

The Life Journey of Bishop St. Samuel Patterson

Samuel Patterson as he is known to many, was born “Saint” Samuel Patterson, in 1920 in Morgan City, Mississippi to John and Clarissa Patterson, who preceded him in death. He was the youngest of 14 children and the last remaining.

As a young child he sang during the church services while standing on a table, “If I could hear my mother pray again,” confirming to all who listened that God had given him a unique gift.



Samuel Patterson began his formal education in Lost Lake, MS. In 1934, the family moved to Memphis, TN, where he continued his education as well as learning to play the piano and guitar. He used these gifts to assist many of the pioneers of the Church of God in Christ, such as the late Elder Utah Smith and the late Mother Fannie Page, sometimes playing in all night tarry services. He also worked with the former Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr. and his wife Deborah, teaching her to play the guitar.

In 1939 Samuel Patterson left Memphis to accompany the late Elder Harry M. Jenkins, evangelizing coast to coast over an 18-month period. During this period, revivals were conducted in Texas, Arkansas, California, Oklahoma and more. Many of the Church of

God in Christ’s influential preachers benefited from his ministry, such as the late Bishop F.L. Haynes the father of Bishop Neual Haynes and the late Bishop J.A. Blake the father of Bishop Charles Blake

In June of 1940, Samuel Patterson entered the city of Chicago, not realizing that this would be his new home. His musical abilities were immediately recognized, with God directing his path to St. Paul Church of God in Christ founded by the Late Bishop Louis H. Ford and presently under the leadership of his son Bishop Charles M. Ford. Samuel Patterson served under the leadership of Bishop Ford bringing new dimensions to the music ministry with his melodious voice and guitar playing.

In 1941, Samuel Patterson was called back to Memphis, TN to play the newly installed organ in Mason Temple, thereby earning the distinction of being the first organist in the Church of God in Christ.

Samuel Patterson served in the U.S. Army during WW II and received an honorable discharge in 1943. After returning from the military, he entered the Illinois school of Tailoring and graduated. He began establishing a style of dress that would set him apart for the remainder of his life. “Dad was one sharp dresser.”

Samuel Patterson moved to New Jersey, where he played for the Late Bishop F.D. Washington and his wife the late Madame Ernestine Washington. During this time, he corresponded with Bennie C. Williams who was soon to become his wife.

Upon his return to Chicago, Elder Patterson continued to direct and play for the St. Paul Church of God in Christ choir, as well as the broadcast services. He trained the Progressive radio choir, of Maywood, IL under the late Pastor Alford. During this time he also accompanied the late Mahalia Jackson with his guitar during some of her recordings. He also appeared on various programs with many of gospel’s

greats such as the late Rev. Milton Brunson, Rev. Clay Evans, Rev. Maceo Woods, the late Rev. James Cleveland and the Lux Singers the Gay Sisters and more. During this time tent meetings, Friday night tarry services and musicals across this city benefited from the musical abilities of Elder Patterson. On December 21, 1947, Samuel Patterson and Ms. Bennie C. Williams were joined in Holy Matrimony; to this union six children were born, Val-Rie Jean, Samuel Marvin, Sondra Marie, Carlos Romel, Lori Clarice and Richard Emory.



In the early years of his marriage, Samuel Patterson was employed at Hines General Hospital as an Oxygen Therapist responsible for supplying military veterans, who were hospitalized there with oxygen. Samuel Patterson was later employed by Cook County working in their headquarters as an elevator operator. It was during this time that Samuel Patterson invited the late Richard J. Daley, who was seeking political office to attend a service at St. Paul. He made the introduction to the late Bishop L. H. Ford. The rest is history. He later took employment with Howard Foundry as an inspector.

In 1949, Samuel Patterson was recommended for ordination by then Supt. L.H. Ford. He passed the exam with a perfect score and was then ordained by the late Bishop W.M. Roberts.

In 1953 Elder Patterson was asked by Supt. Ford to assume a pastoral role in the city of Des Moines, IA at the 17 East University Church of God in Christ. There was some measure of success in Iowa, but God had a different plan. The family moved back to Chicago after 10 months.

After returning to Chicago, Elder and Mother Patterson continued to minister under the leadership of Bishop Ford. At the formation of Central Illinois Jurisdiction, now known as First Jurisdiction Illinois, Elder Samuel Patterson was appointed the first President of Evangelism.

In 1955, Elder Samuel Patterson was called to the Church of God in Christ located at 9010 Greenbay Road. He remained there for approximately nine months. These were not unsuccessful attempts, but rather building blocks to a greater call.

In November 1957, Elder Samuel Patterson established the St. Samuel Temple Church of God in Christ located 5539 South State Street, with five members.

During Pastor Patterson's early pastoral ministry, he hosted his own telecast called the "Gospel Train" on channel 26. The show's focus was spreading the word through gospel music. The show featured Pastor Patterson's unique singing voice along with his guitar accompanied by a small choir.

Pastor Patterson sought to enlarge the church moving to 6064 S. State Street, where it grew and flourished with a strong anointing. Souls were saved, the dead raised, many were healed of all manner of diseases.



During this time, Pastor Patterson was employed by Chicago Housing Authority from which he retired in August 1982, after 20 years of service. His position as an exterminator afforded him a great deal of public exposure. Many souls were saved and the sick were healed as he went in and out of the homes performing his tasks.

The anointing followed the ministry to a new location. On December 3, 1973 the first service was held at the new St. Samuel Temple located 8749-53 S. State Street. This location was a prophecy fulfilled. The same power was manifested and yet remains. The mortgage was burned in 10 years, but Pastor Patterson was not nearly through.

In December of 1991 through Pastor Patterson's vision, the newly built edifice of St. Samuel Temple was dedicated for the services of the Lord by Bishop Louis H. Ford. Some said it could not be done, but Pastor Patterson put his faith in God and encouraged all to never lose hope. For his hard work and dedication to building a new edifice for God's people, Pastor Patterson shared honors as "Pastor of the Year."

In November 1994, Pastor Patterson closed the deal to purchase two adjacent lots, giving us the entire south corner of the 8700 block of State Street. This land is presently being used for parking.

After the death of Bishop Ford in 1995, Pastor Patterson made an important decision affecting the lives of the entire membership. He helped to organize the formation of a new jurisdiction to be headed by Administrative Assistant Robert R. Sanders. The petition to organize was presented to the General Board under the leadership of Presiding Bishop Chandler Owens. With an overwhelming response, this new jurisdiction was underway. Pastor Patterson was appointed as Administrative Assistant and Superintendent.

As superintendent, Administrative Assistant Patterson formed the Lillian Brooks Coffey District. He also served as State Treasurer and on the Bishop's Personal Advisory Board.

In August 2000, Pastor Patterson was honored on his 80th birthday as Third Jurisdiction Illinois' "Pastor of the year."

Pastor Patterson continued to inspire both the young and old. He is affectionately called "Dad" by many due to his godly advice and leadership. To many young people in Third Jurisdiction he is called the "Godfather". He is a shining example of a life dedicated to the service of the Lord. He really cared about souls and would challenge anyone as to their relationship with the Lord.



September 24, 2001, Administrative Asst. Patterson called upon Bishop Robert Sanders to appoint Elder Richard Patterson, co-pastor. In the midst of the service the Spirit of the Lord spoke to Administrative Asst. Patterson and told him to have Elder Richard appointed pastor.

Truly the Lord was speaking, knowing what was in store. One year and three months later Administrative Asst. Patterson suffered a heart attack weakening his physical condition, but his life was in order and the tasks assigned him were completed. Though visibly diminished in health, his spirit was strong, his convictions remained true and he was able to enjoy the fruit of his labor.

On December 9, 2003, Dr. Cornelius English, president of the Calvary School of Ministry under the auspices of Grace Theological Seminary conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity, for his labor, significant achievements and excellence in ministry.

Administrative Assistant Patterson departed this life Thursday, September 16, 2004, while admitted in Christ Hospital, Oak Lawn, IL.

On August 26, 2018 a Proclamation was presented by Bishop Richard E. Patterson, Sr. and The Elect of God Fellowship of Churches, Inc. This Proclamation had been signed and sealed by area Bishops and Apostles including members of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. The purpose was to bestow the honor posthumously of Bishop upon our beloved founder. The ceremony, which took place at the Annual Founders' Day Celebration was spiritual and emotional for all in attendance.

Thank you Dad for providing a wonderful legacy to uphold.