

Mother Bennie C. Patterson

Bennie C. Williams Patterson is one of eleven children and the seventh daughter of Pendora and Mary Williams, born in the city of Dyersburg, TN. Her parents and siblings preceded her in death. At the age of seven the family, moved to Robbins, IL. She received her formal education there at Lincoln Memorial School and Blue Island High School. She was taught the way of holiness in the home and received the Lord as her savior.

Mother Patterson's early years in the church afforded her the privilege of coming in contact with many of the Church of God in Christ' leading personalities. The family placed their membership at the Church of God in Christ in Robbins under Elder Jack Moore.

During Mother Patterson's young life the Robbins church faced many challenges and several changes in leadership were necessary. Following Elder Moore, Elder S. J. James, Elder J. R. Washington, Elder Mitchell Quinn (Mother Patterson's uncle) and finally the Elder Freeman G. Green who would later organize Fifth Jurisdiction.

In that day many of the great preachers and evangelist of that day would come through the rural areas and conduct revivals such as the Elder S. T. Samuels, the Elder W. A. Patterson, Elder E. F. McClellan, Mother Addie Adair, Mother Hannah Broadnax and Mother Anna Davis. Deacon and Mother Williams often took care of the travelling evangelists as well as pastors when in town.

During an interaction with Mother Davis, young Bennie was inspired to be saved. Mother Davis while visiting had a headache. She asked Bennie if she were saved and she replied no. Mother Davis said "see if you were saved you could pray for my headache." It was at that moment young Bennie decided to be saved, so the next time she could pray for Mother Davis' headache.

After graduating from High School Sister Bennie worked at Universal Venetian Blind Company and Handy Button Factory during WWII which made buttons for the Russian Army an allied nation.

In 1946 Bennie began corresponding with Brother Samuel Patterson. She first saw him at the age of 14; an impression was made in her spirit and she declared that she would some day marry him. Though she did not meet him for another 5 years, or so she made a vow to the Lord and God blessed her at the age of 21 to marry Brother Samuel Patterson.

As a young woman she served in the ministry of St. Paul Church of God in Christ under the leadership of then Elder Louis H. Ford as a choir member. She later served in two ministries with her husband at the 17 East University Church of God in Christ in Des Moines, IA and the Church of God in Christ in South Chicago.

Mother Patterson worked in the Minister's Wives Circle after the establishment of Central Illinois Jurisdiction now known as First Jurisdiction Illinois. She served the Presidents Desmond Moore, Pearl Favors Lewis, and Margaret Ford.

In 1957 Mother Patterson worked with her husband in establishing St. Samuel Temple Church of God in Christ. Though she was not a noted pianist, she passed the knowledge she had to her sons; teaching them their first chords.

Mother Patterson is well-skilled and knowledgeable in the word of God, able to teach and apply wisdom. She is a true "mother in Zion." She raised her children in a God-fearing home without compromise. She provided a balanced lifestyle and a harmonious atmosphere for her husband.

Mother Patterson has given her life serving humanity in and out of the church. She is a true altar worker with only time and age slowing her. There is still great joy when new converts come through. She is a model pastor's wife, a mother, a friend, a sister and more.

She retired with her husband in 2001 from day-to-day ministry operations, but she is yet highly celebrated for her labor and her wisdom.

