

#4

What kind of adventures does God have in store for us when we partner with him in our giving? The very fact that He invites our participation is an amazing grace. As one of my favourite musicians, Charlie Hall writes, “You could feed the whole world with the crumbs of old bread, spread the good news through dreams and stones, with the breath of your wind you could raise up the dead, but you ask US to go.” There are so many adventures with God

in our giving.

Take adventures in almsgiving to bless the less fortunate. Amazingly God uses the language of becoming a debtor to those who give this way. Prov19: 17 says, “He who is generous to the poor LENDS to the Lord and He will repay him for his deed.” The language here is not just donation, but making loans to God!

Take the adventure of the “open-hand” gift? Maybe you feel directed to give to a cause but don't have the cash. I have a colleague

who says that the following prayer has never gone unanswered. “Lord, I feel directed to give to (fill in the blank). If you bring this money to my hand in the next month, I will re-direct it to that ministry for your glory, Amen”. On occasion more came than he asked. Incredible!

Take adventuring through first fruits giving. If you receive a “windfall” ask the Lord where to give a portion after your tithe. Watch what happens.

Take, Faith-Promise Giving, where your faith is

**stretched by pledging
monthly ABOVE your tithe.
People's Church in Toronto
has supported thousands
of missionaries and
mission projects this way
for decades. The
testimonies of these
“pledgers” are remarkable.**

**But my favourite is what I
call adventuring with God
in “bottom-of-the-barrel”
offering. 1Kngs17 tells of a
widow, who took her last
resources and baked a
cake for the prophet Elijah.
She thought she and her
son would starve to death.
Instead, God kept filling the**

**oil jug and the meal pot.
She, her son, and Elijah ate
well throughout the whole
famine.**

**Try this one on for size --
It's a true story. In the
1970's a Christian couple
were facing poverty. He
couldn't get work. That
week his E.I was running
out. In response to a
prompting from within the
wife took a TURNIP from
the garden and baked a PIE
from apples growing in the
back yard. The next
morning she brought it as
an offering to the
evangelist who was**

**conducting a mission in
their parish.**

**The next day...she
bounded into church. She
could hardly contain
herself. The afternoon after
her offering, her husband
received a phone call. He
was offered the best job
he'd ever had! I don't think
that was coincidence. I
think it was God taking this
couple on a kingdom faith
adventure in "bottom-of-
the-barrel" giving.**

**Partnering with God can be
some of the most
excitement you will have as
a Christian. Test Him. He's**

**as good as His word! I
know I want to live more
like this. Pie anyone?**