

AT HOME, AND YET AWAY FROM HIS HOMELAND AUGUST 3, 2024

AUDIO

VÍDEO

sc. **01**

Elwin Winthrop Snyder was born in the United States on February 26, 1865. At eighteen, he was called to work as a colporteur, achieving much success. This led him to the position of director of the Literature Ministries at the Pennsylvania Conference.

sc. **02**

His leadership skills caught the attention of the Foreign Missions Committee of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. So, in June 1891, he was invited to gather a team of three colporteurs to officially begin a literature ministry in South America. Snyder, then 26, chose two other young single men—A. B. Stauffer, 32, and Clair Nowlen, 26—to help him in the endeavor.

sc. **03**

Snyder and his associates went to South America and became a watershed for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in several South American countries. Snyder also took over as mission field secretary and traveled extensively throughout South America. In 1901, Snyder focused on preaching the message in Paraguay, as he learned there were four Sabbath keepers.

sc. **04**

On his trip to Paraguay, Snyder and his wife Jane Ketring spent about six months encouraging the few Sabbath keepers in that country and seeking new converts through evangelistic campaigns. In one of his accounts, he discusses the joy of baptizing five new members. Snyder worked in South America for about fourteen years until his health failed. He never regained his strength and died at age 54, leaving a legacy of courage and pioneering spirit.

AUDIO

VÍDEO

sc. 05

Snyder “died in faith” without seeing the result of his ministry, confessing that he was a stranger and pilgrim on the earth. He would be surprised to know there were more than 2,6 million Adventists in South America in 2022. And to replace Snyder and others who did Literature Evangelism in this territory, there are now more than 2,000 full-time Literature Evangelists (or LEs) and around 10,000 Student LEs in South America.

sc. 06

Much of the world's early missionary efforts were carried out by foreigners like Snyder, who left their homeland to spend their entire lives preaching the gospel. Now, it is our turn to spend whatever is necessary to be missionaries and to send missionaries to other parts of the world in gratitude for what was once done on our behalf.

sc. 07

Your Promise offering, which is a regular percentage of your income besides the tithe, if distributed as suggested by the Combined Offering Plan, will fund all missionary initiatives locally, regionally, and internationally. May we put our desires last and God first.