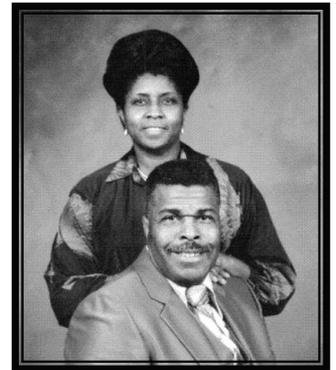


Superintendent Arsell Bell 1928-2007

Arsell Bell was born on February 29, 1928 in Starkville, Mississippi to the late John Robert Bell and Mary Neely Bell the 10th of twelve children that the Bell family was blessed with. He relocated to Buffalo, New York in 1944. Although Arsell only attained an elementary school education he was an intelligent and acquired a strong work ethic. At a young age he worked with his parents to help care for the family. On June 30, 1951 Arsell married the late Geneva Jones. To this union nine children were born.



A former deacon of State Tabernacle Church, Arsell was called to the gospel ministry and ordained a minister in 1953. In 1963 he was appointed pastor of State Tabernacle Church founded by his aunt and uncle, Elder Robert and Mother Charlotte Brown, serving a congregation which now has more than 500 parishioners. Under the administration of former presiding prelate and general board member Bishop Leroy R. Anderson, Elder Bell was appointed superintendent of the ninth district of the *New York Western First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction* where he served faithfully through the transition and now under the leadership of presiding Bishop James R. Wright for more than thirty five years.



Elder Bell was a pillar in the community, the church and his family and has for more than forty years feed the hungry; clothed the naked; comforted the broken hearted; sheltered the homeless; cared for the widows and fatherless. He has been an anchor and a beacon of hope for many who crossed his way. Elder Bell was a man who command respect from his family and the community at large. He lived the life he preached about. He was a generous man but nobody's fool. A man after God's own heart, Elder Bell nurtured God's people with the life giving word. He showed the same love and affection for his natural and spiritual family. Although he was not the oldest he has for a long time carried the mantle as patriarch of the Bell family. Proverbs speaks of the woman whose children arise and call her blessed. Elder Bell, every inch a man, positioned himself where not only his children but grand and great grand children arise and call him blessed. Elder Bell was a constant source of inspiration to young and old alike. Even in the final days of his illness as he became weary from the perils of life he held to his faith just as Job did only to say "YES LORD". Elder Bell fought the good fight of faith. On November 21, 2007 at 6:30 Pastor Arsell Bell entered into eternal rest to be with the in whom he had put his trust for over seventy years.

