

August 15, 2020

A YEARLY RITUAL

“Here is your Birthday Offering,” said Irene to her son, Marcos, 8, before they left for the church that Sabbath. “Please tell the Sabbath School teacher that your birthday was last week, and don’t forget to give that offering, as you do every year,” said Mother, touching Marcos’ pocket. She reminded him how sick he had been since he was a baby, how bad the prognosis was, how he was dedicated by his parents to serve God, and that through three very difficult surgeries the Lord graciously saved his life! So Marcos proudly gave to God that special offering.

Years ago, Osvaldino Bomfim, his father, left a small business to become a colporteur, battling against his passion to accumulate money. After marrying Irene, he decided to study at the Adventist Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil to become a pastor. His desire for wealth, however, led him to seriously consider a friend’s proposal to leave the seminary and to partner with him in purchasing a gas station. Maybe I can get more and more money, and then participate in mission by financially supporting missionaries, he thought. But then Marcos became very sick!

While his son, who was near death, was

having surgery, Osvaldino knelt in one of the hospital’s restrooms and prayed: “Dear Lord, I know You are the Owner of the universe, totally able to do anything. If this child will later enlarge Satan’s lines, please allow him to rest; but if he will serve You, please perform a miracle!” Then he added: “I now give up my desire to become rich. I rededicate myself to serve You for my whole life, doing whatever You want me to do, and going wherever You send me. I will also dedicate this child to You, and will prepare all my other children to serve You!”

After Marcos’ healing, the Birthday Offering became a meaningful experience of gratitude and rededication to God for this family, which raised two pastors, Marcos and Eduardo, and a pastor’s wife, Junia.

APPEAL: Who is supposed to be honored with a special gift for any anniversary celebration? Is it the one who is just enjoying life, or He who created and redeemed the person’s life? Praise Him as you bring Him your tithes and offerings today!

PRAYER: Lord, please accept the dedication of our lives to You today!

