



Dr. Milton Afonso Learned to Trust God

By Anna Maria De Stefani

I once watched an interview with Dr. Milton Afonso that brought tears to my eyes. He said that people think that because you are wealthy you always have funds available, but that is not true! As I recall it, he said that one day he was in his office when a committee of engineers and church leaders came to see him. They asked him for a donation of \$4 million to purchase a radio station in their country in South America. They showed him that this was a really good opportunity that would enable the church to preach the gospel in a vast area. They wanted him to sign a promissory note for \$4 million. Dr. Milton Afonso looked at the documents. He recognized this was a very good deal for the church. But he silently reminded himself that at this precise moment he had no funds to make any kind of donation. Yet, the contract needed to be signed or the church would miss this great deal. He saw those church leaders and professionals looking at him with enthusiasm and hope in their eyes. He felt so embarrassed that he had to disappoint them and tell them he could not help at this time!

As he was trying to find words to explain himself, he heard that still small voice, so familiar to him, speaking very clearly to his mind. The voice said, "Give them the money!" Dr. Afonso thought, *Lord, You know I have NO money!* The voice said, "Give them the money!" Dr. Afonso answered, *Lord, I would be more than happy to give it to them, but I DON'T have the money. You know everything I have. You know I have NO funds available right now.* But the voice



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insisted again, "Give them the money!" This was going on in his mind while the church leaders were talking to him. He was listening to them and praying to God at the same time. So Dr. Afonso said to God, *Lord, do you want me to lie to these people? Do you want me to sign a promissory note knowing that I will not be able to keep my word? How ugly is it going to look for Your church when the deal bounces back for non-sufficient funds? What about the disappointment of these leaders and their church members?* But the Lord answered more loudly and firmly in his mind, "Give them the money!" At this point Dr. Afonso excused himself and went to his prayer room. He knelt down and wrestled with God some more, but the Lord kept saying the same thing, "Give them the money!" So Dr. Afonso said to God, "OK, Lord. I am going to do as you say. I will sign a promissory note. But Lord, you know I don't have the money so you will have to provide it. This is Your business. I am obeying You. Now Lord, You take care of it, because I can't." Then Dr. Afonso came out of that room and signed the documents. The committee was so happy and grateful. All left rejoicing and praising God, while Dr. Afonso was so worried in his heart.

As the committee was still leaving, his secretary called him for an important phone call. It was a company who had previously refused to close a deal with him. Now they called back and closed the deal on the phone. That deal gave him a profit of FOUR TIMES the amount he had just donated! Dr. Afonso went back to his prayer room and knelt down. This time he praised God for His Mercy! He asked God to forgive him for his little faith. He had just learned another lesson of trust in God! In an instant, God had provided for the payment of the radio station, but He had also given him a great profit.

Dr. Milton Afonso concluded the interview by saying that God had given him abundantly more than he ever imagined. He had everything he needed and much more. He was born into a very poor family, but God had blessed him with so much! He didn't dare withhold from God because all he had already belonged to Him! God was his best partner! All he wanted was to serve God and hasten Jesus' return!

Kieth Noll
KY-TN Stewardship Director

Dr. Afonso is an SDA philanthropist and lawyer in Brazil. He and his family owned more than 20 companies including Golden Cross, which was considered the largest health insurance company in Latin America.

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