



Mr George Ralph Thompson

March 20, 1929 - May 20, 2023

George Ralph Thompson, beloved pastor and former executive secretary of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, fell asleep in Jesus on Sabbath, May 20, 2023. Thompson was a remarkable individual whose contributions to mission and in leadership to the Seventh-day Adventist community will be remembered.

Reflecting on Thompson's life, Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference, shared his admiration for the late church administrator. "Pastor Thompson was a mentor and wonderful friend for many years. I had the privilege of working with him when I was a division secretary and as an associate secretary with him at the General Conference. He had a great, positive belief in the Seventh-day Adventist message," Wilson said.

Born on March 20, 1929, in Connell Town, Saint Lucy, Barbados, George Ralph Thompson was the son of George Gilbert and Edna Thompson. He dedicated his life to ministry and was ordained as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in 1959. Thompson's commitment to his faith was unwavering, and his impact on the lives of those he served was profound.

Thompson held various significant roles in the Seventh-day Adventist Church throughout his career. He began his journey as an evangelist in the South Caribbean Conference in Trinidad and Tobago from 1950 to 1953. Following

this, he served as a teacher, church pastor, and chairman of the Department of Theology at Caribbean Union College in the South Caribbean Conference from 1953 to 1954 and from 1959 to 1964. His passion for ministry and leadership skills led him to become the president of the East Caribbean Conference in Barbados from 1964 to 1970, followed by his tenure as the president of the Caribbean Union Conference in Trinidad and Tobago from 1970 to 1975.

During the 1975 General Conference Session in Vienna, Austria, Thompson's passion for ministry and leadership skills led to a nomination and election as vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Washington D.C., United States. He served in this role until 1980, when he transitioned to executive secretary, one of the three chief administrative positions in the General Conference. He remained in this position serving the church for four five-year terms, making him the longest-serving person to hold this position in Adventist Church history.

Erton Köhler, current General Conference executive secretary, said, "Pastor Thompson was an example of faith and leadership. His tenure as General Conference secretary, the longest in Adventist Church history, underscored his unyielding dedication to our mission. He was a deeply spiritual leader who shaped our church's trajectory. Pastor Thompson was a mentor to so many around the world that I am certain his example will continue to inspire future generations of Adventist leadership."

Even after his retirement, Thompson made valuable contributions as a field representative for the Ellen G. White Estate, further exemplifying his lifelong commitment to the Adventist Church.

Thompson's commitment to his faith was matched only by his devotion to his family. He married Imogene Clotilde Barker on July 19, 1959, and together

they raised three children: Carol Jean, Gerald Randolph, and Linda Mae.

In his professional life, Thompson exemplified love, kindness, and selflessness. His powerful sermons, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist message have left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those who had the privilege of knowing him and on the church to which he dedicated his professional life. He was also a dedicated father and husband to his wife, Imogene (deceased 2018) and three children, who can find solace in knowing they will meet him again in eternity. (adapted from Adventist News Network-R. Ashworth)

Below is the link for livestream via YouTube service for Pastor G. Ralph Thompson:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/rrQkVztZpNY?feature=share>

Cemetery Details

Palm Roll Cemetery / Naples, FL.

Naples, FL 34119

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 25. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

General Conference of 7th Day Adventist World Headquartes
12501 Colombia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Funeral Service

JUN 25. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

General Conference of 7th Day Adventist World Headquartes
12501 Colombia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Tribute Wall

EA

“ As a little girl and member of the Checker Hall SDA Church in St. Lucy, Barbados, I have very fond memories of Pastor G. Ralph Thompson visiting and preaching at our church (a treat for us in the days when one pastor had responsibility for several churches in the Northern District which quite often created an extended void of pastoral preaching on Sabbaths in any one church). The excitement and buzz that G. Ralph Thompson was visiting our church was infectious and welcomed. I can still hear his preaching voice in my head as I reflect upon his tremendous influence and the pride I felt knowing that this man of God, though attaining significant achievements theologically, and administratively within our denomination never failed to connect with his "home" community - a testament to his humble nature!



Yes, a true warrior for God has retired his sword of battle in the "Great Controversy." But I am assured that I will hear that familiar voice again at the sound of the trumpet when Christ returns to call Elder G. Ralph Thompson from his sleep.

To his children, extended family, associates, friends, and partners in God's service at every level of the Seventh-day Adventist Church may you be comforted by the promise of that "Blessed Hope."

My prayers and condolences for your loss.

Esther J. Alleyne-Thomas

Esther J. Alleyne-Thomas - June 25, 2023 at 02:14 PM

DK

“ My memories of Pastor G. Ralph Thompson takes me back to when I was a young girl growing up in Guyana, South America. When he would visit for Mission Sessions and preach such profound messages. I always looked forward to hearing from him. Then when he moved on to the General Conference I had the privilege of hearing him again. Over the years he had been a mentor and great leader in God's work. May he Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. We'll meet you on the morning.

Donna King - June 25, 2023 at 11:04 AM

CM

“ <https://www.youtube.com/live/rrQkVztZpNY?feature=share>

Carol Jean Morrison - June 23, 2023 at 11:04 PM

RM

“ It was my pleasure to work under the leadership of G Ralph Thompson during his 20 years as Secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He was a true leader. He recognized the abilities of the associate secretaries and support staff who made up the team of the Secretariat and affirmed them. After returning to the office from his frequent travels, Elder Thompson would walk around the department speaking to each of the support staff, asking about their family members or recent activities - making sure each of us knew he valued us. Many will remember his sermons, his wise counsel in committees, and his excellent articles. But I will also remember his Christian kindness and concern. My prayers are with each of his family members.

Rowena J Moore-Adams - June 15, 2023 at 01:11 PM



“ Gable Gift Box was purchased for the family of Mr George Ralph Thompson.



June 08, 2023 at 10:34 AM



“ Marilyn L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr George Ralph Thompson.

Marilyn L. - June 07, 2023 at 09:08 PM



“ G Ralph made us Bajans proud not only in his worldwide ministry but also n his humility. May his legacy live on.

Noel Brathwaite - June 06, 2023 at 01:46 PM



“ from all I have heard, Pastor G. Ralph Thompson was a blessed man of God and a true representative of faith from the Caribbean

Tim Madray - May 26, 2023 at 01:38 AM



“ Our deepest condolences to the family for your loss. Some very wonderful and fond memories growing up in the DC area and time spent with the Thompsons! Prayers for God's peace!

Amithy & Keith Smith

Keith Smith - May 25, 2023 at 03:02 PM