



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 25, 2021

When William A. Spicer put God First

William A. Spicer put God first as he travelled the world and set the DNA of Adventist mission. What can we learn from him today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Spicer was only 22 years old when he sailed to England to establish the work of the church there. He then returned to the United States to serve the General Conference as the foreign mission secretary where he actively pursued various expansions like securing the land in Zimbabwe where Solusi University operates today.

Pastor Spicer then went to India in 1898, where he was one of three ordained Adventist ministers in the whole of Southern Asia. He founded the Adventist periodical there and established a good foundation for church growth.

Returning to the United States in 1902, Spicer became the secretary of the General Conference. One of the key responsibilities of the Secretariate is sending missionaries abroad, which Spicer did for 20 years. This is a difficult task because of the logistics of sending and returning families to and from every continent. Spicer created the infrastructure that allowed the Seventh-day Adventist Church to expand.

God then called Elder Spicer to become the president of the General Conference for another eight years. Spicer always put God first. Despite the difficulty and discomfort associated with global travel in the early 20th century, he travelled internationally in almost every year of his ministry.

Sometimes putting God first involves large sacrifices we make in a single moment. William A. Spicer showed through his ministry how a life dedicated to putting God first in everything has a tremendous impact in the world.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church still sends and supports hundreds of missionary families who are taking the Adventist message to every tribe, language and people group. Spicer created this infrastructure for mission, but you and I can maintain it through our tithe and offerings. What a privilege to put God first in everything we do.

William A. Spicer put God first year after year throughout his life. His resilience 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.