

A Brief Biographical Sketch
The Honorable Presiding
Bishop G. M. Boone, D.D.

Bishop George Marshall Boone was born on May 31, 1920 in Myrtle, Mississippi to the union of Shepherd and Fielda Boone. Both of his parents were schoolteachers in their hometown of Oxford, Mississippi. He was blessed to be one of thirteen children favored of God to have two *dedicated, loving parents*, who committed their lives to their family. As the only boy in the midst of twelve girls, young George learned quite a lot about people and their relations. From his youth he had an inborn sense of responsibility for others, a trait that God would use in later years to make him a *leader of men*.

He grew up through the difficult lean years of the *Great Depression* and *segregation*, but vividly remembers the *love, strength* and *devotion* of his family. This would sustain them even through the most difficult times. His parents stressed the importance of *education, self-improvement* and *hard work* as keys to survival and success. His church, the Tried Stone Baptist Church, stressed the importance of serving God in the best way possible. At the age of twelve George was baptized and he began to strive to be the best person he could be. Determined to succeed, he began working in various jobs. He received training as a *blacksmith, a sawmill laborer, truck driver*, and eventually as a *barber*. He later went on to receive his license as a Master Barber. He used this training to help financially support his family.

In 1942, at twenty-two years of age, he was inducted into the United States Army. It was during this phase of his life that God began to open his spiritual understanding. While serving his country in the jungles of New Guinea, he accepted the witness of a comrade, Brother O. B. Barnes, who was a member of the Church of God in Christ. He received the good report concerning the Holy Ghost. Bowing in the mud and dirt in the jungles of New Guinea, using a wood crate as an altar, he gave up to God and received the gift of the Holy Ghost as the Spirit of God gave utterance. Baptized the following week in the titles, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, he left the answer to God of a clean conscience and felt the call to preach the Good news of Salvation.

Young George returned to his hometown of Oxford, Mississippi after completing his military service. In 1946, the same year of his return from the military, he was baptized in JESUS' NAME under the late District Elder Rush L. Lockhart, Sr., who later became his father-in-law. He began to passionately tell his nearest relatives and friends about this blessed truth. Though they were not ready at that time to receive his message, God watered and cultivated the seed that had been planted. Eventually, his mother and all of his sisters were baptized in Jesus' name, with each one receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, with the exception of one. This was indeed a fruitful period in which Brother Boone began to grow in the knowledge of His Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Also in 1946, Brother George Boone was united in Holy Matrimony with a young lady who he had known since his early teens, Sister Mae Dee Lockhart, the daughter of District Elder Rush L. Lockhart, Sr.

Sister Mae Dee Lockhart was a student of Alcorn College at that time. She had been very *instrumental* in *encouraging* her future husband while he was in the service. She had frequently sent him *inspiring scriptures* and *words of edification*. The Lord was working on Brother George's behalf even upon his return from the military service. God began to bless the budding relationship between Brother George and Sister Mae Dee resulting in Holy Matrimony on August 25, 1946. To this union six children were born, George Ralph, GeRonald, Charles David, the late Alfred Heardie, Sharon Ann and Shirley Ann. They also have been blessed with two daughters-in-law, Rhonda and Linda, one son-in-law, Mark A. Moore, Sr., 14 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. All of their children were raised in the church.

In 1947, God moved the Boone family to the state of Michigan where Brother Boone began his ministry under the late Bishop Heardie Leaston. Licensed under Bishop Leaston's ministry, Elder Boone served faithfully as his Assistant Pastor until God sent him to establish his own work. He was ordained in 1961 under the late Bishop S. N. Hancock and later served as a District Elder and Chairman of the Michigan State Council of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith. In 1965, the Board of Bishops of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith elevated District Elder Boone to the office of Bishop over his own objections. The laying on of their hands only confirmed the high call of God upon his life. In 1970, he felt led of the Lord to establish the Apostolic Assemblies of Christ, Inc. Starting with only seven churches in the states of Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee, the Apostolic Assemblies of Christ, Inc., has grown under Bishop Boone's leadership to span the globe. He is blessed to have churches in seventeen (17) states – Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. He is also blessed to have churches in two (2) countries – Liberia and Haiti. There are 19 Bishops, 4 Suffragan Bishops, 18 District Elders, 8 Councils, and 7 National Auxiliaries. In 1989, during the National Convention of the Apostolic Assemblies of Christ, Bishop Boone was honored to receive three DOCTORAL DEGREES, conferred by the Apostolic Academy of Christ of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Since the time that he was saved, Bishop Boone envisioned an assembly of blood bought believers whose name would be New Liberty. As he worked for the Lord in Michigan, he wanted to believe that this body would be planted in the South, but God didn't lead that way. On January 4, 1964, NEW LIBERTY APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH was born in Detroit, Michigan. Bishop Boone *nurtured it along as a mother would her young baby*. As he agonized before God for Divine direction, God took him to *higher heights and deeper depths*. As the Lord has blessed the church, Bishop Boone has been careful to ascribe all glory to God, and generously give the credit to those helping him.

Looking back, we are sure that he would agree with the words of the songwriter, "*Through it all, I've learned to depend upon His word.*" But perhaps even more appropriate are the words of the Apostle Paul that our Bishop so often quotes, "*Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day...*" Acts 26:22