

Dr. James E. Thompson was born September 24, 1939, to Curtis and Minnie Boykin Thompson, in a small country town called Mifflin, right outside of Luray, Tennessee, where he grew up as a local sharecropper's son. It was during those growing years, he learned the valuable lessons of the purpose, the presence, and the peace of God in his life. His spiritual growth and development began as early as 8 years old and was deeply motivated to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ early in life. From the age of 9-18 years old, he studied under the mentorship of great men of God in Tennessee and Florida.

In the 60s, he later met and married Marva Jean Johnson Thompson, of Plant City, Florida and was the proud father of three wonderful children: Dean Morris Johnson of Nashville, TN; Therrall Jean (TJ) Haygood of San Antonio, TX; and James Mark Thompson of Farmington Hills, MI.

Dr. Thompson began his formal ministry serving congregations as minister/associate minister in Guys, Tennessee; Orlando, Florida; Plant City, Florida; and Tampa, Florida, and worked part-time on the radio and other odd jobs to help make ends meet. In January of 1967, he moved his family from Tampa, Florida to Mt. Clemens, Michigan to accept the full-time position as the Senior Minister to the North Broadway Church of Christ, where he labored in love for 50 years in that role, until his retirement in December 2017. His educational studies included an A.A. degree, from Gibbs Jr. College in FL; a Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate degree from International Bible Institute and Seminary School in FL. He was the 1st African American to receive an Honorary Doctor of Law degree, from Freed Hardeman University in Henderson, TN and continued his studies in psychology at Oakland University in MI. In 1991, he founded Midwestern Christian Institute (MWCI), a religious training institution at North Broadway Church of Christ, which produces teachers and preachers all over the globe.

Dr. Thompson was a man of great faith. Ministers knew him as a trainer, educator, and mentor of spiritual leaders. Individuals knew him as a serious, humble, intelligent, ethical, hardworking, and compassionate servant leader with a unique voice that could calm a weary mind, bless a troubled marriage, or inspire one to greater levels of success. He would literally give you the shirt off of his back and uplift you with his kind words and prayers for you and your family. He traveled locally and internationally spreading the good news about Jesus Christ and his church in pulpit ministry, radio ministry, prison ministry, and mission field. He also volunteered in the community with various organizations to include: The local school board, zoning committee, Ministerial Alliance, NAACP, and Henry Ford Macomb Hospital Board of Trustees. His most valued role was helping others embrace the joys found in finding and living a purposeful and blessed life in Jesus Christ.

Dr. Thompson departed this life on Saturday, Oct 6, and transitioned to a new eternal life with no more earthly pain and suffering. To cherish his memory, he leaves behind his wife, Marva of 58 years; his three children Dean (wife: Rosalind), Therrall (husband: Angelo), Mark; along with seven grandchildren (Austin, Tyler, Darien, Dalana, Devan, Sedric, and Michael), ten great-grandchildren, and a host of loving cousins and dear friends near and far.