



Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

AUGUST 28, 2021

When Abram La Rue put God First

Abram La Rue put God first, even when others thought he was too old to be a missionary. What can we learn from Abram La Rue today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

In 1883, Abram La Rue was a 65-year-old shepherd and woodcutter from California. He had an ambition to take the gospel to China. When he wrote to the General Conference, they said he was too old. They also said that they didn't have the money to send him. Still determined to go, La Rue negotiated his way onto a ship where he could work his way to Hong Kong. He arrived there in 1888 and began working as a colporteur for the next 14 years.

From 1888 to 1902, Father LaRue, as he was now generally called, stood alone. On February 2, 1902, Brother and Sister J. N. Anderson and Miss Ida Thompson arrived to help him. Soon after, nine people who had been led into the truth largely through Brother LaRue's efforts, were baptised. It was time to take Present Truth to China's mainland.

LaRue was a true follower of Christ, dedicated to prayer and devotion. He was patient, sympathetic and constant. His standing for 14 years alone in a distant land, carrying on a self-supporting work, shows that he had the stamina needed in pioneering work. Despite the difficulties, LaRue put God first. A few days before his death, he willed most of the little money he had to the mission in China. He gave his all to the cause he loved.

Abram La Rue was buried in Hong Kong where he had worked for 15 years. Although he did not actually set foot in China as a missionary, his pioneering work played an important role in laying the foundation for the entry of Adventism into this great land of the Orient.

Abram La Rue put God first, even when other didn't believe in him. His courage inspires us today. Jesus gave up everything to redeem us and His love compels us to put His kingdom first in our own lives. As the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.