

## When John Andrews Put God First

August 21, 2021

### AUDIO

John Andrews was so competent he could have become wealthy and powerful. Instead, he put God first and sacrificed everything to take the 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 gifted man. When he was 13 years old, he was converted and accepted Jesus as his Savior. 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 establish 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 grieving 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 persisted.

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.

### VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

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## AUDIO

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In 1878, John Andrews attended the General Conference session and took Mary with him because he was confident that she had contracted tuberculosis. 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 primarily 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.

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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 we return the tithe and our Promise offering, we are challenged to put God first.

## VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

Text animation.