

Polly's Pondering

Be persistent in prayer even if you have no words and can only lift up broken-hearted cries . . . the Lord is with You. He sees you. He loves you. He hears the cries of your heart. Never stop praying. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

I am a writer. I love to create pictures with words. Except this morning as I sit to write my newsletter no words come to mind. So, I decided to do what many writers do for inspiration – read. I begin by googling “inspirational short stories”. After a bit of internet surfing, I came across this story about a little girl, entitled: “What You Give To God, He Multiplies”.

Hattie May Wiatt, a six-year-old-girl, lived near Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia, USA. The Sunday school was very crowded. Russell H. Conwell, the minister, told her that one day they would have building big enough to allow everyone to attend. She said, ‘I hope you will. It is so crowded I am afraid to go there alone.’ He replied, ‘When we get the money we will construct one large enough to get all the children in,’

Two years later, in 1886, Hattie May died. After the funeral Hattie’s mother gave the minister a little bag they had found under their daughter’s pillow containing 57 cents in change that she had saved up. Alongside it was a note in her handwriting: ‘To help build bigger so that more children can go to Sunday school.’

The minister changed all the money into pennies and offered each one for sale. He received \$250.00 – and 54 of the cents were given back. The \$250 was itself changed into pennies and sold by the newly formed ‘Wiatt Mite Society’. In this way, her 57 cents kept on multiplying.

Twenty- six years later, in a talk entitled, ‘The history of the 57 cents’, the minister explained the results of her 57-cent donation: a church with a membership of over 5,600 people, a hospital where tens of thousands of people had been treated, 80,000 young people going through university, 2,000 people going out to preach the gospel – all this happened ‘because Hattie May Wiatt invested her 57 cents’

The theme of multiplication runs throughout the Bible. What cannot be achieved by addition, God does by multiplication. You reap what you sow, only many times more. What you give to the Lord, he multiplies.

I was fascinated so I put *Wiatt Mite Society* into google and found the rest of the story.

Within five years the little girl’s gift had increased to \$250,000.00 – a huge sum for that time (near the turn of the century). Her unselfish love had paid large dividend.

When you are in the city of Philadelphia, look up Temple Baptist Church, with a seating capacity of 3,300 and Temple University, where hundreds of students are trained. Have a look, too, at the Good Samaritan Hospital and at a Sunday School building which houses hundreds of Sunday Schoolers, so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside during Sunday school time.



Temple Baptist (then and now) the church built from the desire of Hattie May Wiatt and the pastor Dr. Russel H Conwell who was sent to the church in 1882 to serve and who had the great fortune of invited Hattie May Wiatt out of the cold to learn about faith in Sunday School and instead discover she was to teach him about faith.

The funny thing is I end this article still without words. But this time, my mind is too in awe to speak, and my heart is thoughtful, stirred, convicted, and well – really full.