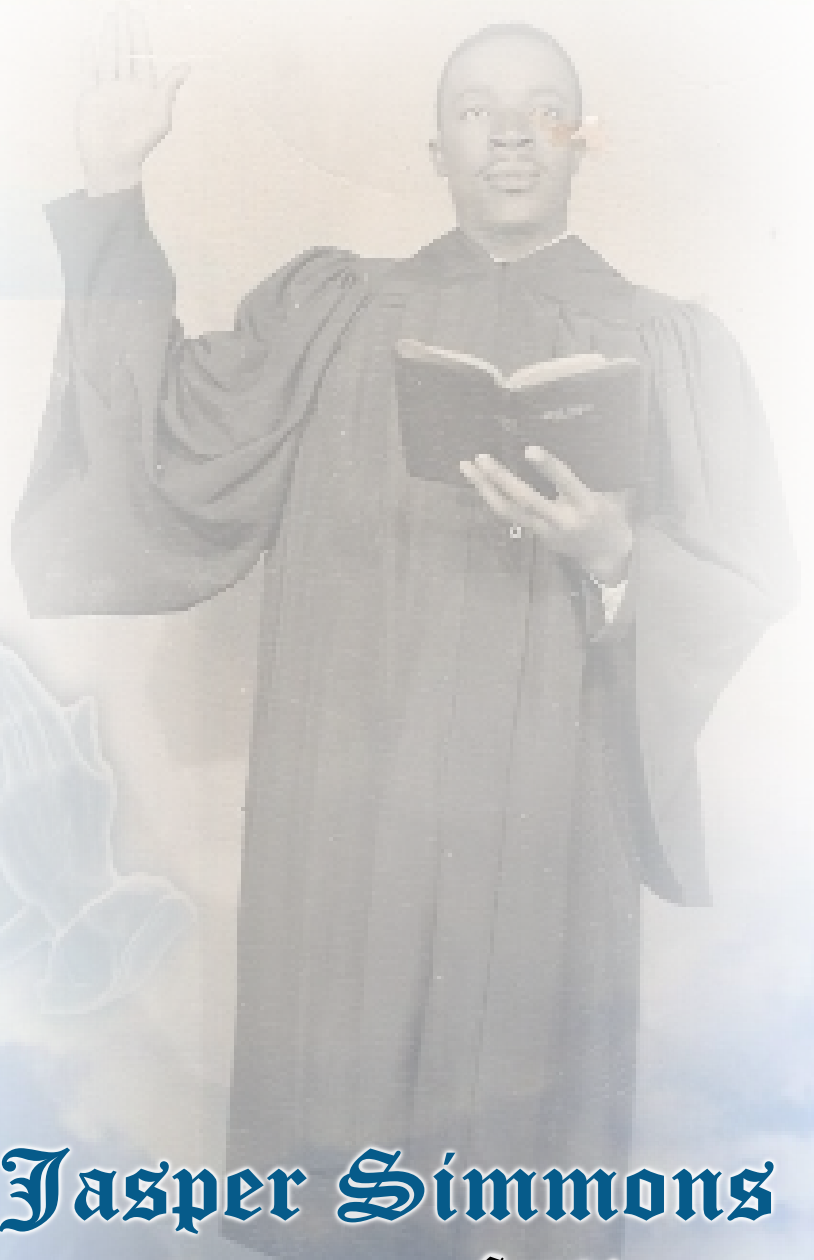


Celebrating the Life of



Reverend Dr. Jasper Simmons

Sunrise

October 9, 1922

Sunset

February 24, 2015

Service

Saturday, March 7, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.

GREATER FILE CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

505-7 West 155th Street • New York City, NY 10032

Rev. Geraldine L. Harris, Officiating

Mr. Victor Perau, Organist

Reflections of Life

Jasper Simmons was born on October 9, 1922 in Edisto Island, South Carolina to the late Samuel and Mary Simmons-Jenkins. He was the fourth of their five children. His siblings, Samuel, Louise, Christine and Freddie, all preceded him into eternity. Jasper attended his hometown Edisto Island Elementary and High School. At an early age, Jasper had visions of a better life so he migrated to New York City where he held many jobs from driving taxis to being a business entrepreneur.

In 1942, he met and married Lorraine Bennett and this union was blessed with two daughters, Patricia and Mariann.

Jasper Simmons began his ministerial career on March 12, 1950. He and his wife Lorraine joined Seven Lights Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend W.F. Harrison where they were faithful and active members.

In 1953, they became members of the Fairview Baptist Church. On the 1st Sunday of June 1953, he was ordained.

That same year, the time had come for him to illuminate this light to a higher level, the birth of File Chapel Baptist Church, which was located at 74 East 124th Street. This illumination began with seven souls, whose radiance would last and spread. In January of 1960, File Chapel relocated to 1861 Park Avenue and 14 years later, on November 17, 1974, the File Chapel family marched to higher grounds to its present location of worship at 505-507 West 155th Street. He was able to accomplish this with his wife Lorraine and his daughters by his side every step of the way serving the church in whatever capacity was needed.

Pastor Simmons, as he was called by his flock, was the founding and organizing Pastor of Greater File Chapel Baptist Church where he ministered for over 59 years of unselfish and dedicated service. Many souls have been nourished, comforted and guided by his leadership. He led with compassion, firmness, faithfulness and always with love for the Master and mankind.

Jasper Simmons led a life of ministry and service to others. He served as President and Vice President of Central Harlem Association of Neighbor Church Endeavors known as C.H.A.N.C.E. This program started the first Head Start program in Harlem which employed many of the youth in Harlem.

He was also served as liaison to the Southern Baptist Churches and was affiliated with the HCCI and the American Baptist Church, Empire Missionary State Convention, United Missionary Baptist Association, The Baptist Minister's Conference of Greater New York Vicinity, Baptist Convention of New York and the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association.

Rev. Jasper Simmons also served as financial secretary to the United Missionary Baptist Church for seven years, and as Community Chaplain and Senior Chaplain for the New York State Department of Correction's Prison Ministry. Upon retirement, he was honored with Chaplain Emeritus.

At Greater File Baptist Church, he started the soup kitchen and provided clothing and food for the less fortunate on a weekly basis, including Thanksgiving Day. He had visions for the church and

tried to surround himself with people who could execute the vision and help in the growth of GFCBC. He believed in people and in giving everyone a chance. He believed strongly in teaching people and allowing them to spread their wings as long as it was done in order and care, and would be pleasing in God's sight. He was a people's pastor and never thought of himself too high but as the chief servant of God.

Reverend Simmons not only taught the Word, but served the church and its' people in all capacities including installing a baptismal pool and repairing roofs. Throughout his ministry, Rev. Simmons ordained two Reverends, licensed four ministers and three evangelists, ordained 20 deacons and shepherded 15 ministers. He was the longest serving Pastor in the Tri-State area. For fifty-three (53) years he served as an honorary member of the Baptist Minister's Conference of Greater New York. He also served as treasurer of the Baptist Minister's Conference.

An honorary doctorate was conferred upon Reverend Simmons for his demonstration of knowledge, service and excellence in ministry. In 2011, Rev. Simmons retired from the pastorate after serving faithfully for 58 years. In 2012, Greater File Chapel honored him with Pastor Emeritus.

Not only was Reverend Simmons there for his church family and family, but friends could also count on him. Many times he was at the aid of a friend, whether it was rescuing them from being broken down on the highway or even helping them with their plumbing at home; at all times he was there for them. He also had great joy speaking lovingly and with pride about his late wife, daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He cherished his relationships, friendships and fellowship with other pastors, some he would call his best friends.

In his leisure time, one of his favorite pastimes was fishing with his two grandsons, Sean and Jamal. His daughters, Patricia and Mariann remember their dad as a strict disciplinarian when it came to their education. When they were growing up, he would always impress upon his daughters the importance of getting good grades in school. In fact, when he went to parent-teacher meetings, he would always come back with this little pad with notes about what he learned from the teachers. If one of them fell below the "100" mark, he would ask, "what happened to the other points". Either one of us would reply the person behind us received the rest of the grade. He found very little humor with that remark of course. On many, many occasions, at the dinner table, he would have the dictionary on one side of his plate and the bible on the other side. Just a reminder of how important both books were for our development.

Reverend Dr. Jasper Simmons slipped into eternity at Hillside Manor facility in Jamaica, Queens during the early afternoon on Tuesday, February 24, 2015. God called Reverend Simmons from labor to rest at the age of 92.

He is survived by: his loving and devoted daughters, Patricia Simmons of Lancaster, PA and Mariann L. Saunders of New York City; two grandsons, Sean and Jamal; seven great grandchildren, Rhamel, Tramaine, Kwandell and Phatima, Regene, Aniya and Ralik; two great-great grandchildren, Camille and Tramar; one son-in-law, Leighton Saunders; two stepsons, Leroy and Jessie; one sister-in-law, Lula Emanuel; as well as nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends. His wife, Lorraine Simmons of over fifty-two years and granddaughter, Saline Dyer, preceded him into eternity.

Order of Service

Officiator: Reverend Geraldine Harris

Processional

Invocation..... Reverend Edgar Howard

Congregational Hymn..... *“At Calvary”*

Scripture Reading

Old Testament..... Dr. Betty Spencer (Alternative: Rev. Fred Morton)

New Testament..... Reverend Marie Mike

Prayer Comfort..... Reverend Patricia Reeberg

Selection..... *“I Won’t Complain”* by Briana Young

Tributes, Remarks, Resolutions: 2 Minutes

- United Missionary Baptist
- Empire Baptist Missionary Convention
- National Baptist Convention
- Baptist Minister Conference of Greater New York
- New York Corrections Department

Selection..... *“Uncloudy Day”* - Greater File Chapel’s Choir

Tributes, Remarks and Resolutions – 2 Minutes
Reverend Gloria Winn and Reverend John Scott
Reverend Mary Freeman, Reverend Paul Weaver

Selection..... Archie McDaniel *“I Have Done My Work”*

Reading of Obituary..... In Silence

Acknowledgements:..... Min. Gail Parker

Selection..... Delise Michelle Jones *“Jesus, Promised Me A Home”*

Eulogy..... Rev. Fredrick Crawford

Viewing

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

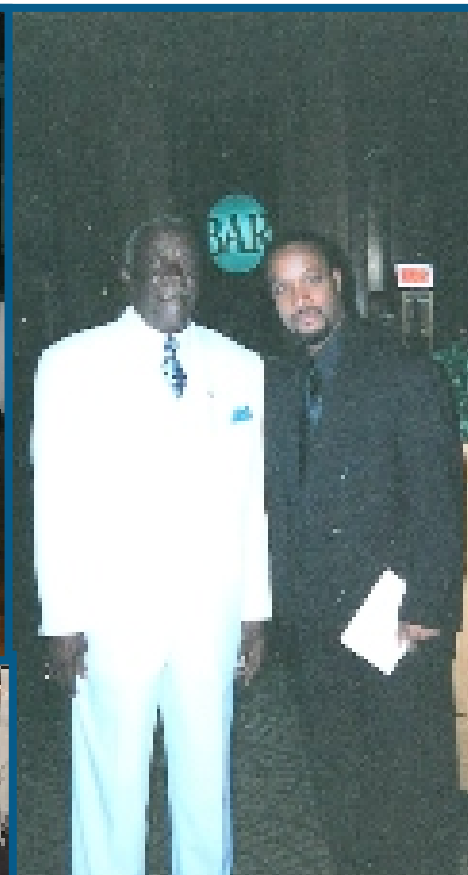
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Farmingdale, Long Island

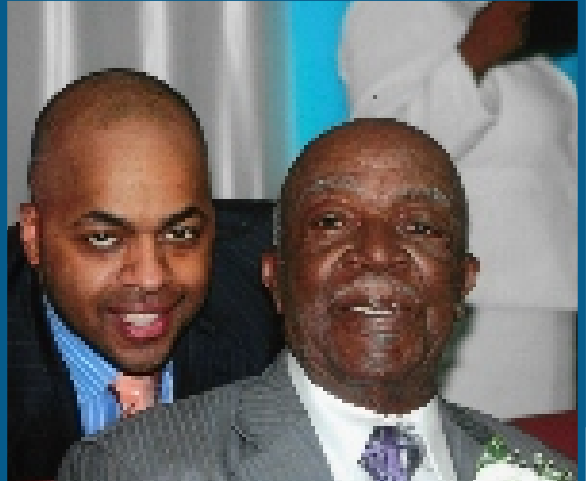
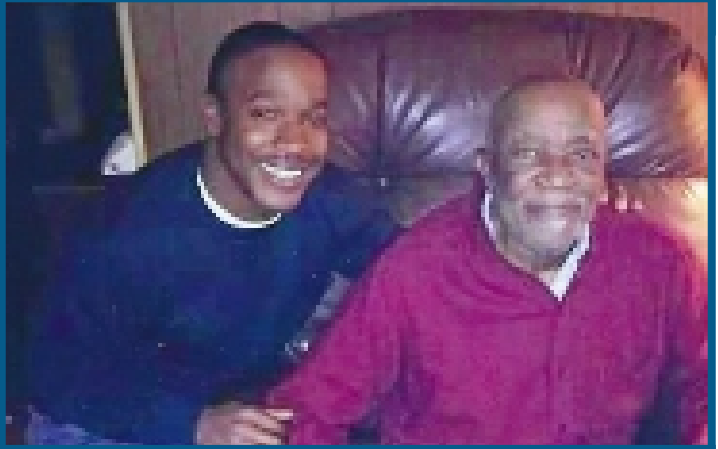
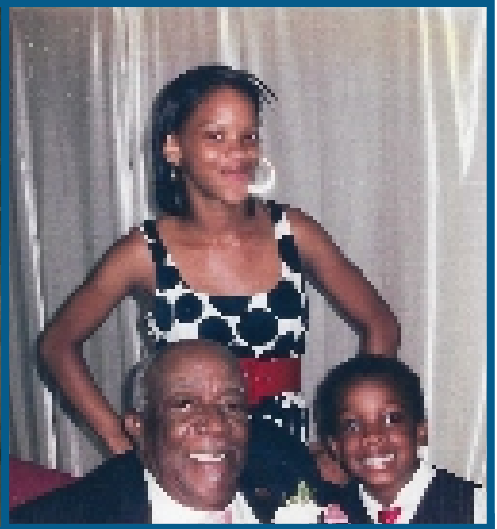
Together

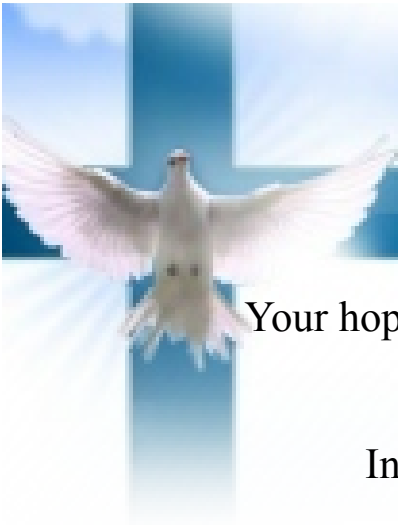


Again









The Prayer

Your hope arises with each dawn, pushing back the rubble of our lives.
Each new day reminds us of your grace,
You paint across our skies
Into the deafening cry of hopelessness you whisper love,
Love that catches us, holds us.
There is no end, just new beginnings.
No finish, just new starts.
Into your resurrection we follow you, to bathe in hope.
You are alive! Not only in the world, but in us.
And so, we carry your hope within our souls.
Help us to lift our eyes and feel resurrection hope
Arise in our lives.
Amen.

Pall Bearers

Jamal Dyer Sean Sandford
Rhamal Dyer Kwandell Dyer
Keith Joyner Irving Barron
Thomas J. Henderson, Jr.

Acknowledgement

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many comforting messages, floral tributes, expressions of kindness and heartfelt concern extended to us in your thoughts, prayers and deeds during this time.

Thank You

We would like to thank our family and friends for helping with our celebration of life. Your expressions of love, moral support, flowers, food and gifts helped to calm our spirits. We were overwhelmed with your generosity and your love. It gave us great peace and tranquility. Continue to pray for our family.

Professional Services Provided By

NEWKIRK FUNERAL HOME

984 Prospect Ave • Bronx, NY 10459
(718) 589-8428

