



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 11, 2021

When George King put God First

George King put God first, even when the church rejected him as a preacher. What can we learn from him today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

George King believed God had called him to preach the good news of salvation to every person alive. This was 1880 and James White was still alive, so King decided to ask him.

James and Ellen White invited him to their home. They were certain Brother King was devoted to God and his calling, but were uncertain that the young man had the education or talent to become a preacher. Two weeks later, James White approached Richard and Hulda Godsmark after a worship service and shared his concerns, asking them to take Brother King and determine whether he could become a preacher.

George King moved in with the Godsmark family and they arranged a time when the young man would preach to them in their family room. These were agonising times for him. His supplications could be heard before sunrise and he would practice in the barn for hours, despite the cold.

The day came and the chairs were arranged. The sermon was a disaster. They made it clear to him that he could not be a preacher.

Rejection isn't easy. But George King was the kind of man who put God first in everything, even when it means being humble enough to accept rejection. It would soon become clear that George was called to become a fireside preacher. Armed with saving literature, he began visiting house to house to share the good news of salvation and sell the tracts and books he carried with him. This was called colporteuring and Adventist mission would never be the same again.

For nearly 30 years, until his death in 1906, George King trained hundreds of book salesmen in North and South America and the West Indies. King's methods influenced pioneering leaders in literature ministry around the globe, including William Arnold in Australia, Abram LaRue in Hong Kong, Albert Stauffer in Brazil, Herbert Meyers in Burma, and Robert Caldwell in the Philippines. By 1886, when the church's ministerial workforce was still counted in dozens, 400 Adventist colporteurs around the world sold books and penny tracts door to door.

George King put God first, even when he was rejected as a preacher. His courage and humility 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.