

# Money Matters

## Living by Faith

Some Extracts from the Book:

### Rees Howells: Intercessor

#### Chapter 7: A Village Untouched by the Revival (pp52-57)

[T]he Spirit showed him both a commandment and a promise. ... The day came when he reached his last pound. The Holy Spirit then told him, "Cut the ropes and take the promises." It was a direct call to step out on God. But it is always easier to talk of such things than actually to do them. It had been much easier to give £100 out of plenty, than to part with this last £1 and come to the end of his savings – for the first time in fifteen years. "Oh, how the devil pitied me, and brought such arguments!" he said. ... But the Holy Ghost showed me that if God wanted me to go anywhere, He would surely provide the means. ... So he took the plunge and learned the blessed truth that his extremity was God's opportunity. ...

The first week his need was for £2, and he was able to tell the Lord in his prayer that he would not have come to Him, if he had had it himself. ... "It came and what joy I had in finding that I had finished with the limited resources of man, and begun on the unlimited resources of God! The promises of God had replaced money in the bank, and become equal to current coin to me. I no longer had to carry my treasure with me wherever I went, because I knew where the Treasury was, and how to reach it!"

#### Chapter 10: A Branch in the Vine (pp72-76)

[T]hey were praying for £2 and had to get it on a certain day. That very morning a letter came from London. ... when Mr. Howells opened it, the first thing he found was £2 enclosed. The letter ran: "Received your letter, and the blessing I got through it was of more value to me than all the Christmas and New Year cards put together. ... Whenever you need money for your work, if you will only let me know, it will be my joy to share it with you." That, of course, Mr. Howells would never do; his needs were to be made known only by way of the Throne. "But," he added, "...He became a great friend, and was often used by the Lord to answer our prayers."

#### Chapter 20: Call Out from Wage Earning (pp134-137)

The Lord spoke to him. "For seven hours a day you are earning two shillings an hour," He said, "but you need not work for an earthly master any longer. Would you like to come out and give these seven hours a day to work for me?" ... "Will you give your word to Me that you won't look to another person to keep you? If so, put up your hand and repeat, 'I shall not take from a thread to a shoe-latchet from any person, unless the Lord tells me'."

Just as Abraham made that stand when he refused the spoils of war that were justly his, lest men should say his prosperity came from natural sources, so God was asking His servant to take this same stand for the rest of his life; and on that bridge he raised his hand and made the solemn vow, adding, "I do believe You are able to keep me better than that Mining Company."

It was no mean stand of faith, because Mr. Howells had long since ceased that active ministry in the mission and among fellow Christians, which might have led people to give to him; and the moment he made this vow, the Lord drove home the reality of it to him by saying, "Remember this: you must never take a meal at home without paying for it, or your brothers could say they were keeping you." It was not that the family would have minded helping him, but the Lord

was impressing on him that the real life of faith meant receiving all that he needed from God, and being enabled to pay his way, while using all his hours for God; and not being dependent upon any man, most of all his family. ...

### **Chapter 21: Maderia (pp138-148)**

After waiting on God some days ... he told Joe to follow medical advice. It looked like a lapse of faith, but God had taught him that He steps in when natural remedies have failed. ... Joe was on the mountain for over two months, but he was no better, and the doctor said he could not possibly live through the winter unless he went to a tropical climate, ... but ... the family were very poor, and he blamed the doctor because he had opened a door through which a rich man's son could go, but his son could not.

That same day, Mr. Howells received a gift of £320! ... Here was the money for Joe!

### **Chapter 22: Marriage and Missionary Call (pp149-157)**

Gradually the Lord had drawn them together, until they wondered if it were God's will for them to marry ... Soon after, however, they were led in the opposite direction – to give up their marriage, not knowing whether it would ever be restored to them. Only now, three years later, did the Lord's word come that their lives should be united in His service.

A handsome gift was received from America for the wedding expenses; part of it was spent in buying necessities, and part kept for the time of the wedding. A week before the event, however, a person in great need came to Mr. Howells for help. In the life of faith, he always maintained the principle, 'First need, first claim', and this man's need came a week before theirs. So he gave him the money, feeling sure the Lord would supply. But by the day before the wedding, nothing had come. "I told the Lord," he said, "that if it was any other day, I would not mind, but we could never be without on that day, as we had invited my sister and brother-in-law to accompany us in the morning, and we were to catch the train before the first post. The evening came, and I didn't have a single penny! It was an occasion when one could doubt the Lord, but He had never failed, and late that night the deliverance came. There was great value in it! That was the start of our life of faith!"

### **Chapter 23: Standing in the Queue (pp158-164)**

The morning they left for London, he and Mrs. Howells only had £2, and she needed money that very day. But, as usual, 'First need, first claim'. As he was going before the post arrived, he had the claim on the money, and he comforted his wife by saying that more would be sure to come in the post! Joe and he arrived in London with only five shillings, having taken single fares. ...

Before they took their return train, they had lunch with some friends, and as they left, an envelope was put into Mr. Howells's hand. When he opened it at Paddington, there were five golden sovereigns inside. They had arrived with five shillings, but were leaving with five pounds! ... Mrs. Howells telling how the £2 came half an hour after he had left. "There is nothing in the world better for strengthening one's faith than testings!" was Mr. Howells's comment. ...

Meanwhile Mrs. Howells had all her needs supplied in Scotland; Mr. Howells never once had to send her anything. "We were in the school of faith," he said, "and there is nothing to be compared with having to be delivered to keep you abiding: you will never do it without."

On one occasion, he only had a few days in which to get £20. ... There was another student, ... who had been saying openly that he had never prayed a prayer that had brought a direct, definite answer. So Mr. Howells invited him to join in this prayer for £20. He had never heard of praying for money like that and expecting it to come. ... Before the end of this second period of prayer, Mr. Howells went to his room, and said, "you don't need to pray any more, I am through." "Have you got the money?" he said. "No, but I have got the faith, and the money will come." ... Two days later Mr. Howells received two £10 notes. ...

We thought money would be sure to come the day before we were to leave for London; but the last post came and no money, and our train was leaving before the post the next morning. ... Next morning, ... we had to walk to the station without the money! We felt sure it would come on the station platform, but no, the time came for the train to leave. What were we to do? There was only one thing possible. We still had ten shillings, and we must go as far as we could with it, then our extremity would be God's opportunity. We had to change trains at Llanelly station, about twenty miles from our home, and wait there for a couple of hours; so without letting anyone know, we only booked as far as that. There were many people at our home station wishing us all the good things, but what we needed was money to go to London! Many also came as far as Llanelly, singing all the way. The thought that came to me was, 'I'd sing better if I had the money!'

We ... walked back to the station still not delivered; and now the time for the train had come. The Spirit then spoke to me and said, 'If you had money what would you do?' 'Take my place in the queue at the booking office,' I said. 'Well, are you not preaching that My promises are equal to current coin? You had better take your place in the queue.' So there was nothing I could do except obey.

There were about a dozen people before me. There they were passing by the booking office one by one. The devil kept on telling me, 'Now you have only a few people in front of you, and when your turn comes, you will have to walk through. You have preached much about Moses with the Red Sea in front and the Egyptians behind; but now you are the one who is shut in.' 'Yes, shut in,' I answered, 'but, like Moses, I'll be gloriously led out!'

When there were only two before me, a man stepped out of the crowd and said, 'I'm sorry I can't wait any longer, but I must open my shop.' He said goodbye and put thirty shillings in my hand! It was most glorious, and only a foretaste of what the Lord would do in Africa, if we would obey. After I had the tickets, the people who came with us to the train began to give gifts to us, but the Lord had held them back until we had been tested. We were singing all the way to London!"

On their arrival, Mr. Head ... told them that he had £50 for them, but he didn't post it. "Thank God, you didn't," said Mr. Howells, adding to himself, "I wouldn't have been without the test in the queue for anything."

They had all their outfit except three things: a watch, a fountain pen, and a raincoat each. They had never mentioned these things to anyone, but at breakfast Mr. Head asked, "What kind of watches have you?" and then told them that his son, Alfred, wanted to give them a watch each. He then asked, "Have you prepared for the rainy seasons in Africa? Have you got good raincoats?" When they said they hadn't, he told them to go and get one each, ... saying they were to get them at his expense. ... he asked, "Have you seen this kind of fountain pen?" "No," they replied. "You must take one each with you," he said – the three things they had named to the Lord, he named to them!

## **Chapter 24: Revivals in Africa (pp165-183)**

Before they left to do down to Durban Mr. Middlemiss wrote and said, "I know you haven't a banking account (he knew that they had been led to give 50% of their salary away so as to continue to maintain a personal life of faith), so will you wire if you haven't the money for your fare." But Mr. Howells said, "No, I'll never wire. We are going to trust the Lord." He regarded it as a good means of proving that the call was really from the Lord. It came to the last post before they were to leave at 6 a.m. the next day. In that post was a letter from a friend in America, who had never given them money before, sending in dollars the equivalent of £25. So they started their journey in full assurance of faith. ...

At the end of the tour, ... their friend met them at the station, and told them he was very sorry he could not have them as there was influenza in the house. He suggested their going to the hotel where missionaries usually stayed. They found this would cost them 15s. a day. They had no money, but Mr. Howells said to his wife, "Let's enjoy ourselves; I'm sure the Lord will deliver before the end of the week." ... The post came by rail on Saturday evening and they were looking to the Lord to send something by it, as they were leaving next day at 6 a.m. But when they went down to meet the train, they were told there had been a breakdown, and it was not expected that night. ... "We had told the hotel keeper to have our bill ready for Sunday morning. At 5 a.m. he knocked at the door and gave it to us. We said we were going to the post and would pay him at six. At 5.30 a.m. we went, praying all the way. We had a box number in Umtali, to which we had told some of our friends to write. 'Is there anything in Box 32?' I asked. The man looked and said, 'Nothing at all, sir.' But in a flash, it came to my wife, it was not 32, but 23! There was just one letter. It had five

different addresses on it. It had followed us around, and reached us on this very morning with £30 in it. As well as the hotel bill, we had to pay £7.10s. for the post-cart. ...

Mr. Howells found that the only way to get a permanent footing in that country would be to buy a farm, which was offered them buy a Frenchman, costing £1,200. When Timothy, their head teacher at Rusitu, and the others heard of it, they said, "We will all give a third of our salary to help buy it." Mr. and Mrs. Howells were so touched by their example, that they felt, in addition to the 50% of their salary they were already giving, they should give a further thank-offering of £100.

Soon after this, ... Mr. Howells was telling in a Convention ... He didn't say a word about money, but he hadn't been speaking five minutes before a woman in the hall stood up and said, "I'll pay for that farm." The Lord told Mr. Howells not to take all that money, because she was under the influence of the meeting, so he said to her afterwards, "I don't expect you to give more than I give - £100." Her brother then said he would give £100, and two other people came and said they would give £100 each. He went to Birmingham and again had a gift of £100. He went to Dundee, and one morning under his plate found £100. Again, in Glasgow another man said, "If Matthew gave his blood, I'll give you £100." Altogether he had £1,100 in £100 gifts. In the end that actual farm was not bought, but several centres were opened in the territory.

## **Chapter 25: Buying of First Estate in Wales (pp184-197)**

A minister ... suggested that they ask the Lord for a training college. ... As they got down to pray, the Lord said to [Rees Howells], "Be careful how you pray. I am going to build a college, and build it through you!" It came as such a shock to him that the only thing he could say was, "If You are really speaking to me, confirm it through the Word," and that night the confirmation came to him through 1 Chron. 28:20,21, where these three promises stood out before him, "Be strong ... and do it ... for the Lord God will be with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work ... of the house of the Lord"; "There shall be with thee ... every willing, skilful man, for any manner of service"; and the third from the next chapter (29:4), that the Lord would give him a talent of gold (worth £6,150). ...

They asked the Lord to seal the new call by sending the very next day the money they would need for the whole trip. It was not an easy request, because there was no reason why people should give them the money, knowing they were receiving allowances as missionaries. But the next day the Lord gave them personal gifts amounting to £138, including £50 from a man who had been blessed through Mr. Howells eleven years before, and had told the Lord that if ever met him again, he would give him that sum. The gifts seemed so sacred to them, that they gave "100 as a thank-offering to the Mission, just as David poured out the water from the well of Bethlehem before the Lord. ...

...they passed a large estate on the rising ground over-looking the bay, and noticed that the house was vacant. They went up to the gate, ... as they stood there, the Lord's word came: "This is the college!"

"What a mansion it looked to me! I had no idea of the value of such a place, but I supposed it would be worth £10,000; and all the money we had between us was two shillings! I remember the impression it made on me – buying a place like that by faith! ... The Spirit then told me to ask the Lord for a confirmation in the impossible, as a proof that He had spoken; for when God gives a proof like that, you can be sure that it is He and not man. So I asked Him to send to me within two days a man who knew the owner – and we didn't know anyone in Mumbles! ... About ten o'clock the following morning, the local minister called [who knew the owner very well]. That was God! ...

I said, "But you haven't given me money." "Didn't I promise you a talent of gold? If you believe, go on your knees here and claim this place." ...

The owner made [Rees] a definite offer of Glynderwen for £6,300. "I thought he would have asked more than that, and meant to accept his offer; but the Lord said, "No! It was a talent of gold I promised you - £6,150, and not a penny more." I stood against God in a second, I showed my attitude towards Him, but He didn't say another word, and I knew I wouldn't dare disobey Him. ...

For two days, I neither ate nor drank. What agony I went through, but what lessons I learned! I told God that He had called me to fight the Church of Rome, and here He was quibbling over £150; but He turned it back on me. Hadn't I

claimed Glynderwen for Him? Didn't I believe then, that the Catholics wouldn't get it? ... Was the owner in hands of the Holy Ghost? Could the devil induce him to sell it? During the two days I came right through, and what liberty I had! Whatever price the enemy offered, he could never get it. I had heard that the owner was a great business man, but I had to learn that God could control him. I came to the place where I knew that whenever God wants to take over a property, the owner has very little to do with it.

"When I returned home, I received a letter from the owner saying that all negotiations were off. ... and he would sell to the other people, who were offering him £10,000. I was not affected by the letter, because the Unseen Captain had taken over, and the responsibility was not mine any longer. I wrote the owner and told him quite plainly that it was much harder for me to refuse his offer of £6,300 than to accept it; but God had said I was not to go above £6,150, and after spending two days with Him neither eating nor drinking, He had confirmed His word to me. I had a letter by return, saying that he would drop the price £500! He refused to make a single penny on it. Wasn't that God?"

When the agreement had been signed, Mr. Howells had ten days in which to pay the deposit. On the day he was due to go to the solicitor with the money, he was £140 short. He was still this sum short when the actual hour arrived, so in faith he set off to the office without it. He hadn't been there long when Mrs. Howells arrived. She had followed him down with the post, and in it were three cheques, which made up the £140 to the penny.

But the real battle came over the full sum to be paid. He had never dealt in large amounts before, and the burden was great upon him. He was to take no meetings, nor make any appeals. His eyes were to be on God alone. He gave himself to prayer, ... alone with God and His Word from 6am to 5pm, when he took his first meal. In the evenings he continued in prayer, ... Ten months were spent in this way until the victory was complete.

It was during this time that God established for him the principles of faith in finance which were to govern all his future large-scale dealings in the purchase of properties, and their upkeep. At that time, George Muller was the only man he knew of who had done the same thing before – with no counsel, no denomination, not making his needs known, and shut in with God alone. Mr. Howells found him a very great help in proving that the promises of God were reliable to step out on. ... He was determined not to go beyond what Muller did, which was not to buy or build until he had three-quarters of the money.

But in his daily pleadings with the Lord for the promised talent of gold, the Spirit reminded him of the book of Haggai. When the Jews had begun to build the second temple, and the work had stopped through the accusations of their enemies, the Lord through Haggai told them to go on and build, though they were in great poverty; and it was then God said to them: "The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine" (Hag. 2:8). When they began to build on the strength of that promise, in faraway Babylon, God stirred King Darius to look up the records of what Cyrus had promised them, and to send them all they needed (Ezra 6).

After facing Mr. Howells with this passage, the Lord said, "If you believe I am the owner of the silver and gold, as you build, I will give you whatever is needed." In other words, the Lord was leading His servant differently from Muller. He was not to wait until he had threequarters of the money, but he was to go straight ahead, and not expect a deliverance from God to-day for a need of tomorrow. The Lord had taught him years before in small things that "the promises of God are equal to current coin," and that, therefore, he must act on the promises as he would if he actually had the cash.

But he never thought he would be called to apply it on this large scale. It meant many severe tests, and he did not hesitate to use normal business methods of advances from the bank when guided to do so. But the proof that God has been with his servant in this way as He was with George Muller in another, is that there are no debts or mortgages to-day on estates ...

The next sum asked for [for the purchase of Glynderwen] was £2,000. The Lord sent gifts varying from 5s to £300 during the next three months, but when he still only had £1,700, the solicitor suddenly called for it to be paid by eleven o'clock the next morning. At first, he was baffled a bit, as to why the Lord had allowed this sudden demand to be made. ... the word came to him, "Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah are everlasting resources." ... he got down on his knees and praised the Lord. ... The next morning, he had the £300. The woman who sent it told him afterwards that she had a great burden for him during the very half-hour that he believed. It was so heavy on her, that she had to close her shop and post the money off to him [ie her burden direct from Lord, not from Rees Howells]. ...

During the testing days, before the £2,000 was paid, an offer came to from Mr. Howells the public-house, and four acres of land attached to it. ... the licence alone was worth over £1,000, and acceptance would have supplied the extra money needed at that time. It was the first serious temptation in finance, to take an easy way of deliverance; but there was no possibility of compromise on principle. ...

When the completed account was received, with about twenty items on it, including solicitor's charges, and the sum paid to the licensee of the public house, the total came to £6,150 7s. 4d. – a talent of gold plus 7s. 4d!

## **Chapter 26: The Bible College of Wales (pp198-200)**

First printed report for the college, 1929: "... No appeal was to be made for finance; one of the chief aims was to strengthen the faith of God's people by giving a visible proof that He is the living and faithful God. ... the challenge to build a College when we only had two shillings, and by now have received £8,000, without a single appeal, ... the gifts sent in to College in answer to believing prayer, ..."

## **Chapter 27: Buying of Second Estate (pp201-207)**

The word he received for taking another property were: "Enlarge the place of thy tent, stretch forth the curtains of thine habitation, lengthen thy cords."

The Lord then revealed to Mr. Howells that Derwen Fawr was the next property he was to buy; so he began to put prayer around it, ... once again ... the Church of Rome was bidding for it. In face of such a test, he felt the need for a sign from God. ... He was sure that God was again calling him to "go against that enemy in the Church of Rome," so he asked Him to confirm it by sending him a big cheque the very next day from a source from which he had never had money before. On the morrow the first post came with no money, the second with none, but in the third was a letter with a £100 from someone who had never given before!

[The great financial depression] So he felt led to ask yet another sign. His fiftieth birthday was in a few days, and he asked the Lord to send him a cheque of £50, a pound for each year, and that again it might come from a new source. ... The morning came and all the staff and students were watching [ie waiting on Lord, not trying to fulfil it themselves] for the deliverance. Strangely, the postman only brought one letter, from Scotland. "With excitement we opened it, to find therein a cheque of £50 from an entirely new donor."

"... while walking in the town, waiting for [the agent], I met a friend who asked me where I had been over the weekend. He said he had not been able to get me out of his mind. ... Well, you are not to stand alone in this, ... I too will give something to maintain it. Go to your agent, and if your offer is accepted come back to me for the deposit" [ie offered, not asked for]. Victory beyond value! ... It had been a stiff climb, but I was able to say with Abraham, "Jehovah-Jireh – in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen." And I, too, seemed to hear those words God spoke to His servant: "Because thou hast done this thing ... in blessing I will bless thee ... because thou hast obeyed My voice." ...

The Lord then told Mr. Howells to make the challenge known. So he sent out 4,000 booklets telling of the lord's guidance, ... A few weeks later ... the clerk said the solicitor ... had sent a message saying that Derwen Fawr was sold! ... Now indeed was the prediction sorely tested. Was it really from God or from man? It it was from God, Derwen Fawr could never be sold to another person. As we left the office, the Lord gave me the strength to say to my cousin, "Derwen Fawr is not sold." ... "All I had in the world was £25, from two gifts I had received that day, so that was my first deposit!"

The decision to buy had been made on Christmas Eve, at the price of £8,000. Within three days Mr. Howells received five gifts of £250, £300, £50, £25, and £50, which with some other smaller sums enabled him to pay the legal deposit and secure the property. He was not led to accept the kind offer made a few months before by that friend, who did, however, help substantially afterwards.

## Chapter 28: Third Estate and Children's Home (pp208-213)

At the time the workmen were engaged, again there was not a penny in hand; but although they were regularly employed for over eighteen months, entailing a weekly wage of between £20 and £30, not once did they go away without receiving their full pay [ie nothing was owed to any man – no debt]. Even so, on Friday it was a rare thing to have money in hand for Saturday's wages. Sometimes the deliverance would not even come by the first post on Saturday, calling for prevailing prayer [note, prayer to the Lord, not asking others] before the second. "The Lord kept me daily and hourly abiding to fulfil the condition for claiming an answer to my prayers."

During those months, he was led for the first time to pray for a gift of £1,000. On a Tuesday morning, the Lord told him to stop all the workmen, put the lectures off, and devote every hour to waiting upon God. The work was not to restart until the £1,000 was sent, and during those days "there was not the sound of a hammer." Day by day they "prayed up and up, touching the Throne with every prayer" [no appeals to men, just fervent prayer to God] until on Friday evening the £1,000 came. "What a shout of victory there was in the camp!" ...

The Lord told Mr. Howells to buy [Sketty Isaf]. The contract was drawn up by the agent and given him to sign, but he didn't have the deposit, so for three weeks he carried the document about in his pocket. ... In three weeks, the Lord delivered him... The failure to buy Sketty Park, and then the Lord's guidance to the much more convenient estate of Sketty Isaf, illustrates an important lesson of faith ... "You are always getting a death on a point that is not really essential, and then receiving a better thing for it. Thus, before I bought Derwen Fawr, I was trying for months to buy another large place some miles away. We climbed up to the position of faith from which we could buy it, then my offer was refused – and I knew God was behind it. That very week, Derwen Fawr came into the market, and I wouldn't change Derwen Fawr for two like that other estate. The I came up to the position Sketty park. The moment the Corporation turned down my offer, what joy I had, because I recognised the God was in it; and the next day, Sketty Isaf came to the market!" ...

This same principle of faith was to be seen in operation on many other occasions in his life. In pursuit of some great aim which the Lord had given him, he would, *en route*, seek and ask and believe for some particular deliverance or provision, which he would not obtain in the exact form in which he asked for it. To those who were watching from outside, this would often appear a failure or mistake, and there would be plentiful criticism; but the effect on him – and those on the inside with him in the battle of faith – was the opposite: it only strengthened him in the pursuit of the main objective of faith until he had obtained it. He would regard a temporary disappointment *en route*, not as a failure, but as a stepping stone – rather like a climber who scales a peak, mistakenly thinking it is the summit, only to find higher ones beyond, and only to have his determination increased to reach it. ...

In 1935 the School moved down to Glynderwen, ... further extensions became necessary. ... As usual, there was not a penny in hand when the builders arrived, the Lord not delivering for the first week's wages until the second post on Saturday, when a cheque of £20 came. The following Saturday the Lord moved a lady to leave the preparation of her dinner and come down to the College with £25. In ways like these, week by week, all the new buildings of the College and School, worth about £30,000 were erected on the three estates.

While they were putting up these extra buildings, Mr. Howells received nine separate gifts of £1,000. ... He began the College with 2s., and in fourteen years the Lord sent him £125,000.

## Chapter 29: Prayer Book: Edward VIII (pp214-218)

Another time Mr. Howells was needing the money for the rates, but he knew of a man who was in the same position, and the last day had come for them both. Mr. Howells had not nearly enough for his own need, which was £40, but he had the £8 needed by his friend; so, he went to give it to him. When he arrived, he found the man and his wife on their knees praying for the money. "You can get up from your knees," he said. "The Lord has told me to deliver you." He said nothing about his own need, but on his return to the College, he found a gift awaiting him – of £40.

### **Chapter 33: Fourth Estate, and the Jews (pp237-245)**

God then called them to one more costly step, most costly of all. It concerned the £100,000 gift for which the College was praying. As Mr. Howells said, "There is a golden rule in the life of faith, that the Christian can never prevail upon God to move others to give larger sums of money towards God's work than he himself has either given, or proved that he is willing to give, if it were in his power to do so." On this basis God had been speaking to him for several days, and there was a great sensation in the College when, in a Sunday morning meeting, he told them what God was asking, and that he had made his decision. It was that they would sell all the three present estates, ... and give that as the first £100,000 for the Jews. ... It seemed unthinkable that God could really mean this, but when [Mrs. Howells] heard Mr. Howells commit himself in public, she knew well that it was final. ... Alone with God she fought her battle. ... she saw Abraham walking up the mount with his son Isaac and offering him there as a whole burnt-offering to God. Without knowing how his wife had come through, Mr. Howells preached on that very passage of Scripture in the afternoon meeting. ...

"When you try to do something for God, everything comes against you" [Mr. Howells] said. "...that, after I bought Penllergaer for the children, the war came, and I couldn't take them? But when God speaks to you, you can never doubt it. If what God has told you leads you into great trials, then you go back to God and turn the burden of it on Him. Nothing could have looked more like a mistake than this, for I had a great liability at that time, but I did not question it once. I knew it wasn't a mistake, although the devil told me it was. Although we could not get the children, yet we obeyed God in buying that property. ...

How wonderful God is! First, ... Then while the war was still in progress, Mr. Howells was led to have plans drawn out for the building of houses on the estate. It was providential guidance, because some time later the Government introduced a law whereby all land is made subject to charges in the event of a development. A clause, however, was inserted in the Bill exempting any land for which plans had been passed before a certain date; very few could take advantage of this, but the Penllergaer estate was one, and when the houses are built, thousands of pounds will be saved for God's Treasury. ...

### **Chapter 37: Home Call (pp275-279)**

The special burden on Mr. Howells's own heart was finance for getting the Gospel to every creature, finance which could be expended freely in the support of God's servants in all lands. This burden never left him till Sunday, January 15, 1950.

### **Postscript**

The entire staff have walked with God by faith all these years, so far as personal needs are concerned. They have learned in the secret place to move the Throne for personal needs. No salaries or allowances are paid. Everything is supplied in answer to prayer.