

*Celebration of the Life of*  
*Reverend John L. McClain, Sr.*

*January 29, 1934 - August 8, 2013*



*Saturday, August 17, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.*

**FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

83 Elizabeth Avenue

Newark, New Jersey

*Rev. E.T. Byrd, Officiating*

Pastor McClain dedicated his life to serve God by fulfilling his pastoral duties and responsibilities at Grace Temple Baptist Church, including, but not limited to, visiting and praying for the sick, counseling and teaching the old, as well as the young; conducting services; consecrating babies to Christ; performing marriage ceremonies; and burying the dead. Through the years, Rev. McClain had been blessed with many achievements, accomplishments, and commendations which are listed below:

### Achievements

American Baptist Theology Seminary, Nashville, Tennessee  
Honorary Doctoral Degree of Divinity, Brown University  
Participant, Annual Hampton University Ministers' Conference, Hampton, VA  
One of the Inception in the Christian Fellowship Association, Newark, NJ

### Certificates: Essex County and State of New Jersey

Police Chaplain  
Internal Conference of Police Seminar  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Seminar  
Certificate of Honor from the Irvington Jewish Organization  
Several Commendations from the Irvington Police Department

### Associations

Member of the National Baptist Association, Newark, NJ  
Charter Member of the NAACP, Newark, NJ  
Member of the Safety Counsel, Irvington, NJ  
Chaplain, Irvington, NJ  
Chaplain Community Outreach, Newark, NJ

To: **Papa**

*Seems like my name should have been called; Feels like your last breath should have been mine. Knowing that God came for your soul reminds me that it was your time not mines. I cried and had sleepless nights but, I trust God enough to know He will make everything alright. I wanted to give up and turn my back on it all. However, in the midst of those emotions I was told to pray and immediately I felt 10 feet tall. Knowing that I will never see your face, hear your voice, or touch your hands breaks my heart. But I know I have to move forward and not fall apart. Lord knows I'm gonna miss the million demands you had but, knowing that you are with the same God you taught me about makes my soul no longer sad.*

*Papa, I truly loved you and I will forever miss you .....*

*You're Granddaughter,  
Alimah*

## *Pastor John L. McClain, Sr.*



**Rev. John Louis McClain, Sr.** was born on January 29, 1934 in Mitchell County, Georgia, son of the late Rev. Leonard C. McClain and the late Susie McCarthy McClain.

Rev. John L. McClain was a native of Albany, Georgia and was educated in the public school system of Mitchell County. In April 1952, Rev. McClain acknowledged his “Calling” to the ministry and in 1953, entered the American Baptist Theology Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee. After completing his Seminary studies, he served as Pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Leary, Georgia and Zion Hope Baptist Church in Warwick, Georgia. In the year 1957, Rev. McClain relocated to Newark, New Jersey and he was called to Pastor Friendship Baptist Church in Asbury Park, New Jersey. In 1961, Rev. McClain was called to Pastor New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Newark, New Jersey until 1964. In 1964, Rev. McClain organized and founded Grace Temple Baptist Church where he remained Pastor and Founder until he was called home to be with his Heavenly Father on August 8, 2013.

Through the years, Pastor McClain graciously provided many outstanding deeds and achieved great success in his endeavors, including assisting many preachers in his pulpit. His favorite songs were: **“Deep River”** and **“A Change Is Going To Come”**.



Rev. McClain served twelve years as Police Chaplain for the Irvington Police Department until he retired. Rev. McClain also served as Police Chaplain of the Newark Police Department until his death.

On February 2, 1952, Rev. John L. McClain, Sr. married the former Margaret Wooden and from their union, six children were born; daughter, Diane, sons, John L. Jr., Mason C., Leonard C. III, Mitchell L., daughter, Debra A. McClain, who preceded him in death. His sister, Lovetta Pope (William) and brothers, Roy, (Betsy), Samuel, Alton (Betty) and Leonard C. McClain, Jr., Brother-in-law, Arnet Martin also preceded him in death.

Rev. McClain leaves to cherish his memories: his devoted wife, Margaret; his daughter, Rev. Diane McClain-Polk (Douglas Polk II), Union, NJ; son, Kevin Davis (Charoletta), Atlanta, GA; other sons and daughters; sister, Cora Lake, Detroit, MI; brother, Rev. Joe D. McClain (Lela), Irvington, NJ (Pastor of Greater Bethel Baptist Church); sisters-in-law, Louise Martin, Columbia, SC, Maryanna McCray (John), Hackettstown, MD and Mary McClain, Newark, NJ; daughter-in-law, Michele Cain-McClain, Newark, NJ; god brothers, Rev. Raleigh Rucker, Decatur, GA, Rev. E.T. Byrd and Rev. Milton Byrd, Newark, NJ; twenty grandchildren, twenty-three great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, godchildren and friends.



# *The Order of Service*

- Processional ..... Clergy and Family
- Hymn of Praise
- Presiding Preacher ..... Rev. Perry Simmons, Jr.  
Abyssinian Baptist Church, Newark, NJ
- Scriptures
- Old Testament ..... Rev. Dell-Roger Dunmore
- New Testament ..... Rev. William Rutherford
- Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Eugene Overstreet  
New Covenant Baptist Church of Christ, Jersey City, NJ
- Selection (You've Been Good To Me) ..... Evangelist Anita Bethea  
Greater Little Rock Baptist Church, Newark, NJ
- Remarks ..... Deacon Leon Foster-Chairman of the Deacon Board  
Grace Temple Baptist Church, Newark, NJ  
Rev. John Shore  
Moderator- Christian Fellowship Association, Newark, NJ
- Acknowledgements and Obituary ..... Sis. Jetta Reynolds  
Grace Temple Baptist Church, Newark, NJ
- Solo (Through The Years) ..... Rev. Joe Brown  
Faith Baptist Church Cathedral, Hempstead, New York
- Eulogy ..... Rev. E.T. Byrd  
Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Newark, NJ
- Recessional ..... Clergy, Family and Friends

## **Interment**

Rosehill Cemetery  
Linden, New Jersey

## Repast

*Friends are invited to join  
the family in the dining hall at  
Greater Bethel Baptist Church  
305 Morris Avenue, Newark, NJ.*

# *To Our Pastor*

Our God sent you to us, to lead us in the way that He would have us work and think and live from day to day; to teach us from His word. We tried to do our best in service of our Lord. No matter the hour, whatever the need, you went the extra mile, always ready and willing to share a comforting thought and smile. You dedicated your life serving God through visiting and praying for the sick, counseling and teaching the old, as well as the young. We are humble and grateful for your forbearance and for your dedicated leadership in your ministry. Your greatest blessing for your life is our most humble prayer. A precious one from us is gone, a voice we loved is stilled. A place is vacant in our home, which never can be filled. And after a lonely heartache and many silent tears, But always a beautiful memory of the one we loved so dear.

From the members of the Grace Temple Baptist Church

## Pallbearers

The Deacons of Grace Temple Baptist Church

## Acknowledgement

Sincere thanks and appreciation for all acts of love, generosity and kindness to each of you during the illness and home going of **Pastor John L. McClain, Sr.** The family would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the doctors and nurses at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

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*Professional Services Provided By:*  
*Perry Funeral Home, Inc.*

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