



*His Eminence Archbishop*  
*GMR Apollo*

**Spiritual Head of the Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church  
of North and South America**

**August 21, 1951 - January 4, 2020**

# Obituary

His Eminence Metropolitan Archbishop George Michael Reeder Apollo was the spiritual Head of the Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church of North and South America. Born in Harlem, New York in 1951 to Mr. George and Essie Mae Reeder. At the age of six young George Reeder was tested to be an art prodigy and was awarded many scholarships. His Eminence graduated from the High School of Art and Design, attended Vermont University, Art Students League of America, Pratt Institute Brooklyn, New York. Archbishop Apollo started his professional art career at the age of 17 right out of High School, as a album cover design artist. Creating covers for recording artist "Wolf Moon" and Erma Thomas (In Between Tears). He would later become the art director of New York State Department of the Aging, teaching at Varick and Kennedy Centers in Harlem, New York. He would also serve as the art director for the Police Athletic League (PAL) in Harlem. In 1980 Archbishop Apollo would enter the ministry of the Coptic Church as a Deacon. Under the guidance of His Eminence Abuna Nathaniel Joshua Shiloh Salem, (which at that time was only a Priest) the two would serve under His Eminence Archbishop Edward H. Collins the Founding Father of the Coptic Church in the United States. Archbishop Apollo would use his God given talent to enhance the vision of the Church and its ministries. For the work he was doing in the Harlem community he would receive numerous awards and honors from Congress, the State, and City officials.

In 1990 Archbishop Apollo founded the Lion of Judah Museum and Art School of the Messianic Arts. Which housed artworks that would represent a Royal African Dynastic people and teach of our Judaic Christian history. Also this same year he would partner with Mr. Clyde Cook to clean up the neighborhood from the drug infestation that tried to consume the youth. They would take an abandoned lot and turn it into the "Garden of the Golden Lions". It created a safe space where both the elders and the youth could come and get art classes and or just to sit and relax. From this venture together came forth the Golden Awards committee. The committee was made up of likeminded individuals who wanted to uplift people doing great work in the Harlem community. Archbishop would make by hand each plaque that was awarded to the likes of the Honorable Congressman Charles B. Rangel, Chief William Morange, Senator Perkins, Captain Joyce Stevens, and so many others. Mr. Cook and Archbishop Apollo would go onto award over 40 Golden Awards plaques.

Archbishop Apollo would on August 20th 1994 have the honor of having the Patriarch His Eminence Archbishop Abuna Mikael Christos of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church grant Archbishop Apollo a feast day and proclaim him as the Coptic Messianic Artist and Visionaire of the Church.

Archbishop Apollo also served as Clergy Liason to the New York City Police Department for 25 years.

His Eminence Archbishop Apollo served the Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church of North and South America for forty years with distinction. He gave his life for the work of Christ Jesus, uplifting and inspiring others to greatness. Archbishop Apollo's favorite saying from scripture is from Proverbs 29v18 "where there is no vision the people shall perish ". Through the work of his hands he wanted to provide a vision for Gods people to inspire them to greatness. To God be the glory!

His Eminence Archbishop Apollo is survived by many, many friends and family. Archbishop Apollo was blessed to find the love of his life Debra Sampson at the age of 17. They would marry at the age of 24 and from that union came three children Archbishop George Reeder III, Priest Anthony Reeder, and the Princess Shiloha Reeder. He also leaves behind his brother Priest Curtis Reeder, sister Louise Davis, nephews Jason and Paul, daughter-in-law Lady Shea Reeder, grandchildren George Reeder IV and Janiyah Reeder. And a host of Cousins, Aunts and Uncles. He is preceded by his Father George Reeder Sr., Mother Essie Mae Reeder, Brother Anthony Reeder, Uncles Felix, Frank, Curtis, Jimmy, Bill, and Carnell. Aunts Thelma Etheridge, Sophie Boyd, and Jane Cofer may they all Rest In Peace.

*Service*

Saturday, January 11, 2020 - 10:00 am

**Canaan Baptist Church**

132 W 116th St. • New York, NY 10026

**Officiating: His Eminence Archbishop George Reeder III  
Spiritual Head of the Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church  
of North and South America**

**Order of Service**

Processional

Opening Prayer by His Grace Bishop Daleth Williams

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

New Testament

Solo

Reflections ..... (Two minutes per person)

Solo

Acknowledgements

Obituary Reading

Eulogy ..... His Eminence Archbishop George Reeder III  
Spiritual head of the Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church of North and South America

Blessings of Remains ..... The women's blessing  
led by the Grand Arch Abyss Queen Mother Meertins

The Clergy's Blessings ..... led by His Grace Bishop Lamed Burrison  
and His Grace Bishop Daleth Williams

Coptic Messianic Brotherhood Salute

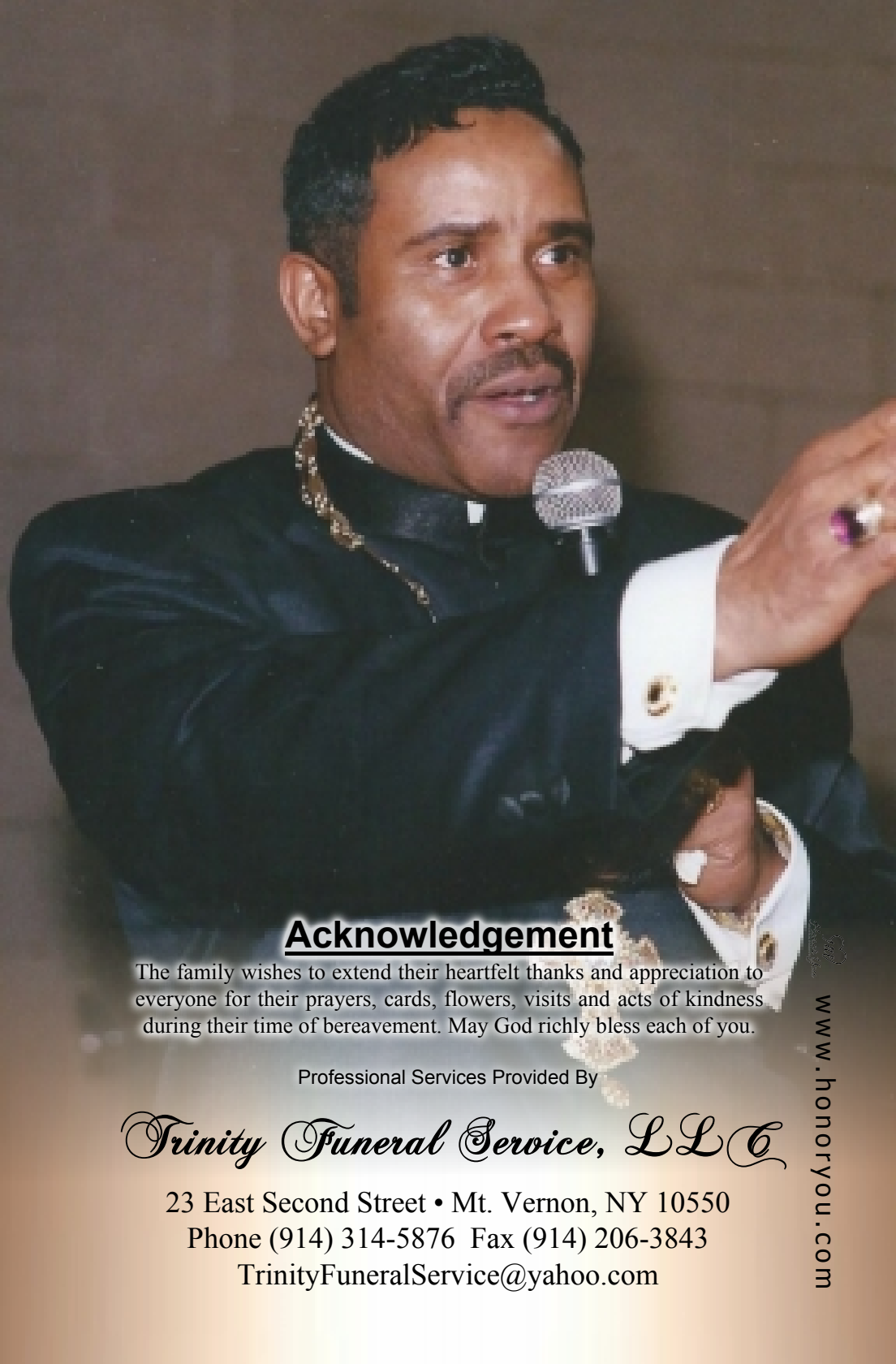
Benediction

Recessional

**INTERMENT**

Forest Green Cemetery

Morganville, NJ



## Acknowledgement

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, visits and acts of kindness during their time of bereavement. May God richly bless each of you.

Professional Services Provided By

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