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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.

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SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

## When C. F. E. Thompson put God First

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?

C. F. E. Thompson was a young Jamaican man who migrated to Sierra Leone where he became acquainted with the Adventist message. He was baptised in 1907 by D. C. Babcock and served as a faithful worker for the church in Sierra Leone.

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

Meanwhile, things were not going well in Ghana. The missionary teacher—Mrs French—passed away from a fever. Her husband was advised 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? Thomson responded: "I will go." He

was advised to drop his work in Sierra Leone and go to Ghana to continue the work that had been done by the French family. This wasn't an easy decision as there were many uncertainties. But Thompson was the kind of man who put God first.

Brother Thompson arrived in Ghana to take his post in February, 1910, where he worked honourably for two years. He was only 36 years old when he gave his last breath in 1912. He died from Bright's disease on March 25, 1912.

After putting God first in his short life, Brother Thompson now sleeps in the Lord. Soon he will come back to life so his eyes can see the second coming of Jesus.

*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 the deacons collect the tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.*