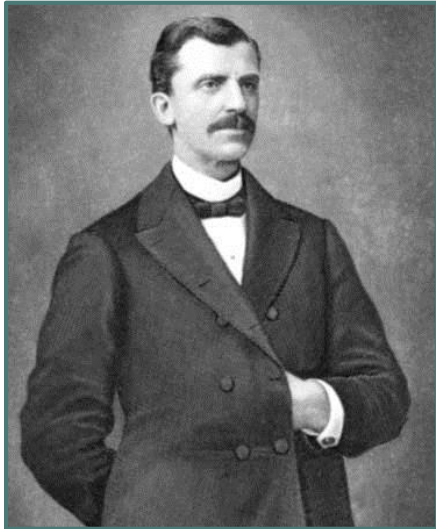


# What God Did with 57 Cents



In the 1880s, Dr. Russell Conwell, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had a young student in Sunday school named Hattie May Wiatt.

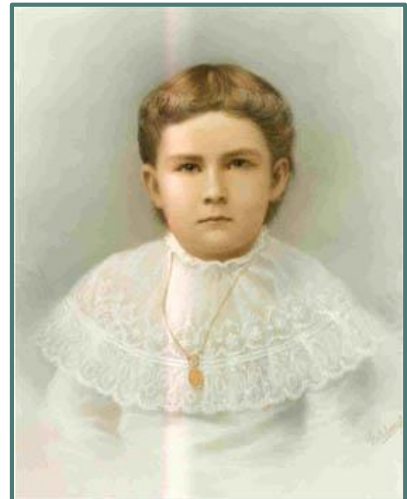
Church services and Sunday School were crowded, and one day Dr. Conwell told Hattie May that he would love to have buildings large enough for everyone to attend.

When Hattie May became ill and died, Rev. Conwell was asked to preach the funeral. The girl's mother told him that Hattie May had been saving her money to help build a bigger church. Hattie May's purse contained coins amounting to 57 cents.

Taking the coins to the bank, Conwell exchanged them for 57 pennies, which he put on display and sold for a return of about \$250. In addition, 54 of the original 57 pennies were returned to Rev. Conwell and he later put them on display.

On June 28, 1886, a nearby house at the corner of Broad and Berks streets, referred to as The Temple because the property owner did not want the house to be called a church until the mortgage was fully paid, was investigated for purchase and later acquired. The first down payment for the lot was the 57 cents.

In that same house, the first classes of Temple College, later Temple University, were held. The house was later sold to allow Temple College to move and The Baptist Temple to grow, and still more of that money went towards founding the Samaritan Hospital (now the Temple University Hospital). Dr. Conwell ultimately became the first president of Temple University.



God used the faithfulness of that little girl, the impact of her actions, and multiplied her offering many times.

Perhaps you feel your gifts, your time, your talents and your efforts are too small to make a difference. The deeds of service performed for our residents in Life Care and Century Park have eternal impact on their lives – even those you might consider to be routine or insignificant.

(more)

Ask God to bless your actions. He's the Great Mathematician, and He can take your words of witness, your undertakings and your gifts and multiply them beyond anything we can ask or imagine.

*Who has despised the day of small things?* (Zechariah 4:10).

– Beecher Hunter