When C. F. E. Thompson put God first
September 4, 2021

C. F. E. Thompson put God first, even when uncertainty was a constant reality. What can we learn from him today that will help us put God first in our own lives?

Thompson was a young Jamaican man who migrated to Sierra Leone in West Africa, where he became acquainted with the Adventist message. He was baptized in 1907 by D. C. Babcock, and served as a faithful worker for the church in that country.

Soon after his baptism, Brother Thompson visited Ghana for a short mission trip in 1909 to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings among the Nsimbia people. He returned to Sierra Leone after the meetings.

Meanwhile, things were unfortunately not going so well in Ghana. The missionary teacher, Mrs. French, passed away from a severe fever. Her husband was instructed to go home and take care of his health. Disappointment set in as it seemed that there would be no one to carry on the work in Ghana.

Who would continue spreading the Advent message in Ghana? Thompson responded: “I will go.” He was advised to drop his work in Sierra Leone and go to Ghana to continue the French family’s work. This wasn’t an easy decision as there were many uncertainties. But Thompson decided to put God’s call first.
Brother Thompson arrived in Ghana to take his post in February 1910, where he worked honorably for two years. He was only 36 years old when he gave his last breath in 1912, dying from Bright’s disease on March 25, 1912.

After putting God first in his short life, Brother Thompson now waits for his eyes to be opened again at Jesus’ second coming.

C. F. E. Thompson put God first, even when uncertainty prevailed. 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 our tithe and ‘Promise’ offerings, we are challenged to put God first.