

# *Celebration of Life* *Mansel Philip McCleave*

*August 7, 1926*

*November 25, 2010*



*Friday, December 3, 2010*

*1:00 pm*

*First Missionary Baptist Church  
914 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Siler City, North Carolina 27344*

*Reverend Barry Gray, Eulogist*

# ~ Order of Service ~

Pastor Barry R. Gray, Presiding

Prelude ..... Soft Instrumental Music

Processional ..... Pastor, Ministers, Program Participants

Call to Worship..... Reverend Barry R. Gray

The Worship Hymn ..... "Hold to His Hand"

Old Testament Scripture .....(Proverbs 3:1-6; 16-19)..... Reverend Harold Garner  
Pastor, Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Liberty, NC

New Testament Scripture ..... (Romans 5:1-9) ..... Reverend Miles Siler  
Pastor, Roberts Chapel Baptist Church, Goldston, NC

Prayer of Comfort ..... Reverend (Dr.) Joseph A. Bryant  
Pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church, Reidsville, NC

Choir Selection ..... "Praise Him"

Eulogistic Expressions (2 minutes, please):

Chief Gary Tyson  
Police Chief, Town of Siler City

Reverend Neal Kight  
Pastor, Church of God, Siler City, NC

Reverend Arnold Headen  
Associate Minister, Emmanuel Fellowship COGIC, Siler City, NC

Bro. Herman Cheek  
Deacon, Edwards Grove Baptist Church, Liberty, NC

Choir Selection ..... "Bye and Bye"

**Eulogistic Expressions (2 minutes please)**

**Reverend (Dr) Haywood Gray**

**Executive Secretary Treasurer, General Baptist State Convention**

**Reverend William Harrington**

**Moderator, Deep River Missionary Baptist Association**

**Pastor, Lamberts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Siler City, NC**

**Elder Samuel B. Obie**

**Chairman, The Council of Churches of Siler City & Vicinity**

**Pastor, Holy Trinity U. H. Church, Siler City, NC**

**Dr. J. E. Perkins**

**Founder and President, Apex School of Theology, Apex, NC**

**Resolutions- Condolences - Acknowledgements.....Sis. Marion Goldston**

**Obituary (Read Silently)..... "I Will Trust in the Lord" .....Instrumental Music**

**Choir Selection.....Peace in the Valley**

**Reflections from the family**

**Solo....." I Won't Complain" .....Elder Mary Jackson  
Pastor, Jerusalem U.H. Church, Reidsville, NC**

**The Eulogist..... Reverend Barry Gray  
Pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church, Siler City, NC**

**Recessional**

**~ Interment ~**

**Lee Memory Gardens**

**Sanford, North Carolina**

## *The Obituary*

Mansel Philip McCleave, son of the late Reverend (Dr) Allen F. and Annie Lewis McCleave was born August 7, 1926 in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He departed this life on November 25, 2010.

In 1927, he moved with his family to Liberty, North Carolina where his father became the pastor of the Edwards Grove Missionary Baptist church. Dr. McCleave professed hope in Christ and was saved in 1933 at the age of seven at Edwards Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Liberty, North Carolina. He chose to unite with the St. John Missionary Baptist church in Climax, North Carolina where his father was also the pastor. Later when his family moved to Siler City in 1936, he united with the First Missionary Baptist Church where his membership remained until he departed this life. After evading it for years, it was not until the year of 1956 while lying in the Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina with a 50/50 chance to live that Mansel Philip McCleave surrendered and obeyed the call of God to the gospel ministry at the age of 29.

Dr. McCleave was a Preacher of the Gospel, an outstanding leader and spokesperson, an educator, a businessman, a writer (four publications), a mentor and a friend to many people. He made many unselfish contributions to humanity and leaves behind a vast legacy of achievements and accomplishments.

Mansel Philip McCleave's adult lifetime was spent in persecute and involvement in religious, educational, civic, business, community affairs, and publications.

He received his high school education in the public schools of Chatham County. He graduated from Chatham County Training School, Siler City, North Carolina. At the age of 16 year old, he enrolled at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia. His college days at Hampton Institute were cut short at just one year due to the World War II Armed Forces Draft. He received an Honorable Discharge after a two-year tour of duty. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and Masters of Science Degree from North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina. He was an Instructor of Plant Sciences at North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro, North Carolina for 34 years teaching both Graduate and Undergraduate classes in Horticulture, Botany, Landscape Design and Greenhouse Management and was the Editor of the Department of Plant Science and Technology Newsletter. Further studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina; and Special Summer Program Studies at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He was awarded the Doctor of Divinity (h) Degree from Friendship College, Rock Hill, South Carolina; Doctor of Humane Letters from Apex School of Theology, Durham, North Carolina

Dr. McCleave was former Pastor and Pastor Emeritus of Edwards Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Liberty, North Carolina after three tenures (totaling 30 years), Pastor and Pastor Emeritus of First Missionary Baptist Church, Siler City, North Carolina after three tenures (totaling 18 years). He was affiliated with over 20 organizations. He was Vice Chairman of the Council of Churches of Siler City and Vicinity; member of the Apex School of Theology Board of Trustees; past Moderator of the Deep River Missionary Baptist Association; Vice President and Instructor of the Interdenominational Bible Institute, Siler City, North Carolina; Chancellor of the Robert A. Siler Interdenominational Bible Institute, Siler City, North Carolina; Instructor for Shaw Divinity Extension Courses; Historian of the Deep River Missionary Baptist Association of North Carolina; past member, General Board of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; North Carolina Educational Association, International Black Writers Conference; National Society of Minority Writers and Artists; past member, Institutional Representative for Boy Scouts of America; President of the Liberty Ministerial Association; past member, Executive Board Chairman of Liberty Community Redevelopment Corporation; past member, West Chatham Ministers Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) – just to name a few.

Most importantly, Dr. McCleave was a man of God, an inspiration to all age groups and out of all his contributions and accomplishments, his main focus was to preach the word of God and to win souls to Christ.

He leaves to mourn his nephews, Charles A. (Suzette) Brown of Atlanta, Georgia, and Victor M. (Tahiera) Brown of Birmingham, Alabama; as well as many grand nieces and nephews and great grand nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his elder sister, Wilma Loree McCleave Brown; his younger sister, Lilly Bell; and his elder brother, Allen Lewis McCleave.

## **Favorite Poems to Live By:**

### **If You Think You Can, You Can**

If you think you can, you can!  
And if you think you can't, you can't!  
It's always the cant's, who cannot  
And unlike the cans, they do not.

The cans are always asking, why not!  
And the do not's set still and, dare not!  
So straighten out your cans, and your cannots,  
And never keep company with the, do nots!

### **Just Passing Through**

I'm just a sojourner down here  
A weary pilgrim passing through;  
Along this way I'll pass just once,  
And never again know pain that taunts.

The way I travel is not unknown,  
For He too passed this way on His way home.  
The prophets and patriots also passed this way,  
Always marching toward a better day.

I hope in my footsteps someone can walk,  
As they one day on this journey embark.  
No earthly tabernacle do I seek,  
But a city four-square in a land so fair.

I know that one day when I arrive  
A welcome voice will say, "come inside."  
I'll take my place, I'll wear my crown,  
In a place where heartbreak is never found.

So come travel with me, lets make the trip,  
And we'll see the Savior,  
For face to face we'll meet.

The angels will rejoice,  
The heavenly choir will sing,  
My nature will be changed,  
And I'll have a new name.

**"The measure of a man is not to be found in what he has done for or to advance himself,  
but rather it is to be found with in what he has done for."**

**Reverend (Dr.) Mansel Philip McCleave ("Ret")**

**Honorary Floral Bearers**

**Ministers Spouses  
Deep River Missionary Baptist Association**

**Active Floral Bearers**

**Original Critters Club Members  
Deaconess Board, First Missionary Baptist Church**

**Active Pall Bearers**

**Original Critters Club Members  
Deacon Board, First Missionary Baptist Church**

**Honorary Pall Bearers**

**Ministers  
Deep River Missionary Baptist Association**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The family would like to thank Reverend Barry Gray and the First Missionary Baptist Church for your love and support of Reverend McCleave for all of these years. Thanks to the Deep River Missionary Association, and all of the churches, and Ministers of the Gospel, wherever associated with the General Baptist State Convention.

The family expresses its gratitude and appreciation for all acts of kindness shown us during the passing of our loved one. God's blessings upon each of you.

**Professional Services Entrusted to:**



**Farrar Funeral Home  
718 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Siler City, North Carolina 27344  
Telephone: 919-742-3134**