

November 21, 2020

## SIMPLE LIFE

Reminiscences of his parent's home always bring good memories to Pavel Goia, *Ministry* magazine editor. Even though his dad was a prosperous construction contractor during the Romanian communist era, the family never had a fancy car, expensive furniture, or a big house. "He would always say to Mom," remembers Goia, "If things were better, we would promote God's work. Those are the treasures we have, because we don't take anything except souls to heaven. So, let's invest in souls."

"One time when we were building a church," says Goia, "Dad came home with \$25,000 after putting on a new roof for a school. Then Mom asked, 'How much should we give? Ten percent?' Dad said, 'No, no, no! Give it all.' Then Mom said, 'Let's keep \$2,000 for the house, for emergencies.' Dad agreed and said, 'OK. Keep 10 percent and give 90 percent.'"

"Sometimes he would give half," remembers Goia, "depending on the need of the church, not our need. He would say, 'Who gave us the money? Who gave us health? He's going to give us more again. Give it all. Give it to the church.'"

"That didn't happen just one time," says Goia. "It was usually the case. We got used to constantly hearing this again and again until it was anchored into our system."

**APPEAL:** How may God use you to teach your children the importance of living simply and giving liberally to God, which will wed their hearts to Him? Once giving habits are established early in life, they will protect the children from many materialistic and consumerist snares. You may give them a small, regular allowance, for instance, and teach them to put God first by returning tithe and Promise (regular, systematic, percentage-based offering) before meeting any other expenses. According to Jesus, wherever your children put their money, there their hearts will be also (Matt. 6:21).

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, while we worship You with tithes and offerings, help us today not only to give for Your glory, but also to be models and educators, so that the younger generations may follow our steps and also find You!

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