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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.

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AUGUST 21, 2021

## When John Andrews put God first

John Andrews was so competent he could have become wealthy and powerful. Instead, he put God first and sacrificed everything to take Present Truth to the world. What can we learn from John Andrews today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

John Andrews was a very capable man. When he was 13 years old, he was converted and accepted Jesus as his Saviour. He cultivated a love for the Bible early in life and he taught himself to read the Bible in Hebrew, Greek and Latin.

When he studied the Sabbath message, he became convicted of its truth and decided to dedicate his life to understanding and preaching it. He helped to formulate many of the doctrines and structural documentation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. By putting God first, John Andrews dedicated his intellect and energy to serve the remnant church of Bible prophecy.

When the church decided to sponsor a missionary to Europe, John Andrews was the most capable man to do it. Despite mourning the death of his wife, Andrews gave up everything he had built and answered the call to take his family overseas. He understood the risk of poverty and disease. He was aware of the hardship to be faced. But John Andrews persevered.

In 1874, he sailed to Europe with his two children, Charles and Mary. Even though they were only teenagers, the children proved to be extraordinary young pioneers in Switzerland, editing, translating, setting

type, helping tirelessly to establish the international missionary journal, *Les Signes des Temps*—The Signs of the Times.

In 1878, John Andrews attended the General Conference session and took Mary with him because he was certain that she had contracted tuberculosis. As soon as he arrived at the Battle Creek Sanitarium, his fear was confirmed. Alone in Europe, Charles wrote to his father “Our separation will be but short and then if faithful we shall meet our loved ones. So Pa, don’t feel discouraged. We pray much for you.”

John Andrews kept a vigil by her bedside during Mary’s last days. Mary Andrews passed to her rest at only 17 years of age. He returned to Europe but also died of tuberculosis a few years later.

John Andrews was the foremost intellectual in the early Adventist movement and his contributions were largely responsible for the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Today there are more than 162,000 Adventist congregations in 207 countries and territories. Our hearts are grateful to this man who always put God first.

*John Andrews put God first, even when it cost 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.*