

Obituary

Superintendent Willie James Jackson was born April 25, 1925 in Drury, Alabama and answered the call of the Lord and went home on Monday, February 22, 2010 after a short term illness.

Superintendent Jackson celebrated life in an unusual way. He was a visionary and celebrated by all who knew him. He had a zest for life and a passion for fishing, hunting and loved people. **Elder Jackson** was a man of great faith and never doubted God in anything. He was a soft spoken giant. When you came into his presence, you knew you were in the company of a man of wisdom, knowledge and a very distinguished gentleman.

Willie Jackson served in World War II in the Navy as one of the first black seamen and was honorably discharged in 1945. He gave his life to the Lord at the early age of 16 years old; under the leadership of his father, Elder James Jackson.

Elder Jackson was the only child born to the union of Rosa Lee Stanton and James Jackson. His mother was later married and three other children were born; two brothers and one sister.

In 1946 **Elder Jackson** married Dimple Hamilton and to this union six children were born. They resided in Richmond, Indiana for eight years and he was employed by International Harvester. He served as Assistant Pastor of the Church of God in Christ in Richmond, Indiana under the leadership of his father, Elder James Jackson.

Eventually, he and his family moved to Indianapolis, Indiana where he began his first pastorate; building the church from the ground up at 19th street and Sheldon Avenue. In 1960, he relocated to Cleveland, Ohio and joined East End Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Elder E. T. Parker, Sr. Again, the Lord moved upon him to open his own work in the ministry and he began this work of ministry at 2226 East 40th Street.

Initially, Grace Temple Church of God in Christ was an old white house sitting on a hill and **Elder Jackson** had a vision for this building and God moved on him and he tore the house down and built a new edifice from the ground up; now, *GRACE TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST*.

In 1975, he married Esther Dibbles and to this union was born two sons. Esther brought with her two daughters from a previous marriage.

Elder Willie James Jackson served as Superintendent of the Cleveland District #1 in the Ohio North Jurisdiction under the leadership of the Late Bishop R. S. Fields and later he joined the Ohio South Jurisdiction where he served as Superintendent of the Cleveland District #1 and was elevated to *Administrative Assistant* in the Ohio South Jurisdiction; under the leadership of Bishop F. E. Perry.

Superintendent Jackson was preceded in death by his parents. He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Esther Jackson, sons: Clem Jackson (Karlett), Joseph Jackson (Catisha), and Jeremiah Jackson (Halle); daughters: Eunice Hardesty, Ruth Smith (Lacey), Constance Houston, Teresa Tyus, Hulalor Currence, Alisha Bruyon, Crystal King (Christopher); brothers: Julius James, Elliott James (Katherine), sister: Mary James, a special son, Darnell Knox (Kim), a special daughter, Sherry Haithcock, a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, friends and other relatives.