



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.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

When Albert Stauffer put God First

Albert Stauffer put God first when he left his own country to become a missionary. What can we learn from him today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Albert could have continued to enjoy the safety and comfort of his home. But Albert was the kind of person who put God first, so he accepted the call from the General Conference to travel to Brazil to sell Present Truth literature.

This was 1894 and success was uncertain as he had to survive from the sale of the books and tracts he had with him. However, his task was even more difficult because they were not printed in the native Portuguese language. Thankfully, other missionaries establish a printing press and created a system to write, translate and print new materials.

Two years later, Albert and a fellow colporteur went to an evangelical church service in Curitiba, the capital of the State of Parana, in the south of Brazil. Mrs Ana Diedrich Otto was a much sought-after midwife in the city and was present at the worship service. She was disturbed when she saw two young people attending the service whom no one knew. Clearly they were not from the city.

The following weekend, Mrs Otto noticed that the two young men were present at the church again. She then listened to them and decided to buy the book they were presenting—"Life of Jesus" in German.

The following Sunday they met again and spent the whole morning studying the Bible. As a result, Mrs Ana and her husband Oscar Emilio Otto accepted the Adventist faith.

Colporteurs have dedicated their lives to distributing life-saving literature throughout Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and many other countries in South American and the world. Every morning, from house to house they put God first with their lives. Without them, the Three Angels Messages would not be present in more than 200 countries and territories as it is today.

Albert Stauffer put God first everyday as a colporteur. His courage inspires us. 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.