



## Clarence R. Morton Sr.

July 15, 1941 - March 12, 2019

The Reverend Doctor Clarence R. Morton, beloved servant of Almighty God, peacefully departed his earthly tabernacle on Tuesday, March 12, 2019. Immediately, he entered the glorious presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Clarence, son of the late Rachel Morton Stanley and the late Leroy J. Stanley was born in Baltimore, Maryland on July 15, 1941. As a young child, Clarence was nurtured by a strong, loving mother and wise maternal grandparents, the late Timothy and Mahulda Morton. They taught him lessons that served him well throughout his lifetime. From their admonitions and examples, he learned respect for others, especially for his elders.

During Clarence's formative years, Timothy and Mahulda Morton instilled in him attributes of honesty, industriousness, and self-sufficiency. Clarence was mindful always of his mother's instruction not to take anything that did not belong to him because he should work for whatever he wanted.

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As a young man, Clarence began playing pool-a game in which he excelled. He enjoyed telling family, friends, and anyone who claimed to know anything about the game just how good "Reds"-as he was called during those days was. In his latter years, God gave Clarence the desires of his heart including his own home poolroom with a professional size table.

Clarence was known for his generosity; he gave selflessly of himself, as well as of his finances. He cared about the welfare of others, sometimes more than he did about meeting his own needs. Consequently, he became a friend to many in the neighborhoods where he lived, in the Baltimore City Public Schools where he was educated, as well as throughout our nation where he ministered.

Clarence left a lasting impression on everyone he met. Even years later, people he had encountered during his early days still remembered the name, Clarence Morton. He often spoke fondly of his time spent at Dunbar High School and the lasting friendships he formed there. Although Clarence was loved and considered a friend by many, he remained best friends with his childhood buddy, Milton Asbury Stevenson until Milton's death in 2009-a loss that Clarence felt deeply for the rest of his life.

At the age of 22, Clarence married the former Bettie D. Brooks. From this union, they were blessed with two sons: Clarence R. (Rick) Morton and Edward L. Morton. Clarence's best friend Milton served as best man at his wedding and later as godfather to his first-born son, Rick. Clarence loved being the father of two sons, and he labored to give them the advantages of acquiring a good education.

From his job of 28 1/2 years at Bethlehem Steel, he often rushed to their respective schools in order to attend every sports event in which they participated: Rick in track and field (discuss, shot put); and Ed in baseball (shortstop, pitcher) and in basketball. He was actively involved in their activities, not only motivating and encouraging them, but also ensuring they were treated fairly.

In 1978, at the age of 37, Clarence heard the Word of Truth, the Gospel of

Salvation:

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also you received and wherein you stand. By which also you are saved, if you keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless you have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. And that he was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. (I Corinthians 14:1-4)

Clarence believed that Gospel, and he put his trust in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. Immediately after his conversion, he began searching the Scriptures diligently: studying at home; at Maryland Bible Institute; and at the Baltimore School of the Bible, where he and Bettie completed the Three-Year Program. He also earned a Doctorate in Theology from the Philadelphia Bible Institute and College.

Clarence and his family joined Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in 1978. Under the leadership of Pastor Nathaniel Sapp, he received water baptism; thereby publicly announcing that he had turned his back on sin and committed himself to following Jesus Christ. He also spent time under the pastorates of Dr. Ernest Flowers of the Open Bible Baptist Church; Min. Novell Deloatch of Believer's Chapel; and Dr. Purcell Edwards of Evangelical Baptist Church, where he remained until the Lord called him home.

The Lord gave Clarence a burden for lost souls and a passion for winning and teaching them to evangelize and to make disciples for Christ. He began at home witnessing to and teaching his wife and sons. Next, he shared the Gospel of Salvation with his mother, his siblings, and then with his in-laws. He also started home Bible studies where he invited family, friends, ministers, co-workers, and anyone who wanted to learn God's Word.

In 1984, the Lord called Clarence with a holy calling, not according to his works, but according to God's purpose and according to God's grace, to preach His Word. Clarence delivered his initial sermon, "Who Do Men Say

That I The Son of Man Am." (Matthew 16:13-17) on January 20, 1985 at Open Bible Baptist Church. Although that day was extremely cold, and the streets were snow-packed and icy, Clarence was not deterred from his mission. He delivered his message with the same exegesis and enthusiasm that came to exemplify his style of preaching.

Within a few weeks, Rev. Clarence Morton was sure that the Lord was calling him to the Ministry of Evangelism. He purchased luggage and prepared for a journey that took him from preaching in Maryland and other East Coast churches throughout the United States. From the inception of his ministry, Rev. Morton never failed in his commitment to preach the Word boldly, with simplicity, with conviction, and without compromise. The Lord blessed him with a unique style of expository preaching that incorporated his own personality and sense of humor with the truths of God's Word. He eagerly grasped every opportunity in order to defend his faith against the doctrines of false religions and cults.

The Lord equipped and used Rev. Morton in several ministerial capacities. He served in the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. as an instructor in the Ministers' Division of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and as a teacher for the Evangelistic Workshop of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. For many years, Reverend Morton taught from his book, *The Curse of The Cults*. He also served as Chairman of Evangelism for the United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries of Maryland, Inc.; Dean of the Interstate Baptist Alliance; and as an instructor at the Philadelphia Bible Institute and college. In addition, he held memberships in the Baptist Pastors' Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity and the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity.

The Lord gave Rev. Morton favor with many pastors and other preachers who shared his commitment to evangelism and who desired to enhance his ministries. In recognition of his faithfulness and his testimony for living right before the Lord, local Baltimore pastors and their congregations commenced holding annual services in his honor. In 1994, the first service was hosted by

the late Pastor Felton Williams at the New Second Baptist Missionary Church; followed by Pastor Purcell Edwards (Evangelical Baptist Church); Pastor Theodore D. Addison (Rising Zion Baptist Church); and later by Bishop Clifford M. Johnson (Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries).

In 2004, these efforts culminated in Rev. Morton founding the C.R. Morton Evangelistic Ministries, Inc. where he served as CEO and President. The church services then evolved into the C.R. Morton Evangelistic Ministries Banquet held annually at Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries (MD). Each year, pastors and other ministers and friends throughout the nation traveled to Baltimore to attend the annual banquets and to demonstrate their support for Rev. Morton's work in the Lord.

His last banquet was held Friday, May 3, 2013. Just one week later, Rev. Morton went into cardiac arrest in Baltimore. The Lord used his wife and son, Rick, to administer CPR and keep him alive. Within a few days, his younger son, Ed, joined them in watching over him and attending to his needs day and night.

After spending three-and-one-half months in several hospitals in Baltimore, MD, Bettie took him home to Virginia and daily cared for him through diagnoses of congestive heart failure, esophageal, cancer, aspiration pneumonia, and other related medical issues. During many hospitalizations, she was his advocate, constantly by his side; questioning his doctors; researching his treatments and medications; and doing whatever was needed to ensure he received the quality of care he deserved.

Intermittently, Rev. Morton was able to return to the pulpit-not with the same strength as before, but with same passion for preaching about his Lord and Savior. During his lengthy illness, Rev. Morton still retained his extraordinary wit and humor. He encouraged others rather than seek comfort from them. Whenever anyone would ask how he was doing, he would reply, "If I was doing any better, I would be you." Indeed, he had a servant's heart. Instead of complaining about his medical problems, he would ask, "What can I do for you?" even though physically he was able to do little for himself. He was still

the "connector," linking preachers across the country. If he didn't return a telephone call, it was only because he was too sick to do so.

The Lord blessed Rev. Morton and gave him five-and-one half years from the onset of his failing health. Then on November 18, 2018, he suffered a massive stroke and never regained consciousness.

Rev. Clarence R. Morton was an amazing man of God! He may be remembered as a Teacher, a Preacher, an Evangelist, an Author, a Revivalist, an Exhorter, a Friend; his legacy includes all those achievements, and so many more. His sincere desire was that he would be memorialized as a Servant of Jesus Christ.

Reverend Morton leaves to celebrate his life and cherish his memory: his devoted and loving wife, Bettie D. Morton; two sons, Clarence R. Morton and Edward L. Morton (Minerva); one grand-daughter, Nicole A. Morton; two sisters, Beverly R. Peterkin (Dwayne) and Bercille M. Richards (Derrick); one brother, Leroy H. Stanley (Cecilia); two sisters-in-law, Edna R. Scott and Angela N. Smoot (James); two brothers-in-law, Natlee H. Brooks (Tereasa) and Carl C. Brooks (Dorothy); and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Corrine E. Stanley.

# Cemetery Details

## Arbutus

1101 Sulphur Spring Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21227

# Previous Events

## viewing

MAR 22. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore  
1101 East North Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 727-3300  
info@marchfh.com

## Family Hour

MAR 22. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore  
1101 East North Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 727-3300  
info@marchfh.com

## Wake

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MAR 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH AND MINISTRIES  
6000 RADECKE AVE.  
BALTIMORE, MD 21206

## Service

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MAR 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mt. Pleasant Church and Ministries  
6000 Radecke Avenue  
Balto, MD 21206

# Tribute Wall



“ *Clarence R. Morton Sr.*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *I miss you dearly. You were my favorite (older) cousin! I am thankful for your wisdom & caring spirit. I am forever grateful for the relationship we had...I will always cherish it & your memory. Thank you for being more like an uncle to me than my actual uncles (your cousins). I'm sitting here wishing I could have one more conversation with you & thankful for every one that we had. Rest In Peace...*

*Kim*

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**Kim** - April 23, 2019 at 03:00 AM

DF

“ *Dr, Julia Johnson Sterrett*

*How do you measure the spirit of a man? One who gave joyfully in ministry and the Word? Morton was another brother, a man with a ready smile, a purveyor of the Word of God; not just from the pulpit, but through his everyday life. Betty was by his side through every lifetime endeavor and in the fulfillment of his ministry. And she was there through his most important transition to his New Life. He treasured his wife and sons, who blessed his life immensely. While we mourn the absence of his physical presence on earth, we celebrate his presence with the Lord and his freedom from bodily pain. Thank you God for the gift of Rev. Morton in my life, my brother Nathaniel's, and to the greater Church on earth. Much love to his entire family.*



*Julia Johnson Sterrett & Family*

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**Dr. Julia Johnson Sterrett & family** - March 30, 2019 at 08:34 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clarence R. Morton Sr..*



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March 22, 2019 at 11:03 AM

TY

“ *The Mortons: Leslie, Patricia, Benjamin, & Yvette purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Clarence R. Morton Sr..*



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**The Mortons: Leslie, Patricia, Benjamin, & Yvette** - March 21, 2019 at 10:09 AM

RE

“ *Our hearts ache. This giant of a man has gone to see The King he preached about for so long. I am so thankful to have had a glimpse of his life. Now, he and my dad and Rev. Williams are together again. Sending our love to his beautiful wife and all who love him.*



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**Robyn Evans** - March 18, 2019 at 10:55 AM

DS

*How do you measure the spirit of a man? One who gave joyfully in ministry and the Word? Morton was another brother, a man with a ready smile, a purveyor of the Word of God; not just from the pulpit, but through his everyday life. Betty was by his side through every lifetime endeavor and in the fulfillment of his ministry. And she was there through his most important transition to his New Life. He treasured his wife and sons, who blessed his life immensely. While we mourn the absence of his physical presence on earth, we celebrate his presence with the Lord and his freedom from bodily pain. Thank you God for the gift of Rev. Morton in my life, my brother Nathaniel's, and to the greater Church on earth. Much love to his entire family.*

*Julia Johnson Sterrett & Family*

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**Dr, Julia Johnson Sterrett** - March 18, 2019 at 11:52 AM

RJ

*My prayers are with his family. Good friend and good brother.  
Rev. Ryan Johnson*

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**Ryan Johnson** - March 23, 2019 at 08:21 AM

RE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Robyn Evans** - March 18, 2019 at 09:59 AM

PL

“ Offering sincere condolences, no doubt this is a difficult time for the family. May you put trust in the many promises our Heavenly Father says will soon come about and allow that wonderful hope to comfort you in the days ahead. (John 11:25; Ps. 37:29)

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**Peggy Land** - March 16, 2019 at 02:16 PM

VA

“ *Bettie,*

*We continue to keep you and the family in our thoughts and prayers.*

*We will never forget Clarence for he was a true friend to Lang and I.*

*May our God comfort you during your grief.*

*Love,*

*Lang and Valeria*



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**Valeria** - March 16, 2019 at 01:34 AM



“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

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**March Funeral Homes** - March 14, 2019 at 03:11 PM