



## Rev. Dr. Donald Clarke

August 1, 1931 - February 5, 2021

Masks are required while in the building viewing, and for all funeral and graveside services. Please practice safe social distancing.

Farther along we'll know all about it; Farther along we'll understand why;  
cheer up my brother, live in the sunshine; We'll understand it all by and by...

In God's infinite wisdom, Rev. Dr. Donald Edward Clarke was born August 1, 1931, as the third of 12 children born to Albert Clarke, Sr. and Evelyn Robertson Clarke. He accepted Christ at an early age at the Church of God in Cleveland, Ohio and graduated from the old East High School in 1950. As an adult, Dr. Clarke served our country in both the US Army and the United States Air Force, serving during the Korean War. In 1952, he married Marina ("Popsie") Martin and to this union was born a baby girl, Edwina (affectionately called "Wendy"). Dr. Clarke covered much ground through his young adult years...though he was not perfect, he did strive toward perfection. Many who could tell the story have transitioned to Glory; but for those of us who remain, the years were full, fruitful, and filled with the knowledge of God.

In 1958, Dr. Clarke met and married Pearlie Griffen and together they raised their son, Harold Clarke. During a brief separation, Don fathered a beautiful baby girl, Denise ("DeeDee"), with Ruby Holmes. In 1968, Dr. Clarke and Pearlie relocated to Cleveland, OH in search of a better life for the family. After

9 years, they moved back to Oklahoma City and reunited with the New Hope Baptist Church under the late Rev. John Dove Provo. He served as a faithful member, having been appointed to the Deacon Board, finance committee, sung in the mass choir, and served as one of the directors for the Male Chorus. He was called to the Gospel Ministry in 1981 under the pastorate of the late Rev. Nelson Brown. In April 1982, Dr. Clarke was called to Pastor the St. Paul Baptist Church of Wewoka, Oklahoma where he served faithfully for 15 years. While giving leadership, he led the renaming of the youth choir to the "St. Paul Inspirational Choir" and was also successful in leading the congregation in remodeling and refurbishing the sanctuary. In July 1995, Pastor Clarke licensed his first son in the ministry, Rev. Derrick Gray. In May 1996, Dr. Clarke was excited to take the St. Paul congregation to Chicago, IL to share in an exchange fellowship with the United Missionary Baptist Church - Rev. Wilson Daniels, Pastor. This was truly a highlight in his ministry at St. Paul! Also, Dr. Clarke was one of the ten ministers who founded the Ministerial Alliance in Wewoka, which is still active today.

After more than 100,000 miles commuting to Wewoka, Dr. Clarke completed his assignment with St. Paul. He would then unite with the New Covenant Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, where he served for more than 5 years under the pastorate of the late Rev. James O. Bradford. In 2003, he returned to the New Hope Baptist Church to assist with preaching, teaching and ministering of The Lord's Supper while the church was in prayer about the transition of its new pastor. Dr. Clarke continued to serve New Hope as the Minister of Christian Education (from July 2004 - October 2007) under its then-new pastor, Rev. E. Jennings Tyson. In November 2007, Dr. Clarke was called to pastor Christ Evangelist Baptist Church in Oklahoma City where he led that congregation for several years. In 2008, he married Lois Torrence and the couple would eventually relocate to Bakersfield, California in 2015.

Professionally, Dr. Clarke was a commercial truck driver and trainer who

worked for Mass-Trans in Cleveland and Oklahoma City for over 18 years. He also worked for the Coors Bottling Company. In later years, he drove the bus for the Oklahoma Foundation for the Disabled. He loved to bowl, fish, play dominoes and, most of all, tell stories. He was a jokester, who was always full of fun and laughter. He graduated from the King Is Coming Bible Institute under the late Dean T. DeCosta Calendar.

Dr. Clarke is preceded in death by his mother and father; his brothers Gerald Robinson, Kenneth Robinson, Charles Robinson, Ronnie Robinson; his sisters Sandra Robinson-Maddox and Carol Robinson-Walker; his son Harold Clarke; and son-in-law Robert White.

He leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife Lois of 13 years; his daughters Edwina Clarke of Philadelphia, PA; and Denise Ross of St. Louis, MO; his stepson Lynn Stowe of Bakersfield, CA; stepdaughters Areka Stowe-White of Las Vegas, NV; Tanya Hasley of Vallejo, CA; his brothers Albert Clarke, Jr. and Jackie Robinson, both of Cleveland, OH; his sisters Alice Clarke-Gardner, Betty Jefferson, and Linda Robinson, all from Cleveland, OH; sister-in-law Joyce Payne of Oklahoma City, OK. Eight grandchildren: Roshawn Hampton-Williams (Daryl) of Philadelphia, PA; LaQuesha Griffen (Anthony) of Brunswick, GA; Kai Wright (Felisha) of Lancaster, CA; Robert Sherman of San Francisco, CA; Tahji Stowe of Bakersfield, CA; Azaiil Bishop, Meko Seward, and Kevion Grissom all of Las Vegas, NV; 13 great grandchildren; and 1 great great grandchild; and a host of nieces, nephews, and special family and friends in Oklahoma City including Kaye Bryant, Karissa Bryant, and Kelsey Bryant; Rev. Anthony Fonteno; Rita Fonteno; Brandon Fonteno and Lauren Fonteno; Donnice Banks; and his adopted baby brother, Rev. E. Jennings Tyson.

For those who knew him, Don was a very caring, loving kind of person. He

took great interest in young people and served as an example and mentor to many. He taught several of them how to drive (especially on the snow and ice!) and was a master of using real-life situations to bring practical lessons for life. He will be remembered for simply “being there in the time of storms...a company keeper and a confidante.” He was a true brother!

We shall always remember Dr. Donald Edward Clarke: God’s preacher and one who loved to sing the songs of Zion! One of his favorite songs that he led at every opportunity is “Draw Me Nearer:” I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, And it told Thy love to me; But I long to rise in the arms of faith And be closer drawn to Thee.

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To the cross where Thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord, To Thy precious, bleeding side.

# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest Memory Gardens

12813 NE 50th  
Spencer, OK 73084

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Rolfe Memorial Chapel  
2936 N.E. 36th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

## Visitation

MAR 4. 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Rolfe Funeral Home  
2936 N.E. 36th  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
(405) 424-4136  
<https://rolfefuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Eva Fair lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Donald Clarke*



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**Eva Fair** - March 04, 2021 at 09:13 PM

VB

“ *Veola Bray lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Donald Clarke*



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**Veola Bray** - March 04, 2021 at 10:34 AM

JE

“ *Jenean Estrada lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Donald Clarke*



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**Jenean Estrada** - March 03, 2021 at 01:53 PM

ZD

“ *Zelda Davis lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. Donald Clarke*



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**Zelda Davis** - March 02, 2021 at 08:09 PM