

WEEK 25 • JUNE 24, 2023

## Zimbabwe: Three Cows and a Bull for the Lord

Luke 6:38—“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Mr. and Mrs. Mpofu [M'POE-FOO] live in Zimbabwe in southern Africa. They raise cattle and acknowledge that their animals are the Lord's. One day as the couple watched over their livestock, they felt impressed to give God more. So, they decided to give a portion of their animals as tithe and promise offerings.

From their herd of 31 animals, the husband and wife selected three strong cows for their tithe and a bull as their promise offering. “The Bible says everything belongs to God, and we are just His stewards,” Mr. Mpofu said. “We're reading the Bible and learning that God promises great blessings that come from giving. That touched our hearts so much because the Lord has been so good to us.”

This gesture not only encouraged the visiting church elders who collected the animals, but it caught the attention of neighbors and church members as well. Several others have pledged to contribute more to their offerings because of the Mpofu's example.

The mission offerings make a huge difference around the world and can make the greatest impact when given faithfully and regularly.

Zimbabwe is home to Solusi University. Founded in 1894, this Adventist institution educates students from all over Southern Africa. Its strength comes from the sacrificial gifts and offerings of millions of believers around the world.

Zimbabwe is part of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region. This territory is home to more than 4.3 million Adventists. Despite having a well-established history of church growth, the people living in Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region face difficult financial struggles that affect the churches and the members in each country. Our mission offerings help spread a message of hope in some of these most challenging areas, especially in the growing cities.

Please pray for the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region as church members there faithfully follow God's call in their lives. The Combined Offering Plan was devised by the church to help Adventists around the world use their Promise offering to support the work in an equitable way, locally, in their homeland, and in every country. Ask God, “What percentage of my income would You have me regularly give beyond your tithe?” And then stop and listen, even as the Mpofu family asked God what He would have them give. Then prayerfully say “Yes,” and watch God bless you as you obey.

