

Tithe

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25-L*

April 4, 1973

Adventist Mission
Avenue Pahlevi, No. 111
Teheran, Iran

Dear Sister

Thank you for your letter of March 28 in which you call attention to a lady missionary whose husband decided to pay tithe on the wages he had received before he became an Adventist. I think that he is and must be a most conscientious man. I admire him for his sense of duty, but I think that his sense of responsibility to God is based, not upon a thus saith the Lord, but upon his understanding of what the Lord says which I think is in error.

It is true that we ought to pay tithe on all that we possess at the time we are converted and baptized. Note the following: "Houses and lands, food and clothing, He has placed in the possession of men. He asks us to acknowledge him as the Giver of all things; and for this reason He says, Of all your possessions I reserve a tenth for Myself, besides gifts and offerings, which are to be brought into My storehouse." -- Counsels on Stewardship, p. 65.

But nothing is said here about back salary income or net income from a farm or whatever. It is possible that we can make the tithe a burden that God did not intend if we tithe what we do not have. And when this gentleman is tithing what he does not have, he is, I think, carrying the matter too far.

On the other hand, if he had in the bank at the time of his conversion sums of money representing savings from salary received prior to his conversion, I do believe that he should pay tithe on that. But if he has spent all his money and he does not have it in possessions at the time he is converted, I do not think he has an obligation there.

I am sending to you a copy of the little booklet called The Lord's Tenth which I think will be useful to you.

With kind brotherly regards,

D. A. Delafield, Associate Secretary

DAD/cy

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28-3-73
Tcheran, Iran
Ave. Paklevi
No. 111

Dear brethren,

Recently when talking with a lady missionary here, she mentioned the fact that when they knew the matter of back tithe, her husband decided to reckon & pay the tithe of the wages of the time before he became adventist. I asked on what basis one must do that, she said, when they read in the book of Counsels on Stewardship, they knew he had to pay his back tithe of the time when even he has not been an adventist. I have always thought that an adventist who has been in tithe paying should try to be honest in paying the tithe the present & of the past. But why should a person about the time when he did not know the truth of tithe pay how can he be responsible for it. "Because to him work & doeth not is sin." she said it is written in of stewardship pages 95-100. I went home & read it fully, but I did not find a ground for her saying & next day I told her so. she said, well if it applies adventists paying the tithe of the past, because neglect on account of ignorance, so it applies who have been working & not paying tithe before they came adventist. I was not satisfied with her answer & I tell you I was so much embarrassed & discouraged for I had had worked before I became adventist. In morning I asked Elder Gray, our field president, said the back tithe applies to the time of being adventist & neglecting the tithe. He & another missionary had the same belief about tithe as I had. But Elder Gray suggested to me to write & ask you to look up in Mrs. White's writings to find if there is such a thing as this. a person is responsible for not paying tithe of the time when he has not been an adventist.

So, dear brethren my plea is, to look up in her writings for this matter, and also for adding a 5 percent on any kind of back tithe. Does she write about it? or what is the Bible text for it? (adding 5%).

I know it will be a trouble for you to answer my letter but I want to be sure about it to know &

to teach it in the right way.

also, will you please look up in the spirit of prophecy books, to see if Mrs. White writes anything about women covering their head in church or not cutting their hair. For as a bible worker sometimes I come in clash with the opposite idea with some of our workers or believers. But since until now I have not met anything regarding it in Mrs. White's writings, my conscience does not bother me if I cut my hair or sometimes go to church without a cover on my head.

Please write me soon, if I have to wait for a long time to get the answer.



امریکا



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نامه مکتوبی

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Avenue Pahlavi No. 111
Tehran, Iran.

نشانی
ADRESSE

or if you can look up the answers & write me soon, I will be very much thankful & also have peace of mind regarding these.

May the Lord guide you & bless your efforts for His cause.

With greetings & thanks, I remain yours sincerely,

my address; Adventist Mission, Avenue Pahlavi, No. 111, Tehran, Iran.