

## Fernando put God First

December 11, 2021

### NARRATION

Fernando decided to put God first despite his fear and uncertainty about the future. What can we learn from his story today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Dr. Fernando is a physician in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. One day Fernando watched a video about an Adventist missionary family in Mongolia. That family's story ignited Fernando's desire to be a missionary himself, but his commitments in Brazil made it impossible for him to go.

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He even spoke with his wife about it, and she agreed to increase the percentage of their income given as mission offerings in their local Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was a difficult decision to make, but they would soon discover the joy of putting God first through mission offerings.

Six months later the decision was made; they gathered as a family to watch another video sent from Mongolia. In the video, the missionaries were thanking his family for the sacrifice in their offerings. He saw the church and studio that was built as a result of their offerings.

Seeing the direct impact that their decision made on a family on the other side of the world filled the hearts of Fernando and his wife. How could one family make such a significant impact on a family that they've never seen before?

### GRAPHICS AND CLIPS

Images related to the text and animation.

## NARRATION

Fernando and his family consider themselves to be missionaries through their offerings and cannot imagine how they could go back to their life before this commitment.

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Ellen White wrote about this: "Has not the time come when we should begin to cut down our possessions? May God help you who can do something now to make an investment in the bank of heaven. We do not ask for a loan, but a freewill offering,—a return to the Master of His own goods which He has lent you. If you love God supremely, and your neighbour as yourself, we believe you will give tangible proofs of the same in freewill offerings for our mission work. There are souls to be saved, and may you be coworkers with Jesus Christ in saving these souls for whom Christ has given His life. The Lord will bless you in the good fruit you may bear to His glory. . . . The reason there is so much dwarfed religion today is because people have not brought practical self-denial and self-sacrifice into their lives" (Counsels on Stewardship, page 51).

## GRAPHICS AND CLIPS

Images related to the text and animation.

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Fernando and his family put God first. His faith 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 we return our tithe and Promise, we are challenged to put God first.

Text animation