



A Lasting Legacy

Superintendent Toney L. McNair, Sr., and District Missionary Emerita Verna L. McNair understood the legacy that God had planned for them and their family. Residing in the Norfolk and Chesapeake, VA, God blessed them and their children with gifts and talents that would benefit others for decades to come. The McNair family understood as a young Christian family in the Mother Church of God in Christ, now Mason Memorial Church of God in Christ (COGIC), that "...we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesian 2:10, MEY). Thus, the journey began, and so did the legacy.

With their young Children: Toney, Jr., Duane, Gregory, Karen, and Christopher, they held firm to Co-lossians 3:23-24 (MEY), "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. For you serve the Lord Christ." Superintendent and District Missionary Emerita McNair began to learn from the leadership of Bishop D. Lawrence Williams and his cabinet, Pastor of the Mother Church, and Dr. Mary Mays Featherston, a leader of the Church of God in Christ at the local, state, and national levels. It was under their leadership and training that both Superintendent and District Missionary Emerita became ministerial credential holders, him becoming an ordained Elder and her becoming an Evangelist Missionary.

Superintendent McNair's Christian service spans 60 years and more. He served as pastor of seven churches from the Tidewater area of Virginia to the mountains of the Roanoke Metropolitan, western Virginia area while still a member of the Mother Church of God in Christ. In 1979, he founded Christ Cathedral COGIC, Virginia, Second Jurisdiction, where evangelism was a key element of the ministry. Additionally, he served as a pastor in the Norfolk District COGIC where he served as Assistant Superintendent and Interim Superintendent. District Missionary Emerita McNair worked diligently in the local, state, and national church levels as well. She served as a pastor's wife for more than 40 years, yet 60 years and more in ministry. At Christ Cathedral COGIC, she was also the Superintendent of the Sunday School Department. She ministered to many through a Sunday Morning Radio Broadcast with her Grandson Elder Gregory L. McNair, Jr., and she was the coordinator for the Women's Department.

Superintendent Toney L. McNair, Sr., and District Missionary Emerita Verna L. McNair have both worked in the Virginia Second Jurisdiction and the Church of God in Christ International for more than 50 years. Superintendent McNair has held numerous positions which includes Treasurer for the State Retreat, Second Vice President of the COGIC High Rise Apartments for the Elderly, Chief Adjutant of Virginia Second Jurisdiction, Speaker in the National AIM Conference, Chairman of the International COGIC Communion Preparation; Delegate for National General Assembly. Mother McNair, as she is affectionally known, served as a former District Missionary in the Women's Department of the Iconic Second Jurisdiction of Virginia for nearly 35 years. She presently serves as the Secretary of the Women's Department of the Iconic Virginia Second Jurisdiction, which she has served for more than 40 years. Mother McNair also serves as the Executive Secretary of the International District Missionary Unit COGIC, while serving in that capacity for more than 30 years assisting the Unit's late President, District Missionary, Dr. Rosella Burks. What stands out about this dynamic duo is that they've had the privilege of serving four jurisdictional prelates: (1) Bishop D. Lawrence Williams, (2) Bishop Samuel L. Green, Jr., (3) Bishop Wilbert L. Daniels, Sr., and (4) Bishop Michael B. Golden, Jr., and their respective State Supervisors. Today, they are blessed to be serving in ministry with their son and daughter-in love, Superintendent and Pastor Duane S. McNair, Sr. and District Missionary Emerita Velma McNair, and the Better Life Church of God in Christ Family.

They understand there will be a lasting legacy as they honor the lives of their children, grand children, and great grand children:

* Reverend Dr. Toney L. McNair, Jr., and Mrs. Angela McNair, [Jason, Jessica, Ledre, Carlos](Associate Minister, Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC)

* Superintendent Duane S. McNair, Sr. and District Missionary Emerita Velma McNair [Duane Jr., Jonathan] (*Better Life COGIC, Chesapeake, VA*)

* Pastor Gregory L. McNair, Sr., Missionary Yolanda McNair [Gregory Jr., Geoffrey, Kyla, Kyle] (*God's Harvest Community Church, Perris, CA*)

* Reverend Dr. Karen P. McNair

(*Next Steps and Discipleship Director, and Dean, Calvary Bible Institute, Washington, DC*)

* Elder Christopher T. McNair

(*Executive Administrator, Greater Emanuel Temple COGIC, Hampton, VA*)

The legacy is capsulated in their five children, 10 grandchildren, some of whom serve in leadership (pastorate roles, etc.), and from state/federal government to International roles in COGIC.

* Elder Gregory L. McNair, Jr. and Dr. Casaundra McNair [Devin, DeShun, Dejah]

(*Greater Emanuel Temple COGIC, Hampton, VA*)

* Pastor Duane S. McNair, Jr., and Missionary DiMika McNair [Duane, III, Mikayla, Madison]

(*Trinity Temple COGIC*)

* Elder Jonathan L. McNair, Sr., and Mrs. Kezia McNair [Jonathan, Jr., William]

(*Executive Pastor, Better Life COGIC*)

* Pastor Geoffrey L. McNair, Sr., and Elder LaKesh McNair [Geoffrey, Jr., Derrick, Chloe, Morgan, Kingston]

(*Pastor, Remedy Church of Dominion International, Suffolk, VA*)

* Rev. Jason L. McNair, M.Div. and Mrs. Belaun S. McNair [Zoe, Zuri, Zephaniah]

Superintendent Toney L. McNair, Sr., and District Missionary Emerita Verna L. McNair are also blessed to have 2 great-grandchildren who have embraced their mantle of service to the Lord.

God has rewarded the seed of Superintendent Toney L. McNair, Sr., and District Missionary Emerita Verna L. McNair as stated in Psalms 127:3 (NIV) "Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him." The endearing legacy of love and service of the McNair family is rooted in the Word of God. 1 Peter 4:10 "As everyone has received a gift, even so serve one another with it, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." (MEV)