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December 26, 2020

SAVED BY THE GOD FIRST PRINCIPLE

“Quickly, quickly!” cried Edison Choque. “We must leave immediately.” It was December 26, 1999, and Edison was an Adventist pastor in Trujillo, Perú. Along with Ruth, his wife, and their two children, Mercy and Kevin, they were excited about traveling to Lima, the capital, for vacation. “The bus will depart at 7:00 A.M. and will not wait for us!” he warned.

Edison was concerned about the time because they had woken up late, after packing the night before. But because the bus station was only 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) away, and the taxi was already waiting for them at the door, it seemed that they would make it.

But just as they were walking out the door, Mercy, their 5-year-old child, asked: “What about family worship? Are we not supposed to have it today?” “Well,” said Edison, looking to Ruth, “we will have worship inside the bus while we’re traveling.” But Mercy was firm: “You’ve said many times that we should never leave this house without having family worship.”

Father and Mother looked at each other again and nodded their heads. They decided that it was more important to keep the God First principle than their vacation plans. So they

quickly read the Sabbath School quarterly for Mercy and Kevin, and then hurried to the bus station—only to realize that the bus had already left! All eyes then turned to Mercy, because the tickets were not refundable, and the next bus wouldn’t depart for four hours!

Later that day they were shocked to learn that the very bus they had missed had crashed with a truck, instantly killing 16 people! The Choque family wept for the people who had been killed and for their families, but at the same time, they were also filled with gratitude to God for using the God First principle to save their lives! (Edison and Ruth now work at the South America Division office, in Brazil; Mercy is a pastor’s wife; and Kevin is a pastor. Both Mercy and Kevin also live in Brazil.)

APPEAL: Let us plan to start the new year by putting **God first** in all aspects of our life, including our financial life. Let us honor Him with our tithes and offerings, and to do it before any other expense are met!

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, please accept our tithes and offerings as our worship! Please help us to put You first in every aspect of our life. Amen!