



Rev. Joe Coleman

September 20, 2017

The Rev. Joe Coleman, the former pastor of Greater Nazarene Missionary Baptist Church in Toledo, died Sept. 20 at ProMedica Ebeid Hospice Residence, Sylvania. He was 89.

He died after a brief bout with pneumonia, his daughter, Margaret Coleman, said.

Mr. Coleman was pastor of Greater Nazarene at North Detroit Avenue and Ambia Street in the central city for 20 years from 1979, when he was installed as the pastor shortly after being ordained, until 1999, when he retired. Before that, he was a deacon at People's Missionary Baptist Church at 1101 Heston St. for several years.

In the mid-1990s, Mr. Coleman retired after working for about 15 years on the assembly line for General Motors Co.'s Alexis Road transmission plant. He was previously a bricklayer with Laborers Local 500 for about 20 years.

He held a bachelor of religious education degree, a bachelor of theology degree, and a doctor of divinity degree, all from the Union Baptist Seminary in Birmingham, Ala.

"He loved doing church work. He loved preaching the Gospel. He loved

singing. And he loved helping anyone who needed assistance," said his son, the Rev. Clarence Coleman, who took over as the pastor of Greater Nazarene after his father retired.

"Church was very important to him and he raised all of his children in the church," his son said.

The elder Mr. Coleman was a member of the Ohio New Life Baptist District Association, where he was a past moderator, and of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Toledo and Vicinity, where he was a past lecturer.

He sang with other representatives of Toledo baptist churches in the City Wide Male Chorus for about 30 years, from the early 1960s through the early 1990s.

"He passionately loved being a minister," his daughter said. "He was a Godly man. He had a very kind and gentle spirit, And he had a very infectious smile. He loved everybody and everybody loved him."

Mr. Coleman was born Sept. 14, 1928, in Paris, Tenn., to Will and Elnora Coleman. He was raised on a family farm, helping his father run it.

He graduated from high school in Paris about 1946 and continued working at the farm until 1951, when he came to Toledo seeking better job opportunities, his daughter said.

Later that year, he met and married Arnold Moye. They had three children. She died in 1996.

Three years later, he married the former Barbara Holloway. Later that year, they moved to Murray, Ky., because he wanted to be near his brother and

sister, his daughter said.

The couple stayed there for about two years and then came back to Toledo in 2001 after Mr. Coleman's brother died. While in Murray, Mr. Coleman was installed as pastor of Free Will Baptist Church and held that position for about two years until he retired again just before he moved back to Toledo, his son said.

Besides his first wife, he was preceded in death by seven brothers and four sisters.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara; sons, the Rev. Clarence Coleman and Robert Moye, Sr.; daughters, Margaret Coleman and Linda Coleman; six grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

Visitation will be at 4 p.m. Thursday at Dale-Riggs Funeral Home Chapel, 572 Nebraska Ave. and 10 a.m. Friday at Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, 640 Indiana Ave., where services will be at 11 a.m. Friday.

The family suggests tributes to a charity of the donor's choice.

Tribute Wall

PC

“ *Ms. Barbara, Margret, Linda and Clarence,
We were heartbroken to have missed the homegoing of Pastor Joe Coleman. He was a pillar at People's Baptist Church. We had every intention on being there but due to dealing with an extreme matter, simply had the wrong service information. Please accept our sincere condolences. A resolution was prepared and will be sent to the family.*

Pastor Michael Key & Peoples MB Church - September 30, 2017 at 07:56 AM

M.

“ *Please be encouraged:*

Truly I tell you today, you will be with me in paradise"

Luke 23:43)

m. - September 29, 2017 at 11:14 AM

M.

May Jesus our God of comfort continue to hold you all in the palm of His hand as you remember Pastor Coleman's life legacy. He will not be forgotten in the hearts of all who knew him. The Bible declares that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord", so although he is now alive and well in Heaven, he will not be forgotten in the hearts of all who knew him.

m. - September 30, 2017 at 09:48 PM

GW

“ To Clarence Margaret and Linda

I wish I could be there to be with you all at this time. Not be there for you to lean on and share in your sorrow but also to help celebrate the homegoing of one of GOD's great soldiers. Your dad was always on the front lines fighting for the gospel of Jesus and as GOD has promised he will get his reward for a job well done. We all can find resolve knowing we will see him again. Again to the family my thoughts and prayers are with you.



Guy

Guy Wright - September 29, 2017 at 09:18 AM

TC

“ To Clarence and the Family of Rev. Joe Coleman:

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on your father's passing. I'm sorry that I could not share my thoughts directly with you during the visitation.

May God be with you all during this time of great sorrow.

Tom Crothers - September 28, 2017 at 10:02 AM