

## Local Church

# The God of Small Beginnings

1 Samuel 14:6 — “For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few.”

We are pilgrims in a land of pain and suffering, but trusting God and the decision to put God first in every aspect of life make all the difference when we face difficult times. This could be the summary of Edinilson and Rose, a couple from Manaus, in northern Brazil.

The couple delivered frozen goods to supermarkets in the area where they lived with a small refrigerated truck, but they were robbed three times and lost nearly everything they owned. As a result, they accumulated a significant amount of debt and didn't know what to do thereafter.

At that crucial moment, they got down on their knees and decided to put the whole situation in God's hands. After praying, they felt they should start a new business with the money they still had on hand. The problem was that all they had was five dollars. What can you do with this kind of money?

Their faith in God made them trust that if God was first in their lives, He would be able to turn that small value into something great. The couple was impressed with the idea of going to a supermarket and buying ingredients to bake sixteen loaves of whole-grain bread. After doing it, they went out to sell the bread to some friends and neighbours.

They quickly sold all the loaves and were moved as they recognised the mighty hand of God in this new business. After returning the tithe and offerings, they invested the net profit of the sale to buy more ingredients and make more bread. And so, in such a simple way, they started what today has become a company with fifteen employees which produces 45,000 loaves of bread a month.

They decided to recognise God's hand in their business in three ways:

1. Helping other brothers and sisters to start undertakings with whatever they have in hand.
2. Sharing healthy living guidance with several people in town.
3. Faithfully returning tithes and a regular offering of fifteen percent of all company profits.

**Appeal:** God first — this is the essence of this blessed couple's life. Today, they can claim that all the things they need are being added each day by the mighty hand of God.