

William Chapman

Transcription of obituary published in the Minutes of Conference

WILLIAM CHAPMAN: born at Strubby, Lincolnshire, in 1869. He entered the Primitive Methodist Ministry in 1895. From its commencement his career was adventurous, for he was sent as pioneer missionary to South Central Africa. In his book, *A Pathfinder in South Central Africa*, he tells how the decision was made; after wrestling and struggle he heard 'the voice of the Lord saying "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"' Then said I, "Here am I, send me." In His strength the battle was won, I was ready to go.' Entering a stretch of country hitherto unexplored, he made his first preaching-place under a great tree that is known to this day as 'Chapman's tree'. For nineteen years he laboured, establishing stations at Nanzhila and Nambala. He reduced the Ila language to writing, and wrote hymns for the use of his converts which are now used by other Missionary Societies.

Returning home, he laboured with success in several circuits until 1937, when he retired to Northampton, serving the Kettering Road Circuit as Supernumerary. A man of grace, his modest demeanour hid from the casual observer his greatness, for he never sounded a trumpet about his achievements, fine as they were. This great-hearted herald of the Cross and humble servant of Christ passed to his reward on 14th December 1947, in the seventy-eighth year of his life and the fifty-second year of his ministry.

References

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