thinks about the things he has and the things he needs. Then he decides what he should buy. He thinks, "My shirt is still very nice. My coat was just bought last month. But my shoes almost have holes in them. Yes, I should buy shoes." So he goes to the store and he knows what he needs to buy.

The other person goes to the store and sees his friend. They buy Fanta to drink and some biscuits to eat while they talk. Then he sees a very nice shirt.

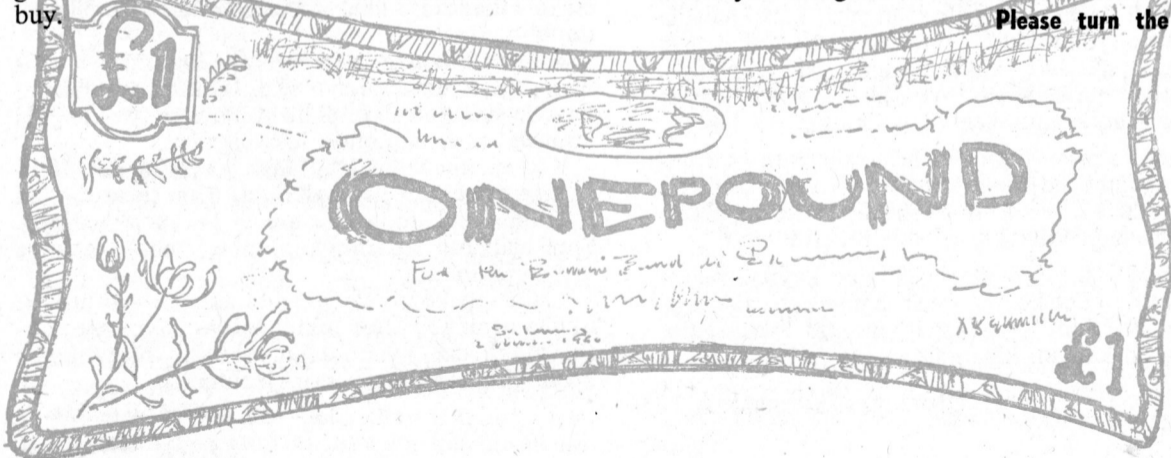
"Wouldn't I look grand in a shirt for 30s.!" he thinks.

So he buys the shirt and goes out behind the store and puts it on to see how handsome he will look. Then he sits down to admire himself, but he sees his shoes. They are very old. His toes are coming out and the bottoms are coming off. Then he thinks. He remembers. Yes, he was going to buy shoes. He had quite enough shirts. He didn't really need another one, but he has spent his money. He did not stop to plan before he went to the store. So he bought foolishly.

There is another thing we can do to stretch our money. After we buy something, we should take care of it so it will last a long time.

A bicycle that is oiled regularly will not wear out soon. If we keep the nuts and bolts tightened, we will not have to spend money for parts that fall off the bicycle and get lost. A motor car that is waxed

Please turn the page



GOOD WORDS

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How to Stretch Your Money

(started on page 1)

and polished will look nice for a long time. The sun cannot harm the paint when it is covered with wax. A girl who is clever with her fingers can mend a torn dress so it will look like new.

If we take care of the things we buy, we will not need to buy new ones so quickly, and we will have more money to spend.

We can also stretch our money by learning to save.

There is a proverb which says, "A penny saved is a penny earned".

Some people never learn to save money. They quickly spend all the money they earn. When it is

time to pay school fees they go crying to their brothers and sisters for help.

We should always take some of the money we earn and put it into the bank each month. When we need a large sum of money for school fees or a motor car, we will have the money we need.

It is hard to save some money each month, because there are so many things we would like to have. But the person who learns how to save is happier. He can go into the store and buy important things, while his friend who has not learned to save can only look in the window and wish for the things he has no money to buy.

God can also help us stretch our money. When we give money to God and the church, then we can ask Him to help us in using the money that is left. God can make money last a long time by helping us spend or save it in a wise way.

Each of us can stretch the money we earn if we will do these four things. We must think about the things we need to buy before we go to the store. We must take good care of the things we buy. We must learn to save some of the money we earn each month. And we must give God His share.

If we do this we will soon be on the road to success with our money.

Ngani Ibandla Lakithi Licela Kokuphela Imali?

Umbuzo: Kukhanya ukuthi ibandla lakithi licela imali kakhulu kulezi zinsuku. ETestamente eliDala, abaNtswana bakwaIsrayeli baletha iminikelo legolide lesiliva ukuthi itabanakele lakhiwe. Emva kwesikhathi uMosi wabatshela ukuthi sekwanele, lokuthi bangayekela ukuletha. Ibandla lakithi lizakutsho nini ukuthi sekwanele?

Imphendulo:

Kubonakala iminikela icelwo kakhulu ngokuba iminikelo ikhanya iyasilela emsebenzini yayo.

Nxa sifunda eBhayibhili eliDala, sifunda ukuthi, kwathi kusakhiwa ithembeli, kwathiwa kabalethe iminikelo. Bayiletha iminikelo yokwakha ithembeli kwaze kwacelwa ukuthi kabakhawule iminikelo yokwakha. Babelthe ngenhliziyonye bonke. Kodwa kokwetshumi kabayekelanga. Bayaphambili benikela. Abantwana bakwaIsrayeli babekufundile ukunikela okwetshumi.

Lathi-ke masiwuqube umsebenzi wethu wokunikela. Kambe indaba kaMalaki 3 liyizwa njani, nxa liyi funda kuhle. Uthi uJehova, "Ake lingilinge kumbe kangiyikulivulela izibuko zezulu na?"

Kungani singenzi sibone kumbe kayikukwenza yini lokho akutshoyo. Phela nguye othi akelingilinge. Po, thina siyesaba ukukwenza lokho. Po, singawazi kanjani amaqiniso akhe na?

UMFUNDISI M. SIBANDA.

Ukuqaphela Ekukhonzeni UNkulunkulu

Kubonakala kimi ukuthi thina amaKristu sitshengisa ubuwula bethu lokungathembeki ngalezi nsuku. Siyehluleka ukutshengisa lezi mphawu zemphilo yomoya ezenza umuntu ehluke enyamaneni.

Singabantu senziwa emfanekisweni kaNkulunkulu, ngakhoke asime esimini somuntu. Sihlakaniphile kakhulu. Singakwenza phose konke ngaphandle kwemphilo. Kodwa noma singazenza zonke lezi zinto uma sikhohlwa uNkulunkulu siyiziwula kakhulu.

Siyehluleka ukubona ukuthi besingenge sizenze lanye yalezi zinto uma uNkulunkulu engasiphanga imphilo.

Kumele sibonge uNkulunkulu lokuthi-nje siyaphila njalo uma sifuna ukuhlakanipha imphela, kumele silondoloze imphilo zethu zomoya kungabi kuphela okwemiqondo lokwenyama.

Kodwa ubunzima obukhulu kakhulu kuyikuthi siyazenzisa ukuba ngamaKristu. Sithi siyamthanda uNkulunkulu, kodwa-ke asenzi lokho akutshoyo. Sinjengabantu abazimphuphuthu, behola abanye abazimphuphuthu.

Asithembeke sivule amehlo ethu. Asifundeni ukuba ngamaKristu ngokufaneleyo, siqaphele ukuthi simkhonza njani uNkulunkulu. Ngaphandle kwalokhu sizafumana usizi lenhloni.

LEONARD VUMA.

Isikolo SeBhayibhili Sabantwana

Amaklasi athile abantwana ukufunda iBhayibhili ayekhona ngoJanuary eSitezi, eNsezi, laseGwabala. Izikolo lezi zeBhayibhili zalungiswa yikhomithi yeSunday School yebandla laBazalwane.

Amakhosazana amabili evela ezimission aye-khona ukusiza ngesikolo ngesikolo, njalo labafundisayo bevela emangweni wesikolo basiza ngokufundisa. Abafundi beMatopo leMtshabezi, labavela esikolo seBhayibhili eWanezi basiza njalo.

Abantwana bangena amaklasi insuku zonke ekuseni noma emini yantambama okweviki yonke. Bezwa izindaba zeBhayibhili. Bafunda amavesi eBhayibhili. Njalo baninda imifanekiso.

Abadala banxuswa njalo ukungena. Balandela izifundo zeBhayibhili ezivela eJohannesburg Bible Institute ezansi. Bathatha imihlolo ekupheleni kweviki, njalo bazazusa izithupha zemfundo.

Ibandla Liqaliswa EMabele

Isixuku samaKristu anhliziyo-zifudumeleyo akhonza khathesi eMabele. Kuyimayile ezingu-150 eningizimu kweMacha Mission eZambia.

Iminyaka elitshumi eyedlulayo, lesi sixuku sabantu sathutha ukuhlala kulendawo entsha. Bafumana ubunzima obunengi. Kwakukhona ubunzima bolimi olutsha lemikhubo, kodwa ubunzima obukhulu kakhulu kwakuyikufumana indlu yokukhonzela, ngokuba laba bantu babengebandla laBazalwane kuKristu. Ibandla lakithi lalingelamsebenzi khona. Amanye amabandla azama ukuba bangene kuwo, kodwa babengasuthiswa ngemfundo yabo.

Ekugcineni omunye wabakhokheli, uSmart Mehlo, walobela uMfundisi oMkhulu uMusser. Wacela usizo. UMfundisi uMusser lababonisi babathekelela, babaphathela amaBhayibhili lezihlabelelo. Babatshela ukwakha indlu yokukhonzela, ukuba lemihlangano iviki ngeviki, ukufundisa abaseklasini, njalo lokunika iminikelo.

Ngenyanga ezidlulileyo ukwethekela kwenziwa futhi ngababonisi loMfundisi Mann. Bafumana indlu yokukhonzela enhle lemali esikhwameni somnikelo. Lapha besekhonale kwabhabhathizwa abantu abafica munwe munye. Abathathu babuyiselwa ebandleni. Amalungiselo enziwa emithado emithathu. Emibili yale mithado yayingeyabantu abadala abafuna ukulandela iNkosi indlela yonke.

Imihlangano Yamadoda

Umhlobo omutsha womhlangano suqalisiwe ebandleni lakithi. Kulesi sikhathi kungumhlangano wamadoda. Okweminyaka eminingi abesifazana bebandla bebelemihlangano, khathesi amadoda angakhulisa imihlangano yabo njalo.

Umhlangano wokuqala emangweni weWanezi wawusenyangeni kaNovember esikolo seMalole. Kwafika amadoda angamatshumi amane nambili. Akhuluma ngezindaba zebandla—ikakhulu ngokuthi angasizana kanjani lokusiza ibandla ekuni-

CHURCH NEWS



keleni. Ubaba uS. Senda wacasisela indlela yokunikela eMalole.

Inkulumo yakhe yayimnandi kangaka ukuze wacelwa ukuyiphinda njalo komunye umhlangano wamadoda eGumbalo ngoDecember. Kwafika amadoda angamatshumi amathathu nane kulo umhlangano. Owesithathu wawuseMwele kuJanuary.

Yonke lemihlangano yaholelwa nguMfundisi uSibanda ngesikhathi sokuqala. "Sifuna abantu ukwazi ukuthi umsebenzi ungowabo," kwatsho uMfundisi Sibanda. Ngakho emhlanganweni nge-mihlangano umholi walowo mango wakhethwa. Emangweni weGwatemba, umholi nguPeachy Mkwanzani, umsizi wakhe nguJoash Ndlovu. Emangweni wakoGodlwayo, umholi nguJobe Moyo, umsizi wakhe nguZinothi Moyo.

Izikolo ZeBhayibhili Ezimfitshane

Isikolo seBhayibhili okwamaviki amabili sasi-khona futhi ngoJanuary eWanezi Bible Institute.

Isifundo lesi sanikwa abantu abangelamandla okusuka emakhaya abo okomnyaka wonke, kodwa bafuna kakhulu ukufundiswa ngeBhayibhili. Kwakulabafundi abangamatshumi amabili nane kulemfundo emfitshane eWanezi lonyaka.

Abafundi bavela kuyo yonke imimango yeRhodesia yebandla. Babeficaminwembili abafunda izifundo zabo ngesiKhiwa. Abalitshumi lasithupha bafunda ezabo ngesiNdebele.

Bafunda iziNdaba zeThestamente eliDala, ukufundisa abantwana ngemfanekiso, iziFundo eziNkulu zeBhayibhili, iNcwadi kaMarko, loKutshumayela.

Ukufunda okwamaviki amabili kwakukhona eZambia ngoAugust. Abafundi abangamatshumi amabili nanye bafunda kulesi sikolo. "Lezi yizifundo ezinhle," kwatsho abafundi.

Umhlangano Ngokufundisa Abatsha

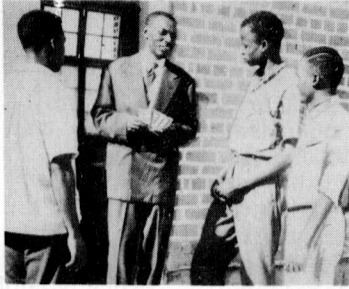
Umhlangano wawuseMpopoma ngoDecember 19 ukusiza ukufuqa umsebenzi wabatsha ebandleni lakithi. Phose abantu abalikhulu bafika kulo umhlangano. Inengi labo babengabesilisa.

Umhlangano waqalisa ngomfanekiso wejaha elathi imota yalo yayinkulu kulokulandela uKristu. Abazali bakhe lezihlolo zamsize ukubona ukuphambeka kwakhe.

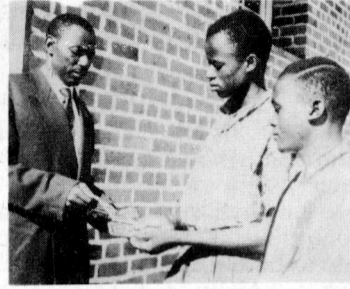
Phambili izinkulumbo zakhulunywa ngokuphatha umhlangano wabatsha, ngokuqalisa amaSunday School ezindaweni ezintsha, njalo lokuthi singasiza kanjani abatsha bethu bezwe ngezinto zikaNkulunkulu.

"WELL DONE FAITHFUL SERVANT"

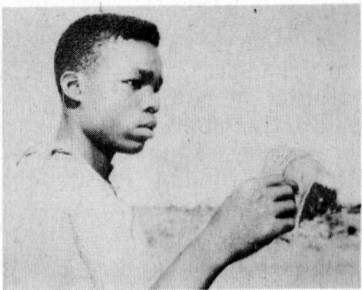
Matt. 25: 14 - 30



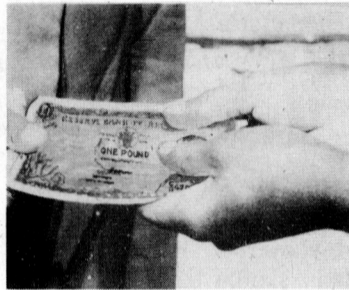
A certain man called his three servants to him. "I am going on a journey," he said.



To the first servant he gave £5 to work with while he was gone.



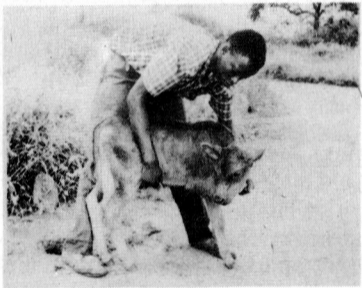
To the second servant he gave £2 to use to work for him.



To the third servant he gave £1 so that he might keep busy for his master.



Then the master went on his journey.



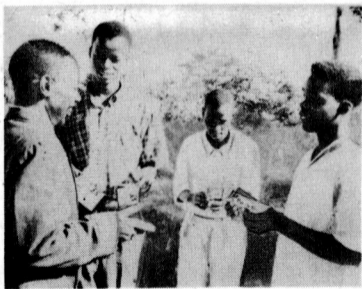
The first servant bought a calf. When he sold it he had £10 profit to give.



The second servant bought seeds to plant. He earned £4 to return to his master.



But the third servant was lazy. He put the pound note into a tin and buried it in the earth.



When the master returned, the first two servants were happy. "Well done, good and faithful servants," said the master.



But the master was displeased with the lazy servant. He said, "Throw him out of my house for ever!"

Are we using the things God gives us so we can give back to Him again?

OUR HOME



The Problem

John took his pay check, folded it carefully and put it in his pocket. He gave his pocket an extra pat as he thought of all the things that that money could buy.

It was not that he was going to spend it foolishly. He needed a new pair of shoes very much, and he must finish paying for the wireless. Then there was the monthly payment on the car, and, of course, there would be food to buy for the family.

As John walked into the house, his wife said, "Did you get your wages today?"

John did not answer, but took off his jacket and hung it on the back of a chair.

"I was hoping there would be enough money to buy new curtains for the bedroom this month," Siphon went on. "Did you see that these are getting big holes in them?"

Still John did not answer, but went across the room and turned on the wireless to listen to the news. When it was finished, Siphon tried again.

"Could we talk about the money a little bit, John? It seems there are so many things we need to buy these days. I could make Temba a better shirt for Sunday if I had the money to buy the cloth," she said.

"I don't think it is necessary to talk about the money," John answered finally. "I'll give you money for food. I'm afraid I need all the rest."

Siphon said nothing but turned away. She was disappointed.

WHOSE CHECK IS IT?

The Way Out

Many times it is a problem to know just how the income which a family earns should be handled. This is a world-wide problem which must be faced, and wrong handling of money must be guarded against, especially by Christians.

Some husbands claim that all the family income belongs to them. While some wives demand more than their share.

A number of questions could be asked. To whom does the money belong, if the husband is the wage earner? Should he keep all of it? Or what if the wife is the one who brings home the money? Does it all belong to her?

The husband and wife are one. Whatever income is received in the name of one belongs to both of them. Both should have some say as to how it should be spent.

But the thing that is most important is that God is the One who has trusted you and me, and given us all we have today. As Christians we are only keepers of all that God puts into our hands.

All that we have belongs to God. So does the check or the family income. It belongs to God because we ourselves belong to Him. We would not be able to earn money at all if He did not give us the strength to do it.

In I Corinthians 4: 2 we read, "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful". The most mean thief in the world today is the one who robs God.

Let us be faithful with what God has placed in our hands. Let us give Him His share, and let us handle wisely what is left.

WILSON J. MAKALIMA.

PLEASE TELL ME

(started on page 7)

QUESTION:

When a girl is courted, how long should she take before she agrees? What respectful words can she use to answer if she loves the boy?

Here again I refer you to Genesis 24. It took a short time for Rebecca to answer because God had prepared the way. If a girl really loves the boy she will not answer with cheap love words. She will show her interest by asking about the boy's Christian life. Or she may ask him to wait until she has prayed about it or until she has asked advice. If a boy is not willing for this, he is not a true Christian.

MICAH G. MATSHIYA, Nyumbane.

QUESTION:

Is it wrong for a Christian girl to have two boy friends?

ANSWER:

Some girls think it is best for them to have two boy friends, so that if one fails, they still have the other. But neither of the boys must know that they have the other. How can love and trust grow out of this? Some girls think it is better to have two so that they can judge between them and choose wisely, but two boy friends make it more difficult rather than easier to choose wisely. One learns to choose wisely by learning to know many boys in school, in church, in praying together and in playing together. From the beginning God commanded His people, "Thou shalt not multiply wives". Why, then, should we have two boy friends? Learn to be satisfied with one boy friend, and you will learn to be satisfied with one husband in the future.

MRS. ANNA MUDENDA, Macha.

Okutshonisa Isizwe Phansi Nya!

Umfundisi M. Khumalo

Utshwala. Isithembo. Imithi. Amathambo.
Kula amazwi amane, kuvela insizi lokudana lenhlupho ezinenginengi ezimbi kakhulu sibili. Ivangeli lensindiso lafika lakukhuza.

Kwaziwa ukuba kubi sibili. Okholiweyo kwakusaziwa ukuba usibanibanyana ukholiwe. Ulamkele ivangeli leNkosi uJesu Kristu. UJesu wathi kwabanye abaJuda, "Uma limi ezwini lami, lingabafundi bami sibili. Lizakulazi iqiniso, leqiniso lizalikhulula." Johane 8: 31, 32.

Utshwala

Utshwala yikudla. Kodwa ezwini likaNkulunkulu asikudla. Okudlayo kakho ezwini lakhe. UJesu kahlali kuye.

Sekudumile ukuba amakholwa ayanatha. Ababatshaziwayo kakhulu yilabo abafundisa isizwe. Pho, singaphumelela isizwe na? Kambe singaphakama ngezidakwa? Bathandwa, isikhathi sibi. "Lindani!" Marko 13: 36, 37.

Indlela zotshwala zimbi. Bucineni, makholwa. Bulabaninibo bayatshayana babotshwe bahlawulisanane bahlawuliswe. Ngiloba-nje omunye engimaziyo usesitokisini. Uvalebwe sibili ngxi!

Kambe umkholwa wotshwala uzaphutha kube kangaki engangenanga kukho lokhu okuhlupha abanikazi na? Mina ngingalandula uba amakholwa ayanatha. Angikaboni ikholwa linatha. Kodwa mkhulukazi umsindo othi amakholwa ayanatha, baze banikane izibindi, kungathi ubani uyanatha.

O! MaAfrika, kufiwe. O! Bazalwane, lalihlonipheka iBanda laBazalwane kuKristu. Pho, ulibona njani wena lamhla? Ngiyadana ngoba mhlawumbe wawungakazalwa. Utshwala yisitha sesizwe. Buyaphukuza. Zinjalo-ke indlela zotshwala!

Isithembo

Isithembo ngumuzi. Bayagwaba abaso. Kodwa akukho kugwaba ndawo, ngoba inhliziyo zibomvu gebhu. Luhlupho ngendlela eziningi. Ukuthandana akukho—ngitsho lakuye umyeni labomkakhe.

Pho, abantwana laba abaphuma amathumbu ngamathumbu babonani? Bezvani? Bafundani kulo umuzi omkhulu kangaka? Akulinganise izibusiso zakhona. Azikho. Yisiyaluyalu ngaphakathi enhliziyweni. Indoda yinye, abafazi ngumhlambi. Abafazi ngumhlambi, indoda yinye. Ukuthula akukho lakanye.

Izwi leNkosi lithi indoda ayithande umkayo. Lithi umfazi ahloniphe umyeni wakhe. Limi lapho izwi leNkosi. Okudlula lapho kuyakokubi. Kufanele kube lokubi esithenjini, ngoba kweqiwe umngcele womdali.

Awu! Isithembo yibuthakathi. Ngingekulobe lapho okunye kwakhona. Likwazi konke, lina bohlanga.

Ubusisiwe umuntu ongafuni isithembo noma engakholwa. O! Ubusisiwe.

Isimanga nansi. Abantwana bethu esathatha ngomtshado ongwele sebebuyela esithenjini. O, Banda! Ibuhlungu leyonto. Ke isizwe siyaphi na? Funda Amazwi 14: 34. Injalo indlela yesithembo.

Umuthi

Umuthi uyasiza. Kodwa asiyo yonke efanele umuntu kaJesu. Ukusiza ilusizo sibili. Kayigabazeki. Kodwa-ke umKristu umele ayizwisise lapha imqondisa khona.

Ungaphika ngemithi, uzalahlekelwa yibuhle lethemba eliyilonalona. Abanye zinyanga, zingakwenza okuhle noma zingakwenza okubi okungathandeki kuNkulunkulu wakho. Ezinye zelapha sezivuke idlozi. Lezo ziyasihlupha thina, bakholwayo, ngoba sekuthi sikhonza amadlozi.

Liyakubona yini, makholwa, ukuba zisa isizwe emuva ebumnyameni? Amazwi athi "Hlolani konke libambebele kokulungileyo". Uma siloMoya kaNkulunkulu asisoze siphukuzeke ngemithi emibi.

Imithi ilungile kodwake asilimuke ukuba ingasusi ithemba lethu kuNkulunkulu. Ngoba abanye ibasekele ezikhundleni beyeme ngayo, abanye emisebenzini beyeme ngayo. Pho, uNkulunkulu wakho abesekwenzelani? Usumphose emva kwakho. Yimbi leyonto yokuthemba umuthi. Futhi akusoze kukuhlalise kuhle kuNkulunkulu.

Umuntu owejayele imithi uhlale esabile elovalo. Lina, hlanga olumnyama, liyakwazi lokho. Abanye kungathi balindwa ngumuthi. Pho, impilo yalowo muntu ichibile na? Ayi, iyathathazela. Ithemba lakhe lilula.

Kanti izwi lithi, "Themba kuJehova, ube namandla; yena woqinisa inhliziyo yakho; themba phela kuJehova." Izihlabelo 27: 14.

Amathambo

Nanso enye yesizwe ebulalayo. Kuletha insizi njengalokho sekukhulunywe ngaphezulu okunjalo.

A! A! A! Amathambo ahlupha isizwe mphela. Omunye uthe kimi, "Amakholwa ayatshaya amathambo."

Awu! Ngamakholwa bani atshaya amathambo? Wasethi, "Abakithi bayahamba bayatshaya. Babuye bazongisusela."

Pho, uthini, wena ofundayo? Abawatshayi na? Bayawatshaya. Angayakuzwela abuye esekususele, enhliziyweni yakho sekuzathini pho na? Ubumnyama buzinzile lapha kumaAfrika. Sekuzafika kuwe inhlupho ezininginingi lo muntu zhi phansi.

Lezi zinto ezine ezabhalwa lapha zingabathakathi. Zonke lezi zingaba lezidumbu phansi. Mhlawumbe sezaba lazo phansi. Pho, isizwe sizaphakama njani? Silokhu sizihlela ngamaketane. Liyahlehla nyovane, maAfrika. Kunkona lithi bu eTshwaleni, esiThenjini, emiThini, emaThanjeni.

Truth for Youth

PLEASE TELL ME

Here are some questions asked by girls at the Wanezi Bible Institute. Perhaps you have wondered about these things too. Read what some well-known people in our church have to say about them.

QUESTION:

How old should a girl be when she begins to court?

ANSWER:

No definite age can be given as the right one for every girl. At the age of 17 or 18 girls appear to be grown up and are attracted to young men. Girls of this age may begin courting seriously. However, if a girl is still in school, she should not court, because it will disturb her mind and spoil her chances of success.

T. N. B. NDLOVU, Matopo.

QUESTION:

How can a girl show that she is a real Christian?

ANSWER:

The Word of God is direct on this subject. It gives the ten commandments and Christ's explanation of these. These she must keep. She must also keep the rules of the church. In short, she must live a pure Christian life as is expected of all Christians.

T. N. D. NDLOVU, Matopo.

QUESTION:

How can I overcome temptations that come in an interesting way: for example, I might be telling a certain story and something comes into my mind that might make the listeners laugh, yet it is untrue?

ANSWER:

Most temptations come in an interesting way, otherwise we would not be tempted. Satan makes sin appear pleasant in order to pull us. All of us fail completely if we try to overcome temptations by ourselves. We must trust God for help. A few Scriptures which may be of help to you are: I Cor. 10: 13; Heb. 2: 18; Heb. 4: 15; II Peter 2: 9. Remember to ask God each day for power to overcome the temptations which may come to you that day. When a temptation comes, pray silently or aloud with faith, and you will get the power you need.

DR. R. V. KAUFFMAN, Phumula.

QUESTION:

Is it good for a Christian to remain being unmarried?

ANSWER:

It is not wrong for a Christian to remain unmarried. However, one must remain pure in order to continue being a Christian. The important thing is to obey God. He has work for some which they

can do better if they are unmarried. Be sure to pray much about the matter and marry only as God leads you.

DR. R. V. KAUFFMAN, Phumula.

QUESTION:

How should a Christian girl dress, or how should her clothes be different from those of girls who are not Christians?

ANSWER:

A Christian girl should look nice, neat and clean. She should see that she wears good materials—I mean materials which are not too light or thin, nor materials which are too expensive. The colour of the material she chooses should not be too bright to look at, but should fit with her colour or skin. Her dress should be below her knees to make her respectable as well as a good example to non-Christian girls. She should have a good pattern which fits her nicely. Her clothes should always be mended. She should not wear torn clothes that show her body. I think a Christian girl should not try to change her hair or the colour of her skin. I personally feel I look nice in the sight of God the way He has made me.

MRS. RACHEL MUSHALA, Sikalongo.

QUESTION:

Is it good for me to have a boy friend of 28 years while I am 18 years of age?

ANSWER:

No; this gap is very big. Some people have done this, but they did not have peaceful living, because ages make wide differences of opinion in the home.

MICAH G. MATSHIYA, Nyumbane.

QUESTION:

How can I see whether the boy who is courting me is a real Christian? How can I choose the one who will really live the Christian life with me in the future?

ANSWER:

Definitely you cannot see, yourself. But you can find out from his home pastor or other people belonging to his home church. Prayer will help. Notice the prayer of Abraham's servant in Genesis 24. We don't choose ourselves. God chooses for us if we don't force Him in our prayers. In 1948, while in Mashonaland, I prayed for the right girl. God heard me and sent me a girl from home in Matabeleland. She came right from Mtshabezi!

MICAH G. MATSHIYE, Nyumbane.

(Please turn to page 5 for more.)

I ENJOY TITHING!

My father had just come back from a short Bible course at Wanezi. He told Mother about the things they studied there.

"We learned about tithing," he said. "Please read Malachi 3: 10 for me."

Mother read, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

That was the first time I had heard that Scripture. I knew that Mother was a cheerful giver, but when she heard this, her heart was stirred. She wanted to hear more about the subject, so she went to see a teacher in the Bible school for more instruction.

Since that time my mother has been tithing, and she has seen more and more blessing from the Lord in her life. She is getting weak physically, but she is happy in the Lord. She says, "My desire is to walk with the Lord for ever."

What about myself?

All this did not mean much to me until 1962. In that year there was a Spiritual Life Conference at Nsezi. The Bible School staff and others were invited to come and speak to us there. One of the subjects discussed was tithing.

Here came a direct challenge to me. I began to realise that this demand does not come from men, but from God Himself. My heart was broken down when I read verses 8 and 9 of Malachi 3.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

Stealing is sin. Even the laws of this world rebuke it. How much worse if a man steals from his Creator!

When I heard these words, I knew I had robbed God. And if I had robbed God, could I escape the curse in verse 9? What the Lord has promised, He will do! I could not escape the curse.

But my soul was lifted up when I heard the promise in verse 10, that if I would bring all the tithes, God would open the windows of heaven and pour me out a blessing, that there would not be room enough to receive it.

How to do it

During the lunch hour, I asked the ladies who were there more about tithing. How should I do it? How should I use the tithes? They said the main purpose of tithing is to support the work of the Lord as Malachi 3: 10 says. It should be put into the offering. However, a small part could also be used for some burden the Lord lays upon my heart. For example, buying books and tracts to give to those who need Christ, or helping the needy outside my own family.

Soon after that I made my promise to God to give Him all my tithes. I asked Him to forgive my ignorant past about tithing and give me power to fulfill my promise.

Today I praise the Lord for what He did in my life. He has been faithful to me. He has opened the windows of heaven and poured me out a blessing.

You may wonder what sort of blessing the Lord has given me. Yes, sometimes God blesses us with worldly treasures, but that is not what we should look for. We should expect spiritual blessings. Riches may come later or they may never come, but the Lord will provide for us with enough earthly things to keep us going.

I say this from experience.

There was a time when none of the family earned money for four months. My husband was in school and I was on maternity leave. I tell you, we never suffered a day! We had enough food always, and we found that there were always a few shillings in hand—not from our savings, as they had gone down to nearly nothing—but from the Lord. He stirred up the hearts of His people, our friends and relatives. I can say there was not room enough to receive what we were given.

And spiritual blessings, too

In addition, the Lord has given me many spiritual blessings. I will give only a few.

First, the Lord has given me a living assurance of eternal life. Second, I have more faith in God's Word and promises. Third, He has given me a better spirit of understanding when I look upon problems and deal with them. Fourth, I now have more to give to the Lord's work than before. Fifth, He gives increasing wisdom in doing His work. But most of all, I have happiness in serving the Lord.

What about you?

What is your stand before God concerning the tithes? These promises and blessings are not mine alone—they are for you too, if you believe and do what the Lord asks you to do. Who knows? Your blessings may be even greater than mine!

"Prove Me now", says the Lord of hosts.

The writer of this article is Mrs. Jonathan Dlodlo, wife of the pastor at Wanezi Mission. Her father is blind evangelist M. Khumalo, known to many people.

Mrs. Dlodlo did not want her name printed with this article. "It will sound like I am bragging," she said.

But we felt that you would like to know the person whom God is blessing in this way. Mrs. Dlodlo gave permission to print her name with this explanation, hoping that her testimony will encourage others.

—Editor.