

About Our First Lady

- A Brief Biographical Sketch

Mother Mae Dee Boone was born March 20, 1923 in the state of Mississippi, to the holy union of Rush L. and Beatrice Lockhart. The first born of seven children, some of Mae Dee's earliest recollections centered around helping to care for her younger brothers and sisters. Thus, at an early age she learned to place the needs of others ahead of her own needs and developed the trait of quiet leadership which has served her so well through the years as a Minister's Wife, Church Mother and Presiding Bishop's wife. Though she grew up during trying times of depression and segregation, her parents instilled in her the qualities of industry, cleanliness, and personal pride. An honors student throughout her school years, she decided at an early age that she wanted to go to college to become a dietitian. She was honored in her high school paper as the "*most religious girl in school.*" While young Mae Dee was still a child, her father and later her mother embraced the message of baptism in Jesus' Name and the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Subsequently, her father, Elder Rush L. Lockhart, Sr. became a spiritual pioneer, one of the first to carry the Apostolic message throughout the state of Mississippi. He was instrumental in establishing the Southern Tri-State Council of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World and was later elevated to the office of District Elder. Being reared in a pastor's home, young Mae Dee remembered not only the things of God, but also about how to deal with the people of God. At an early age, she professed her hope in Christ and was baptized in **JESUS' NAME** and filled with the gift of the **HOLY GHOST** as evidenced by speaking in other tongues. She was serious about her walk with God and was determined to do whatever her Heavenly Father might ask. With only one exception – she did not wish to marry a minister. *Little did she know the things that God had in store for her future!* In her early teens, she became acquainted with a dashing, handsome, athletic and somewhat mischievous young man by the name of **GEORGE MARSHALL BOONE**. At that time, he was not yet saved according to Acts 2:38. Yet God was planting the seeds of a love that would later grow to matrimony in their hearts. Before he was inducted into the United States Army, George Boone asked Mae Dee if she would return his letters. In her modest, quiet way, she simply withheld her answer. Later, when he wrote to her with news that he had received the Holy Ghost while in the jungles of New Guinea, she began to correspond with him, sending scriptures and other information to edify him in his Christian walk.

Brother George Boone was honorably discharged from the United States Army while Sister Mae Dee was a student at Alcorn College, majoring in Home Economics. After a short courtship, she and Brother George were united in Holy Matrimony on August 25, 1946. As God would have it, when he finally professed the call that had been burning within him for some time to preach the Gospel, Sister Mae Dee submitted to the will of God. She told her husband that if he was determined to be a preacher, ***“You had better be a good one and not a jackleg.”*** Through almost 65 years of marriage, she has stood by his side as his helpmeet, working in her own quiet way to help him achieve his goals. She worked hard to help raise their six (6) children in the fear of God and was blessed to witness all of her children baptized in Jesus’ Name and filled with the Holy Ghost. In all of her various capacities as Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Bishop’s Wife, Church Mother and First Lady to the Presiding Bishop, Mother Boone has sought to be an asset rather than a liability to her husband’s ministry. Her favorite scripture, *“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”* Psalms 133:1 has been a guiding influence in her relations with the people of God. Not content to rest upon her own laurels or her husband’s accomplishments, Mother Boone went back to school some years ago and obtained her Real Estate license thus mastering another profession beyond that of wife and homemaker. One of Mother Boone’s most observable characteristics is her *shy, quiet smile* behind her hand. But diminutive frame and quiet smile aside, Mother Boone is a *dynamo of energy, courage and strength*. According to the scriptures, one of the rewards of a virtuous woman is that her children shall rise up and call her blessed. We, her spiritual children, add our voices to those of her natural children in saying.... **Mother Mae Dee Boone You Truly Are a Blessed Woman of God. May God continue to add His choicest blessings to your life!**