



Clarence

May 3, 1932 - September 12, 2013

Funeral Services will be held 12:00PM Tuesday, Sept 17, 2013 at Union Missionary Baptist Church 2470 Bruce Street Lithonia, GA, 30058, where Reverend C. Andre' Grier is pastor. Interment at Lincoln Cemetery, Atlanta, GA. Viewing and visitation will be held Monday September 16, 2013 at Gregory B. Levett and Sons South DeKalb Chapel from 12PM to 8PM with family hour 6:30 PM to 8PM. Services entrusted to Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Home. 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy. Decatur, Ga 30034.-----

---In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Oscielia Grier care fund C/O Gregory B Levett and Sons Funeral Home. 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy. Decatur, Ga 30034.-----

-----Rev. Clarence Grier, Jr., a native of Atlanta, Georgia was born May 3, 1932 to Clarence and Ida Grier. He made his transition to glory on Thursday, September 12, 2013. He was the fourth of six children and was preceded in death by his parents, one brother (James Grier) and one sister (Catherine "Punkin" Robertson). He is survived by two sisters: Viola Thomas of Lithonia, Georgia, Helen Jones of Decatur, Georgia and one brother: Robert (Mary) Grier of Los Angeles, California. Rev. Grier was educated in the Atlanta Public School System where he attended Booker T. Washington High School. He then joined the United States Navy where he served and received an Honorable Discharge. In 1951, he married the love of his life, Oscielia Robertson of Atlanta, Georgia. To this union of 61 years, four

children were born: Rev. Clarence Andre' Grier (Thelma), Angela Renee' McMillion, Kimberly Raye Young (Ridgeley), and Stephanie Lynne Simon (Kenny). He adored his nine grandchildren: Andre' Jr., Delray, Aaron, Christopher, Rashaun, Kourtney, Kyra, Kameron and Kamille. They all loved and had the highest respect for their grandfather. He will always be affectionately known as their "Popas". Pastor Grier was deeply committed to providing a great life for his wife and children. He worked for the Lockheed Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia and was later employed by the United States Postal Service where he retired after 30 years of dedicated service. He was affectionately known as the "Ole Preacher" in his supervisory role there. He was well respected as a manager who tolerated no nonsense, however everyone loved working for him. Rev. Grier was licensed and ordained as a minister and man of God at Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia by the late Rev. C.S. Surry. Shortly after that, he was called to Pastor the First African Baptist Church of Monroe, Georgia where he served faithfully for 44 years. Under Pastor Grier's leadership, he was blessed to license and ordain more than 10 sons into the ministry, who have now gone on to Pastor various churches throughout the State of Georgia. One of his proudest moments in ministry was when he licensed, ordained and installed his own son at both St. Mary's Baptist Church of Athens, Georgia and Union Missionary Baptist Church of Lithonia, Georgia. In September 2004, Pastor Grier was honored to have preached the very first sermon in the new edifice of Union Missionary Baptist Church. He preached the unforgettable and epic sermon entitled "What's New About You?" Pastor Grier also served as First Vice Moderator of the Northwestern Baptist Association #1 for over 20 years. Anyone who knew Pastor Grier knew that among the things he most loved to do were: preach the gospel, praise and worship, be surrounded by his family, catch a fish at the fishing hole with his best buddy, Rev. Edward Husband, and ride motorcycles, which he did well into his seventies. The life and legacy of the late Rev. Clarence Grier, Jr. will remain in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. He will truly be missed!

Tribute Wall

BR

“ I hope and pray that my christian walk takes me to a place in life where I can truly say I am ready to go home. Pastor Grier labored in the vineyard a long time. Now, he can take a well deserved rest. Thank you Grier family for sharing him with the First AB family for 44 years. He will be missed greatly. Kiss mother Grier for us and we will continue to keep the family in prayer. Rev. Robert Faulk, Cassandra, Bryan and Brianna

Briannafaulk - September 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Words will never express the debt of gratitude that is owed to this Family. Walton County share in your loss sincerely. A giant has gone home but his legacy will live on forever. Earth has no sorrows that heaven can't heal. May his memories comfort us all. Tony & Michelle Rucker and Family.

Michelle Rucker - September 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Expressing condolences to the Grier family. Pastor Andre Grier was my pastor for 3 yrs at St.Mary Baptist Church in Athens, GA. My God richly bless each of you as you grieve Pastor Clarence Grier. May God's peace remain with you as you find comfort through prayer. Glenda Johnson

Glenda Johnson - September 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ My deepest sympathy to the family, your father was a man I loved and respected. He was there for me during the death of my friend and brother. I will truly miss him and I will be forever grateful for the Christian love he has shown to me over the years. Rest in Peace
Rev. Grier. Velma Barnes

Velma Barnes - September 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ I am truly thankful for the seeds that Rev. Grier sowed in my life. He leaves a legacy of love that nurtured my family and the First African Baptist Church for 44 years. We send prayers of comfort to the family. May the peace of God be with you.

Anjanette Williams Gilbert - September 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ May God continue to keep you in your time of sorrow. Me and Sylvia share many fond memories of Pastor Grier she more than I. When we asked him to marry us the first thing he said was you didn't ask me if you could marry her he said that's my daughter. I'm glad he gave me permission and his blessing. We shared a special Sunday morning bond that only he and I understood. He will be truly missed by Sylvia and myself. His spirit will be with us forever. Ron and Sylvia Brown

Ronald Brown - September 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ My condolences to the Grier family and extended family. Kiplyn Primus

Kiplyn Primus - September 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Remembering Pastor Clarence Grier. Jr., In 1968, he was called to pastor the First African Baptist Church in Monroe, GA where he labored for 44 years. As he grew, we grew! His profound wisdom and love for mankind was his hallmark. He was a visionary leader who inspired new ministries, such as the Sunbeam, Gospel and Male Choirs, Dance Team, and the Youth Department. Under his leadership the church built a Fellowship Hall (later named in his honor) and purchased the land which will be used to erect a new sanctuary and the Clarence Grier Jr Life Center. He was a spiritual icon in the community regularly engaging in civil rights agendas. The church hosted many meetings that impacted the community at large. Pastor Grier's sermons were always inspiring, life-changing, challenging, encouraging, and soul-stirring. He possessed a wealth of knowledge of God's Words and worked tirelessly to sew and plant into the lives of all he came in contact with. He often spoke of transitioning to be with the Lord...we can only imagine the smile on his face as he made the transition on Thursday, 12 Sep 13. He's now resting...from labor to reward...he's rejoicing and one day we will all see him again. Andre, Angie, Kim, Stephanie and Family, know that your extended family, the First AB Church, love you and will always be at your beckoning call. In His Service, The First African Baptist Church Family Deacon Johnny Smith, Chairman

Johnny Smith - September 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ Uncle Clarence, You will be truly missed by George and Theresa! You joined us in Holy Matrimony over 42 years ago. We appreciate the guidance you gave us and continued support throughout our journey. I know you are smiling from heaven! God Bless you! Love The Collier Family

Theresa Collier, niece - September 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ On behalf of the First Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church (Savannah, GA) Pastor Shannon O'Neil Smith, Sr. we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Pastor Clarence Grier, Jr.

Chableau Ford - September 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VJ

“ Angie, May God continue to bless and protect you and your family during this time of need. Verneva Jordan

Verneva Jordan - September 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family. The loss of a love one brings us the anguish of grief. Comfort can be found in God's word, the bible. The promise of a resurrection at John 5:28, 29 and death will be no more at Revelation 21:3, 4. Taking in true knowledge of the true God and his son Jesus, assures us eternal life. (John 17:3)

Agnes L Taylor - September 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ So sorry to hear about the lost of your father. I pray that The love of God sustain you and the God we serve uphold you and your family through this time of sorrow. With deepest sympathy Barbara Summerville

Barbara Summerville - September 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Sent a gift in memory of Clarence Popas Grier, Jr.

Barbara Summerville - September 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *Lit a candle in memory of Clarence Popas Grier, Jr.*

Sandrina Hall - September 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *May God continue to give this family his perfect peace during this time of sorrow. You all are in our prayers. With deepest sympathy, Mr. Jessie and Ruthie Byrd*

Jessie and Ruthie Byrd - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *Oh! If I could sing with the voice of an angel If I could just say with the voice of authority a message to give this society Oh! if I could sing with the power I would sing to the world a song for this troubled hour Songs to dispel all doubt and fears A song of Jesus to dry all our tears A song of love that comes from above Of the mighty savior and his love, I'd tell the world that he yet lives of his love and peace the world to give: I'd tell the world what he done for me. He saved my soul and he set me free! Oh! If I could sing with the voice of an Angel from every mountain and every valley A song of peace men need so badly A song of joy to move all sorrow, of hope and joy to all tomorrow Oh! If I could sing with the voice of an Angel I'd tell the world what he done for me He saved my soul and set me FREE! My Pastor of 44 years At First African Baptist Church Wrote His Gone But not forgotten. Cynthia Watkins*

Cynthia Watkins - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WE

“ I will always remember his funny, yet sincere, wsy of asking me....Wanda, are you behaving yourself? I was always compelled to answer, Yes sir I am. (Trying not to look in his eyes) I guess I feared feeling convicted and guilty of not visiting my pastor, my daddy Grier more often. Thank you for your unwaivering love and spiritual guidance you have always shown and given The Ellis family, even when we were not physically there to receive it. I'm deeply saddened that I won't hear your voice or see your face on this side, but I am thankful for another angel in heaven to watch over me and my family. I will trust in the Lord. I will trust in the Lord. I will trust in the Lord until I die!

Wanda Ellis - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HC

“ Amazing Grace...how sweet the sound...that saved a wretch like me....I once was loss, but now I am found, was blind but now I see....This was one of Pastor Grier's favorite songs. To the Grier Family - May God comfort and keep you during your time of bereavement. Pastor Grier was a man of great knowledge and wisdom. He taught us so much and we will miss him. We are praying for your family! May God continue to bless and keep you!

Harold and Edna Culbreath - September 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ZS

“ Rev. Clarence Grier Jr., a man who studied the word, preached the word and lived the word. Pastor, you will forever be in our hearts and we will treasure all the wisdom that you shared with us over the years. You always used to say...Life is full of swift transitions and I have quoted you many times. Now that you have transitioned to be with the Lord, I can hear God saying...you have been FAITHFUL over a few things....come on up and I will make you a ruler over many. Pastor Grier ...you were the definition of what God calls a pastor to be and we were blessed to have you lead us and share God's word with us for over four decades. Rest now Pastor....We love you!To the Grier Family...we are praying for you and we encourage you to keep your hand in the hands of the man who stills the waters. God will comfort you and keep you. God Bless!

Zee, Anthony and Zayden Swint - September 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IH

“ Dear Stephanie&family. Im a very sorry for your loss. I have not known your father but I feel connected to him through you ... and I feel blessed by him through the time that my daughter spends with you&your family.

Immanuel Henne - September 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I am so sorry for your loss. If a man die, shall he live again? asked Job a long time ago. Perhaps you, too, wondered about this. Well the Bible makes the promise: Your dead ones will live...they will rise up Isaiah 26:19. And the Bible also says: the righteous ones will reside forever upon the earth. So yes, soon you may be reunited with your loved one again, possible right here on earth. Please find comfort from these facts during your time of need. Please visit www.jw.org

Mrs. Gant - September 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ With deepest sympathy to the Grier family during the loss of a beloved man, husband, father, grandfather and pastor...We all loved Rev. Grier! God Bless!!!

Patsy and Homer Boyce - September 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ RIP PASTOR.....u spoke at my fathers funeral and it was beautiful...even i graduated in 08' from high school u said he will be proud of me and u have been there for me since u will always be in my prayers

Rhonda McKenzie - September 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Reverend Grier was not only my Pastor, he was also a father figure to me for many years. He will truly be missed .Mrs. Penny M. Grace

Penny M. Grace - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ I will never ever forget you Rev. Grier..... R.I.P

Kimberly McCoy - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ He would always hug me really tight and say I am still waiting on you and he would always say DebbieGailJudy, JudyGailDebbie and when we were younger we thought that was too funny, R.I.P Pastor Grier you will always have a special place in our family,

Gail Smith - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Blessings to the family of a wonderful pastor, Rev. Grier. I will keep Sis. Grier, Andre, Angela, Kimberly, Stephanie and all the grands in my prayers. God Bless. Sherry Jackson-Ellison

Sherry Jackson-Ellison - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Pastor Grier whenever he would see me would say Hi my pretty girl. My family and I have known him all our lives. He is truly a big part of history here in Monroe. Not many can be called a legend. He truly was the definition of the word legend. May his soul Rest in Peace. When All of Gods children get together Oh What A Time. He is rejoicing in paradise!

Lameka Durden - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Truly going to be missed, like a father to all the youth at FAB. The family will be in my prayers. Love, Latosha Bonhart Jackson

latosha Jackson - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ I have so many fond memories of Pastor Grier. He was my Pastor from a small child on in to early adulthood, as well as my Parent's Pastor from childhood. I remember him sharing with me so many encouraging words. He was such a Precious gift to the Body of Christ by way of his immense wisdom and knowledge of the Word of God. He was like a grandfather to me and so much more. Words cannot describe what he instilled in my life and countless others. I still find myself at times referring to words of wisdom he would share such as, You can't beat God's giving, etc May you rest in eternal peace and I pray that your family will find solace during this difficult time! We miss you, already!

Dana Ramey Arnold - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Rev. Grier is the only pastor I have ever known. He was a second father to many, including me. He was synonymous with First African Baptist Church. Our families have been connected for many years and I thank God that he allowed our paths to cross. I also thank God for the memories. I can hear him singing his favorite song now, Amazing Grace or Where He Leads Me I will Follow. He was an iconic figure in Walton County and will truly be missed. Although the news of his passing devastated my mind, my spirit is rejoicing because I find comfort in knowing he has gone to be with the Lord. He may now rest from his labor in the vineyard. He has his Crown. I love you Rev. Grier and Grier Family. I pray for peace that surpasses all understanding and the solace of the Lord during this extremely difficult time. You will forever be in our hearts.

Brittany Culbreath - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ So many great memories of Rev. Grier at First A.B. Baptized me at the age of thirteen and always felt like family. He will always be in our hearts. Love and prayers to the family.

Amanda Flint - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WC

“ My condolences go out to the Grier family. Because of Rev. Grier's teaching, guidance, and belief in me, I have Accomplish much. I learned to put God first And believe Proverbs 3:5-6

Woodrow Carswell - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ Prayer goes out to the Grier family. Rev. Grier was my childhood pastor whom I love dearly. The memories will live on and your spirit will forever be with me. You baptize me on 02/12/1996 a day that I will never forget. R.I.P.

Temecia Moon - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VE

“ You're all in my prayers. He was a good man with a good spirit and I'm proud to say I knew him. My favorite line he would say to me is what it is pig ears. It made me laugh every time. Heaven is one soul richer. Love you all reeeeeal hard!!

Velzie - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ To family you are in my prayes

Darrell e Dessett - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Rest in Peace Rev, Walton County will miss you.

Annie Flint - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Our prayers are with the Grier family. We will keep you all in our prayers. We love you.

Gail Johnson - September 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM