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"These all died in faith" "These all died in faith"
depart in peace" "now let thy servant depart in peace"
"mine eyes have seen the glory" "mine eyes have seen*

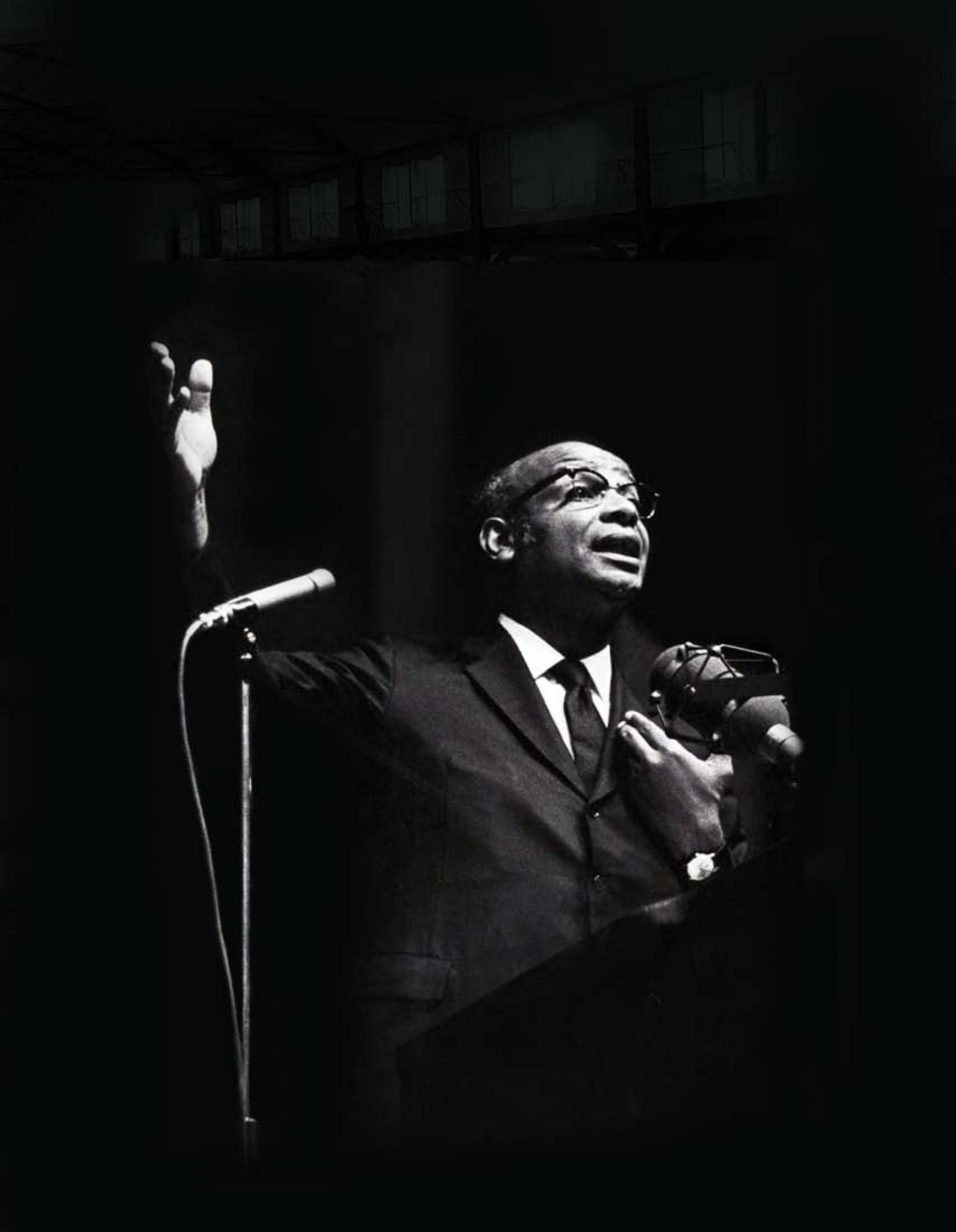
*In Memory and Recognition of
A Life of Service*

Elder Edward Earl Cleveland



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*February 18, 1921
August 30, 2009*



Time Line

- 1921** Edward Earl Cleveland is born on March 11 to William C. and Eunice Cleveland on Pulaski Pike in Huntsville, AL.
- 1939** Graduates from high school in Chattanooga, TN. He is valedictorian and president of his class. That fall he enters Oakwood Junior College.
- 1941** Graduates from Oakwood Junior College.
- 1942** Hired as intern by Carolina Conference. President H. E. Lysinger predicts he will be the next Sidney Scott if he will keep his feet on the ground.
- 1943** Earl marries Celia Abney on May 29 in Meridian, Mississippi.
- 1946** When the South Atlantic Conference is organized, he is hired as pastor / evangelist. After pastoring for seven years, he becomes full-time evangelist in 1949.
- 1950** Cleveland becomes evangelist for the Southern Union Conference.
- 1954** Cleveland is elected Associate Secretary of the Ministerial Association, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He serves there for 23 years.
- 1954** Holds historic evangelistic meeting in Montgomery on the corner of Smythe and High where over 500 persons are baptized.
- 1964** Publishes first of two Sabbath School Quarterlies that he wrote. The other was published in 1981.
- 1965** Holds meeting in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, where 812 are baptized and another 400 in follow-up meetings. As a result, the Cleveland Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church is organized.
- 1968** Publishes *Mine Eyes Have Seen*, the first of 16 books that he authored.
- 1968** Andrews University confers Doctor of Divinity degree on Cleveland. He is first African-American to receive honorary doctorate from this school. He received an L.L.D from Daniel Payne College the same year.
- 1972** Evangelism Coordinator for the North American Division until 1977.
- 1977** Becomes Director of the Department of Church Missions at Oakwood College in Huntsville, AL.
- 1978** The South Park Seventh-day Adventist Church is established in Birmingham, AL, from members baptized during summer evangelistic meeting for his brother, William J. Cleveland.
- 1979** Founded the Annual Council on Evangelism which is held each winter at Oakwood College.
- 1986** On October 22 he is invited to the White House for a briefing with President Ronald Reagan on International and National Affairs.
- 1990** Holds final tent meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. It is a citywide meeting in which nearly 200 persons are baptized.
- 1993** Inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegium of Preachers and Scholars at Morehouse College.
- 2003** His wife, Celia, dies on May 31 after 60 years of marriage and work together.
- 2006** Holds final evangelistic meeting. It is a four week meeting conducted for Dr. Calvin Rock at the Abundant Live Church in Las Vegas, NV.
- 2009** Cleveland dies on August 9 in Huntsville, AL after more than 65 years of ministry.



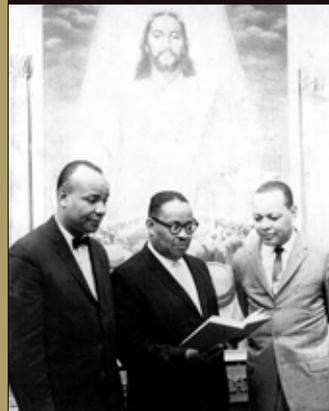
Life Sketch

Edward Earl Cleveland was born March 11, 1921, in Huntsville, Alabama, to William Clifford and Eunice Cleveland. William, a World War I veteran, accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message as a result of reading the book *Bible Readings for the Home*. Earl had an older brother, William, and a younger brother, Harold. Earl was drawn to preaching from an early age, often practicing preaching to a congregation of rocks out in the woods. His father would take his young son to hear prominent Black orators of the day, which had a profound effect on the young boy. He actually preached to congregations in the city at the age of 6. Later, when looking back over his life, Earl recognized that he had always wanted to be an evangelist, and that commitment never wavered.

In 1939, Earl followed his elder brother, William, to Oakwood Junior College. There he began in earnest his studies for the ministry. While a young boy growing up in Chattanooga, Tennessee, he first met a young girl, Celia, daughter of the pastor of the church, Elder Benjamin Abney, Sr. He smiles as he remembers pulling her pigtail, which caused her to run away from this rude fellow. Celia accompanied her parents to South Africa, where her father served as one of the early African-Americans who went to labor as missionaries.

By the time Earl entered his studies at Oakwood, Celia was back from the mission field and also enrolled. She had grown into a beautiful young woman, and caught Earl's eye. But, he remembered, he did or said nothing, even though prompted by several of his friends. As his time at Oakwood grew short, a friend took things into his own hands and arranged a "chance encounter" between Earl and Celia out in front of the library. A date was arranged and the rest is history. In 1943, Celia and Earl were married in Meridian, Mississippi. Their happy union lasted 60 years until her death in 2003.

Celia was a perfect partner in ministry for Earl. A consummate musician, she played the piano and organ and organized and conducted choirs. Her willingness to support her husband led her to study the Bible voraciously to eventually become one of the church's most effective Bible workers, leading thousands to make their decision for Christ.



The young couple adopted a baby boy and named him Earl, Jr. The family unit was now complete as Celia had a “little man” to keep her company during the times Earl, Sr., was away on church business. “Little Earl,” as he was lovingly called during his boyhood years, brought much joy and fulfillment into the family.

Earl and his three brothers all served the church as ministers. Their father was head elder of the Chattanooga church for many years. A conference leader approached him with the idea of him entering the ministry. William Clifford deferred; it was during the Great Depression, and he did not believe he could feed his family on the ministerial salary of the time. He always felt that he had done wrong in turning down the call, but when his three sons became pastors, he believed the Lord had forgiven him. Elder Wagner, president of the South Atlantic

organized a radio chorus, which became very popular in the community.

Earl became conference evangelist for the newly formed South Atlantic Conference in 1946. He ran meetings that netted many baptisms, leading to his selection as Southern Union evangelist in 1950 and in 1954 as associate ministerial secretary of the General Conference. He was only 34, some thirteen years younger than the next youngest of his associates. That same year he conducted a meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, which resulted in 500 baptisms, an unheard-of number at the time.

In 1956, Earl conducted meetings on the South Side of Chicago. Here he again was blessed with success, baptizing 200 souls and rebaptizing 25. Music was



Conference, told William Clifford, who was on his deathbed in 1955, that his youngest son would be ordained at the upcoming camp meeting. Both of Earl’s brothers served the church with distinction. William served as president of the Southwest Region Conference, and Harold as president of the Allegheny West Conference.

Earl started as a self-supporting preacher as he was not extended a call upon his graduation. Initially he had a difficult time. He had no car and many times lunch was a small bag of potato chips. He lost so much weight that when he visited his elder brother, William, his sister-in-law burst into tears. Eventually, he received a call and started work in the Carolina Conference. In 1942, he ran his first tent meeting, which produced 83 new converts. The next year his meeting was blessed with 84 converts. His evangelistic ability impressed the church leaders, and he was assigned to do just evangelism, which delighted Earl. In 1943, Earl began a radio broadcast, and Celia

becoming an important part of Earl’s campaigns. Four young Oakwoodites joined the tent meeting and radio broadcasts as the Cathedral Quartet. Joyce Bryant sang for Earl after she became an Adventist. For many years Elder T. Marshall Kelly and the late Elder Charles E. Brooks lent their talents in music to Earl.

Earl began a long ministry to the world field in 1957 when he was called to conduct meetings in Kampala, Uganda. He would also conduct one of many field schools of evangelism for 20 local pastors. The meetings produced almost 200 baptisms, including the brother of the crown prince of Uganda.

In 1958, Earl traveled to the nation’s capital, where he conducted meetings in the Capitol Arena. Here he preached nightly to a multiracial audience, and at the end held the largest baptism to that time in the Allegheny Conference territory. A total of 262 souls were baptized.

Earl traveled again to Africa in 1957, arriving first in Monrovia, Liberia, where he held an evangelistic crusade along with a field school for the ministers. Here, again, more than 100 were baptized, with many more placed in the baptismal class. Earl then went to Accra, Ghana, also with great success.

Many years earlier, as a boy, Earl had been baptized by Elder A. B. Story. In the intervening years Elder Story had become disaffected and left the church. In one of life's strange twists, Earl had the privilege of rebaptizing Elder Story back into the church.

In 1960, Earl was selected for a unique task for a Black SDA church leader. He prepared to go to Poland, behind the Iron Curtain. He conducted 13 public meetings in Warsaw, resulting in 50 baptisms. His itinerary took him

In the summer of 1965, two large tents were pitched side-by-side in Queens, Long Island. The total seating capacity was 3,000. Earl would conduct meetings nightly simultaneously with a large field school attended by local ministers and a class from the SDA Theological Seminary. A program to feed the hungry with food donations from crusade attendees was conducted from the tent meeting. A total of 400 persons were baptized, and a new church was organized.

Earl's largest meeting, and the most extensive evangelistic outreach by the church to that date, took place in 1967. Trinidad had been considered, for some time, a fertile area for the gospel. General Conference and local church officials decided upon a large reaping campaign following an extensive preparatory effort. More than 100 ministers from the Inter-American Division participated.



next to Finland, where he preached in several cities before making a stop in Denmark and heading home.

A great challenge presented itself in 1962. Earl accepted a call to visit India. In the fall of that year Earl flew to Mumbai (then Bombay), where he conducted a field school attended by 45 pastors and Bible workers. In the evening, he conducted evangelistic meetings. Local laws prevented large gatherings, but about 500 were in attendance each night. Earl also preached in Rangoon, Burma. His presence there had long-lasting effects, as there was a dramatic rise in the number of baptisms for years to come. That same year Earl traveled to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Once again a large field school was conducted and a church of 150 was raised up in that city. In 1964, a series of meetings conducted in St. Louis netted 150 baptisms, setting the stage for what was to be the largest Adventist evangelistic meeting in North America to the time.

The attendance at the two large tents in Port-of-Spain ranged from 4,000 to 6,000, as the meetings quickly became the talk of the nation. By the end of the crusade 1,000 persons had been baptized. This meeting had a profound effect on the church's outreach as it established a powerful Adventist presence in the Caribbean and showed what was possible, encouraging other evangelists to aim higher.

In 1968, Earl conducted a crusade in New Orleans, Louisiana, which added 229 souls to the church. He again taught his methods to a group of seminarians during the summer campaign. In 1970, a crusade in Oakland, California, resulted in 250 baptisms. By this time, Earl's methods and results had reached "down under," and he found himself flying off to Australia. Crusades in Sydney and Melbourne produced hundreds of baptisms along with challenge and encouragement for the country's ministers and Bible workers.



Detroit, Michigan, was the venue for a different kind of campaign targeted toward the inner city. The meetings were held in a hall, and a storefront was opened during the day and named the Better Living Center. From this venue, food distributions were made and free medical screening and dental treatments were given. This innovative program became a model for future inner-city crusades.

Earl entered a new phase of his General Conference ministry when he was appointed head of the Mission 72 and Mission 73 programs (followed by Missions 74-76). He was chosen to develop an overall outreach strategy for the church while continuing to conduct public meetings. Earl had, for years, been active in pushing the church toward an outward-looking philosophy. Now he pushed his concept of every Adventist minister, pastor or administrator, becoming an evangelist. In 1982, Earl conducted meetings in Columbus, Ohio, and in 1990 he conducted his last tent meeting, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Earl retired from the General Conference in 1977. His motivation was his love for mentoring a new generation of evangelists to go forward and change the world. This change was also helpful as Celia was suffering from crippling arthritis, and Earl would be home more to care for her. Earl's connection with Oakwood dated from the 1950s, when he began visiting to conduct short seminars in evangelistic methods. He always set apart time for this no matter what pressures he was under from the world field. This long association became the inspiration for the Evangelism Council, begun in 1981. This weekend of seminars has grown to become a fixture in the church's year for more than 25 years.

As the new century dawned, Earl faced advancing years and the inevitable slowing down. He was saddened by the death of his older brother, William, and his younger brother, Harold. In 2003, he had to bid farewell to the love of his life, Celia.

However, Earl continued to fill preaching appointments, even a 2007 four-week crusade in Las Vegas in his mid-eighties. Many honors came in his later years – honorary doctorates, a book on his life, but the greatest possibly was the establishment of the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center at Oakwood University. Here, along with these other two giants of the church, Earl and what he lived for will be preserved for future church leaders.

Earl was one of the church's most prolific authors. He wrote numerous articles for *Adventist Review*, *Ministry*, *Message*, and other church magazines. He wrote 16 books, including: *Come Unto Me*, *Mine Eyes Have Seen*, *Free at Last*, *Sparks from the Anvil*, and *Ask the Prophets*. His written works still speak to hearts today.

On August 30, 2009, Earl's journey through life came to its close. He died full of faith and in sure expectation of the resurrection. To all who came to know and love him in this life, he would no doubt say, as in the title of one of his books, "Let the Church Roll On".

Earl leaves to survive him: his son and daughter-in-law, Earl and Pinkie Cleveland; a sister-in-law, Elizabeth Cleveland; four grandsons; three granddaughters, one cousin, Dolly; and several nieces and nephews. May our memories of Earl, our friend, pastor, family member, and mentor, be sweet and linger long. -- Submitted by William Cleveland, nephew.

Ministry Continuity Plan

A few weeks after his wife died, Elder Cleveland called. He was 82 at the time and recognized his mortality. The burden of his call was how to ensure that his ministry would survive his own demise. He wanted to know how to give his ministry the ability to speak from the grave so that even after death his bones would still speak messages of hope to the unsaved and instill ministers with a passion for evangelism.

We prepared a Ministry Continuity Plan that accomplishes two things: it continues his ministry and preserves his records.

The first goal is being accomplished by the development of E. E. Cleveland Evangelistic Ministries, Inc. Through this ministry a virtual Canvas Cathedral will be created on the internet where his sermons will continue to save souls, his devotions still touch lives and his books continue to feed the minds of those seeking God. For this purpose we will pitch one last tent which will be located at www.eeclevelandministries.org.

The second goal was to preserve his records at the Center for Adventist Research as the E. E. Cleveland Collection. He chose this institution because he loved ministers and wanted his records to be available to graduate level students around the world for their research, professional development and spiritual growth. It was also chosen because it was under the auspices of the General Conference and as an adjunct professor of this Andrews University that he became the first African-American Seventh-day Adventist minister to teach pastors around the globe regardless of race in 1954. Andrews University awarded him a D.D. in 1968. This collection is to be a wellspring of knowledge where pastors and evangelists can learn from a fellow evangelist, pulpiter, fighter for social justice, husband, father, teacher and man of God.

Elder Cleveland has not laid his sword down. He has passed it on to us, his fellow soldiers, to help us fight to lift the banner of Prince Emmanuel.

R. Steven Norman, III



Program

CELEBRATION OF THE Life and Ministry of Elder Edward Earl Cleveland

Officiating Minister, Dr. Craig Newborn

Organ Prelude	Winifred Rivers
Congregational Hymn # 430 – “ <i>There Will be Joy</i> ”	Elder Quinton Fletcher
Scripture – Psalm 23	Elder John Simons
Prayer	Elder Charles Bradford
Musical Selection.....	Elder Marshall Kelly
Acknowledgements	Mrs. Gerri Banfield
Tributes – (Two Minutes Each)	
	Dr. James Melançon, <i>Civil Air Patrol</i>
	Samuel H. Turner, Sr., <i>Shawnee Mission Health Center</i>
	Elder Walter Pearson, <i>Speaker-Director, Breath of Life</i>
	Mrs. Laura Smith, <i>Southern Union Women’s Ministry Director</i>
	Dr. Rosa Taylor Banks, <i>Associate Secretary General Conference</i>
	Dr. Calvin B. Rock, <i>Pastor, Abundant Life Church</i>
	Elder Harold Lee, <i>Bradford - Cleveland - Brooks Leadership Center</i>
	Dr. Henry Bradford, <i>Retired Pastor, Church Street Presbyterian Church</i>
	Dr. Merlin Burt, <i>Center for Adventist Research</i>
	Harold Cleveland, Jr., <i>Nephew</i>
Musical Selection.....	Cathedral Quartet
Tributes – (Two Minutes Each)	
	Elder Benjamin Browne, <i>South Central Conference</i>
	Dr. Mervyn A. Warren, <i>Provost, Oakwood University</i>
	Dr. Delbert Baker, <i>Oakwood University</i>
	Dr. Leslie Pollard, <i>Loma Linda University</i>
	Elder Varnard Mendinghall, <i>President, South Atlantic Conference</i>
	Elder Gordon Retzer, <i>President, Southern Union Conference</i>
	Elder James A. Cress, <i>General Conference Ministerial Association Secretary</i>
	Elder Alexander Bryant, <i>North American Division</i>
	Chaplain Barry C. Black, <i>United States Senate</i>
	Elder Jan Paulsen, <i>General Conference</i>
Musical Selection.....	Aeolians
Elder Earl Cleveland’s Vision for Continued Ministry.....	Elder R. Steven Norman, III
Musical Selection.....	Elder Wintley Phipps
Eulogy.....	Elder Charles D. Brooks
Congregational Hymn – “ <i>When We All Get to Heaven</i> ”	Elder Quinton Fletcher
Benediction.....	Dr. Craig Newborn
Recessional	Family and Congregation

Thanks to Musicians Winifred Rivers, organist and Philip Williams, pianist.



Family Tributes

In these final hours we are left with wonderful memories, an awesome legacy and a tremendous loss. While our emotions are mixed with grief and thanksgiving, we are constantly reminded of the words you have coined and share with so many, "I have seen God do so much with so little, I now believe God can do anything with nothing." Our sincere prayer is that God will take our nothingness and do with it, if but a fraction, what he has done for you.

In loving memory,
The Cleveland Family

Acknowledgement

The Cleveland family wishes to acknowledge and express our sincere appreciation for the many kind expressions of love and concern shown during the illness and passing of our beloved Edward Earl Cleveland. A special thanks to the Huntsville Hospital physicians and nursing staff, to the Oakwood University and Oakwood University Church family and staff. Thanks also to Elder Steven Norman, for your endless family support and assistance during this time of our bereavement. May God bless and keep you all.



Flowerbearers

Deaconesses Oakwood University Church

Pallbearers

Reginald Jones

Eric Davis

Fred Baker

Chris Buckley

Larry Harris

Barry Slack

Oliver Davis, Jr.

Honorary Pallbearers

Ernest E. Rogers

Mervyn A. Warren

James Melancon

Lance Shand

Agniel Samson

Gregory Allen

James Doggette

Trevor Fraser

Finbar Benjamin

Arrangements Entrusted to

Royal Funeral Home

4315 Oakwood Ave NW

Huntsville, AL 35810-4051

(256) 534-8481

www.royalfh.com

Interment

Oakwood Memorial Gardens

Huntsville, AL

Dinner will be provided for the family and out of town guests at the Oakwood University Skating Rink compliments of the University and Regional Conferences.



*Memory and Recognition of
A Life of Service*

*September 9, 2009
Oakwood University Church*