

Tithing began for me when I was 16 years of age. Several years later, in 1981, my wife, Lyla, expressed a desire to go to nursing school. I told Lyla that I did not see any way that we could afford for her to go back to college. In 1982 the Lord spoke to me and said that Lyla should go to nursing school and that I would be going through a school of faith with Him.

My pay, as a pastor, varied from week to week, but averaged about \$500 a month. Lyla worked about one day a week the first year of school and didn't work the second year. We continued to tithe, plus give some offerings. We often didn't know where money was coming from for our living expenses. Through the two years of Lyla's school, we always had what we needed. How the needs were met, was frequently surprising.

We didn't have money for Lyla's tuition. We applied for a student loan, didn't feel we should go through with it. At the middle of the first semester, when Lyla was about to be removed from school for not paying tuition, her parents gave her the money for the tuition. Before the tuition was due for the second semester,

Lyla received a grant from Mount Sinai Medical Center. They said that the grant was not given to first year students, but they made an exception. The money did not have to be repaid, but required working one year at the hospital after graduation. A job after graduation was not guaranteed, but if no job was available, the money did not have to be paid back,

The grant was given to Lyla again for the second year of school, without increasing the time commitment for working at the hospital. Lyla graduated without any debt. When Lyla graduated, there were more nurses than there were jobs, but she got a job at Mount Sinai Medical Center shortly after graduation. About 3 months later, while taking the Nursing State Board Exams, Lyla saw her classmates. Only 3, including Lyla, had jobs as registered nurses. Lyla was the only one with a job in a hospital. One final note, the hospital paid for the exams! (Rick Nichols)