



Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

NOVEMBER 20, 2021

Advent Press put God first

Advent Press decided to put God first. What can we learn from this story that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Advent Press is the Seventh-day Adventist publishing house in Ghana. The company was heavily in debt to the government of Ghana, suppliers and the West-central African Division to the tune of US\$2 million. The whole compound was muddy and the machines were obsolete. It was unable to pay the salaries of its workers. Few saw the potential and they were set to auction their assets.

But new management agreed with the staff a series of drastic changes that would put God first in their lives individually and as a company. They made arrangements to pay their debt in 10 years, knowing it would take a miracle to achieve this. Yet the debt was paid in seven years and today Advent Press is a shining example of efficiency in both business and faith.

The first step was a collective and individual commitment to return tithe, even if they couldn't afford it. The second step was set up prayer bands in different places. They believed and trusted that God would answer their prayers. Another action was to cut salaries by 50 per cent and maintain this for five years.

The miracle wouldn't have happened without the

staff, including management, putting God first in everything. To their surprise, God started to answer their prayers. A volunteer offered to sponsor the printing of the Sabbath school quarterlies. This became the turning point for the press.

To the glory of God, the press, which was nearly auctioned off, is now one of the best Adventist publishing houses in the Adventist world—first in Africa and 13th in the world. It has sponsored one pastor at Valley View University into the gospel ministry. Currently, it is sponsoring another student at Adventist University of Africa.

All the obsolete machines have been replaced at the cost of US\$2.5 million. The once muddy compound is now paved, the buildings have been renovated and a six units have been built for staff accommodation. Today, payment of salaries is no issue, even in the midst of COVID-19. The press has its own delivery vans and a standby generator.

Indeed, faithfulness in returning tithe, prayer, commitment and dedication has turned the fortunes of the press.

Advent Press put God first. Their courage inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.