

H.B.  
A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD AND RUTH THOMPSON

---our fellow-missionaries to Cambodia

It was my privilege to know Ed and Ruth Thompson, and work closely with them, from the beginning of their missionary career. Their life and ministry was greatly used of the Lord in building up of the Church of Christ in Cambodia. They made a tremendous contribution to Cambodian youth through an annual nationwide conference, fully as effective among the young women as the young men. They both spoke the Cambodian language well and Ed was notorious for his unique and practical messages which touched the heart.

The Thompson's unusual manner and hospitality made many friends everywhere and not a few among the highest officials who received a clear witness of the Gospel.

Ed and Ruth were no strangers to danger. On their first trip from Dalat language school to take up residence in Cambodia, a truck in front of them was shot up and burned by the VietMinh on a road new and strange. They, with their two small children, Judy and David, in an open jeep with trailer had no alternative but to pass the flaming vehicle and speed on their way past the unknown. During many years of their ministry there was often a surrounding aura of danger and violence but they never doubted their missionary calling nor neglected its responsibility. Travel was not occasionally under very dangerous circumstances and yet I never detected the sign of fear or uncertainty in the line of duty for the Lord.

The Thompsons were best known for their ministry among the Mnong tribes people whom they loved greatly and among whom they were laboring when they paid the supreme price. The Mnong reciprocated with great interest and affection. Ed, an unbelievably accurate rifleman, on occasions killed the prowling man-eaters about their villages and provided wild meat for them when they were hungry. Their ministry to physical needs saved lives, eyesight and much more which we do not know now. To be sure, there will be many Mnong in the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ because of their courage, sacrifice, and love expended for these primitive, backward and yet very loveable and desperately needy people. The Thompsons were never more at home than in the jungle ministering to the sons of the deep forest. Difficult circumstances invariably brought out a genius and ability with which they were greatly endowed.

Ed, in his unique and loveable manner, would be the last person in the world to consider himself perfect. As a great missionary heart who gave himself and all he had unreservedly to his task of serving Christ, I know of few peers. Ruth's ministry as a mother and a gifted witness for her Lord is rarely equaled.

May the Lord use the untimely passing of these beloved heroes of the cross to inspire the youth of today to grasp the glories of the Heavenly Vision that yet calls young people to the heights of heroic service for our glorious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

-Harry M. Tayler