

## July 16, 2022. Local Church Budget

### Live on What is Left

#### Appeal: 2 Kings 4:7

She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.”

We worship the God who makes promises and provides instructions. Our Bible text describes the initiative of a widow after she has experienced a miracle, a room full of jars with oil. She returned to Elisha to express gratitude. Then, the prophet spoke these final words to her: “Live on what is Left!” These words stand as a promise about the sufficiency of God’s provision. She does not have to fear for her future. They are also an instruction not to live on borrowed resources. Previously, her family contracted a huge debt which resulted in painful consequences. Elisha’s departing advice was for her to manage wisely. The Lord does not only perform miracles, but He also teaches us how to use our blessings.

The instruction “live on what is left” is much relevant for us today. Across G20 countries, a quarter of people did not agree with the statement “before I buy something, I carefully consider whether I can afford it” (OECD, 2017). Personal financial management is a major deficiency for our generation, bringing disastrous consequences. Believers who have the best intentions to partner in God’s mission often do not because their finances are in a mess. These words are unfortunately a common description of reality: “Many do not remember the cause of God, and carelessly expend money in holiday amusements, in dress and folly, and when there is a call made for the advancement of the work in home and foreign missions, they have nothing to give, or even have OVER-DRAWN their account. (Ellen G. White, R. & H., Dec. 19, 1893).

As we claim His promises daily, let us also be diligent in the management of our resources. Some may be struggling not because the Lord has not already blessed them but of their lack of self-discipline and good management. This week as we worship with our tithe and regular and offerings let us choose to be better managers of God’s resources.

**Prayer:** Lord, Your promises bring peace and comfort to us. We thank You also for Your instructions because they provide directions for our life.