

Victory Celebration



Sunrise
March 4, 1922

Sunset
September 7, 2013

Missionary Mother Helen Simmons

Services

Saturday, September 14, 2013

11:00 a.m.

SOUL SAVING STATION CHURCH

302 West 124th Street

New York, NY 10027

Bishop Robert I. Winley, Pastor

Obituary

Helen Dorothy Lee Simmons, was the third eldest daughter born to the late Leon and Letitia Redmond-Simmons on March 4, 1922. She was reared and nurtured in the fear and admonition of the Lord. She and her six siblings, Clara, Leontyne, Goldie, Leon, Leroy and (Lois) were raised in Saint Louis, Missouri. Sis. Helen attended and graduated from Summer High School in 1940 from 1940 until 1942 Scott Cleaning Company where she, because of her work ethic, quickly moved up to supervisor and then manager. She was placed over a large group of cleaning specialists who were responsible for cleaning expensive articles of clothing. She was the first Black hired by this large company and was able to secure many jobs for family and friends "she had clout".

Upon turning twenty Helen decided she was going to join the military. Helen loved order and rules and felt she would do well in the army. Helen Simmons joined the army in 1942 the Women's Army Corps and began her training in Des Moines, Iowa. From there she went to Fort Knox where she was offered special training for one year. In this special field she was taught how to handle top government secrets and how to file them away so they looked as if they were ordinary pieces of paper. From Fort Knox she was sent to Ogelthorpe, Georgia for overseas training, then to Fort Dix to ship out for Europe. She was sent to Manchester, England, then by zig zag route to Birmingham, England, from there she went to France and was stationed 35 miles outside of Paris. Little did she know that being stationed in France would prepare her for being stationed in another French-speaking country in years to come. With an honorable discharge, Officer Simmons returned to New York City in 1946 and attended Hunter College.

She worked at a Statistical Tabulating Firm on Madison Ave. by day as a keypunch operator on what was a prototype of our present day computers. Just as she was a trail-blazing computer operator, she was a trail-blazing Black student at Hunter College. She served on the student council and became the first Black President of the Student Christians Association. Once again stepping up to the plate and accepting a challenge, she developed an extensive Black History exhibit at Hunter College. Mother Helen would have graduated with top honors but felt the "Hand of God" upon her and realized she needed something more than education. Pastor Letitia Simmons encouraged all of her children to serve the Lord and in 1954 Sis. Helen began attending prayer meetings with her mother on Lenox Ave. After receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior she began attending Glad Tidings Assemblies of God on a regular basis. Under the tutelage of Mother Parker a real fire for God was ignited in her spirit and she spent the next four years training as a missionary at Glad Tidings Assemblies of God. In her fifth year at Glad Tidings she felt the urge to seek something more, and this "More" caused her to listen to different religious radio stations and this is where she first heard the song, "Ere You Left Your Room..." Mother Helen was drawn to the spirit she felt emanating from Pastor Billy Roberts and went in search of this Spirit. She had previously been invited to this church to hear a young minister who came down from Buffalo on weekends; the Rev. Jesse H. Winley and as the Lord would lead, she joined the Soul Saving Station at 313 West 125th Street. The first person she met, upon entering the church, was Rachel James who became her life-long friend.

Sister Helen was a worker: she joined efforts with the members who cleaned up the old warehouse and stable that would later become the Soul Saving Station headquarters church at 302 West 124th Street. Among the furniture and other storage items in the warehouse, were 35 hospital beds. The 35 beds would be used for lodging out of town guests during conferences and also for a dormitory where Sister Helen would be "Sergeant at Arms". Many residents in the dorm came through Sister Helen's tract and street ministry on 125th Street and 8th Avenue. "The Billy Roberts House of Hope", formerly known as the Addict Program came about through the outreach ministry of Sister Helen and many others. Until the end she continued to be a prayer warrior having prayed and fasted many of Soul Savings new fledgling churches into the presence of God. Her passion for missions led to many conversations with her late Pastor, Bishop Jesse H. Winley. After the Bishop returned from Haiti, Sis. Helen was so inspired that she knew she had to be a part of this great mission work; thus her work with the Mahotiére Boy's Home began. In addition to working with the 35 boys Sister Helen's duties included: driving a large Chevy carry-all to get supplies, handling legal matters, banking, health welfare, correspondence, devotion and daily prayer routines for the boys. She also had the added responsibility of training new short term missionaries that were sent to the field. Sister Helen loved her "boys" and would do for them, and protect them at any cost. Many of the boys were undernourished, but God was faithful and not one of our boys was lost to an illness. Many of these same "boys" have risen up to be a blessing to her - she is so proud of all of them.

In 1983, after eighteen years on the field Mother Helen knew, by the spirit, that it was time to return to the United States. Leaving her "boys" was a little sad, but she left them in the capable hands of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ - who she had every confidence that they would be well taken care of.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory: her last living sibling, Lois Evans; her adopted, faithful son, Eugene (Marie) Dorcena; grandson, David Dorcena; nieces and nephews and a host of other relatives and friends and all cost. Mother Helen loved her Pastor & First Lady Bishop Robert I. & Mary Winley. She loved her Church family, she loved her "Boys", but most of all she Loved her GOD. Rest Mother Helen because "The Lord Thy God Is In The Midst of Thee"!

Order of Service

Processional.....	Clergy and Family
Master of Ceremonies.....	Rev. Maurice Winley
Invocation.....	Rev. James R. Warren
Hymn.....	“Blessed Assurance”
Scriptures	
Old Testament.....	Evangelist Phyllis Perry
New Testament.....	Rev. Jayroe Thomas
Selection.....	Creative Arts Ministry
Remarks.....	Bishop Arnold J. Byrd Presiding Bishop & General Overseer Bishop Arvell Garrett Assistant General Overseer Elder Aubrey Adams Northeast District Elder Pastor Leontes Bery
Selection.....	Sons of Mahotiere
Remarks.....	Rev. Donald Rhymer President of Department of Missions SSS Sister Carol Jones (President of UPEL)
Selection.....	Missionary Mary Green
Cards & Condolences.....	Rev. Sharon Pickett
Obituary.....	Brother Gerard Auguste
Tribute to Mother.....	Brother Eugene Dorcena
Musical Tribute.....	Sons of Mahotiere
Selection.....	Evangelist Donna Love
Eulogy.....	Bishop Robert I. Winley Pastor Soul Saving Station Headquarters



Interment

*Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, New York*

Matthew 25:21

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of the Lord.”

Pall Bearers

Rev. Leontes Bery (lead pallbearers)
Eugene Dorcena Gerard August
Fleurantin Joseph Frantz Cajuste
Jean Gilbert Merisier Raphael Toussaint

Acknowledgement

The family acknowledges with deep appreciation all acts of kindness extended to them during this bereavement hour especially to the staff of the Brooklyn Veteran Hospital especially Doctors, Secovia, Sweeney, Sedy, Dominic, Maria and Odette- HHA and Bishop Robert Winley, church family and Unity Funeral Chapels. God bless you for all your thoughtfulness and concern.



2352 8th Avenue • Manhattan, NY • (212) 666-8300
1406 Pitkin Avenue • Brooklyn, NY • (718) 774-1023
1018 Prospect Avenue • Bronx, NY • (718) 542-3833

Clifford V. James, President & CEO
www.unityfuneralchapels.com
email: unityfc@aol.com

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