



SIMON GRAY SR.

June 15, 1922 - December 10, 2012

Simon Gray Sr., 90, of Kankakee, IL, departed this world on Monday, December 10, 2012 at Provena St. Mary's Hospital in the presence of his family after being ill for a period of time. Visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at Lax Mortuary and again on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 from 10:00 am until time of Funeral services at 11:00 am at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in Kankakee, IL. Pastor C Ramfnt Morris will officiate. Burial will be in Mound Grove Gardens of Memory.

Simon Gray Sr. entered this life on June 15, 1922 in Crawford, Mississippi. He was born to Moses A. Gray and Mary M. Mosely Gray.

He confessed a belief in Christ at Charity Missionary Baptist Church in Crawford, Mississippi at an early age and in 1977 became a member of the Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, in Kankakee, IL. Here he served as a Deacon for many years and was later recognized as an Honorary Deacon. He was a part of the Sunday School Department and its office, a crossing guard for VBS and a working participant in the Deacon and Mother's Alliance.

Simon was united in Holy Matrimony to the former Bertha Mae Rice on April 15, 1952. From this union nine wonderful children were born.

Simon was a member of The True Lodge #158 and worked as a line operator for the General Foods Corporation and retired after 35 years of service.

He has been a resident of the Kankakee area for many years and will be remembered most for his devotion to his wife and family, his bold witness to Christ, his dutiful work in the church, his awesome ability to divide the word of truth, visiting the sick, mentoring men at the ASA (men recovering from substance abuse), his golfing abilities, his commanding voice and strong grip.

He leaves to carry on his legacy, his children, Simon Jr. (Reмония) Gray of Bourbonnais, IL, Berneita Barnes of Joliet, IL, Arthur (Doretha) Gray of Memphis, TN, Pastor Herbert (Audrey) Gray of Park Forest, IL, Timothy (Elaine) Gray of Kankakee, IL, Diane Gray of Flint, MI, Rodney Gray of Kankakee, IL, and Alvita (Enrico) Calhoun of Kankakee, IL; 24 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; one sister and two brothers, Nettie Bell of Flint, MI, Johnnie (Virginia) Gray Sr. of Otisville, MI, and Odis Gray of Flint, MI; sisters in-law and brothers in-law, Earnestine Gray of Flint, MI, Marjorie Gray of East St. Louis, IL, Clara Mitchell of Chicago Heights, IL and Robert Rice of Gordo, AL; special nieces and nephews Mary Dulaney of Flint, MI, Mary Tucker of Swartz Creek, MI and Annie Harris of St. Louis, MO, Arthur Blair Sr. of Columbus, Mississippi and JB O'Neal of Flint, MI; special sons and daughters, Pastor C. Ramon Morris and Fred Houston both of Bourbonnais, IL, Betty J Brooks of Starkville, Mississippi, Chandria (Mark) Purnell of Rosedale, MD, Leon King, Donald Brooks, Phyllis Howery, Bridgette Underwood, Addie Ervin, Brenda Ervin, J. Delinda Watson and Sybil Watson all of Kankakee, IL; Goddaughters, Angel Smith of Charlotte, NC, and Anjya Williams of Kankakee, IL and a host of family, friends and loved ones.

Waiting to greet him on the other side are his parents, Moses and Mary Gray, his loving and devoted wife, Bertha Mae Gray, one daughter, Veretta Gray,

one grandson, Jeremy A. Gray, four brothers, Moses Gray Jr., James Gray, Jethro Gray Sr. and LaGree Gray, and four sisters, Harriet Dickerson, Josie Mae Hairston, Bessie Will O'Neal and Hattie Harris.

We also would like to acknowledge Catholic Charities, Provena St. Mary's Hospital staff and nurses, the office of Dr. Ahmed and staff, Addus Healthcare, Our Lady of Victory and Provena Heritage who helped us to care for our Dad.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2Timothy 4:6-8

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *Sorry for your loss.*

Debra Howery - December 25, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *I'm sorry for your loss my prayers are with the family.*

RENEE WILLIS-FULTON - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ *Sorry to here about the passing of Deacon Gray. My prayers are with you during this time of sorrow.*

Elayne Coffie - December 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VJ

“ *Diane Gray and Family,*

On behalf of the Jean-Charles Family we wanted to take the time out to extend our deepest condolences for the passing of your father, Mr. Simon Gray Sr. Although he is now home with the Lord, I know that he left you and the family

Vladimir Jean-Charles - December 19, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ *My deepest sympathy to each of you in the passing of your father and grandfather. May God continue to smile on you and give you peace is my prayer*

Carolyn Rice - December 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ I am truly sorry for our family's loss. My uncle and his booming voice will be missed :) We love you and you are in our prayers during this difficult time. The Anderson Family in Nashville, TN

Tanya Gray-Anderson - December 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HA

“ Our prayers are with the family.

Hugh, Verlean & Keenan Andrews - December 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ To the Family of Deac. Simon Gray, We pray God will continue to comfort and strenghten you during this time.

Deac. Allen and Brenda Gray - December 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

T(

“ A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children. Proverbs 13:22 Deacon Gray left not only a good name but a rich legacy of sacrificial service to his family and the community. Praying for the family during this season of grief. Love you a

the Copeland Family (Rockford) - December 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ To Goat, and the entire Gray family, May GOD comfort you during this difficult time. With so many memories of all of you in the years past, I thank GOD for your family, Love you!

Sharon Griffin Dixon - December 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RU

“ Simon, I am sorry for your loss, my prayers are with you and your family.

Raymond Underwood - December 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ May God hold you close and wipe your tears and may your sweet memories bring smiles during this sad time.

Mary (Otten) Thomson - December 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ Diane and family,
May the space in your hearts that you filled with your Dad's presence be filled with the joy that only our God can provide as you remember your Dad and know that God has welcomed him home.

Betsy Dierberger - December 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AI

“ Sorry about your lost, his good was needed upstairs. I never got to know him personally, but I know he raised some good kids.

Arthur S. Nickens II - December 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ To Rodney,Alvita & The Entire Gray Family. I offer my sincerest condolences to you guys. I pray that God will give you peace & comfort during these most difficult times. Love you all!!

Tamika McCaleb&Family - December 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *My heart goes out to you all in your time of bereavement, You all are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Nadia Whitlow and Family - December 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ *To Timmy and the Gray family, God Bless you all I have you in my prayers.*

Clif Riley - December 17, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *My condolences to the family on the passing of my uncle. May God give you what you need at this time and his blessing be with you as my prayer are.*

Craig M.Gray - December 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ *My sincere condolences to the Gray family in the passing of your loved one Deacon Simon Gray Sr. I feel a void that cannot be described, but yet, I know that Mr. Gray is in the right place with our heavenly Father. May you find peace in the coming days an*

Patricia Jamison - December 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ *My Prayers are with you all.*

Shelley Doggett - December 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Sorry for your loss. I will keep you in my prayers for strengh and comfort during this time.*

Cornilya Farrell and Family - December 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ *Alvita you and your family are in my prayers. Your father is living the life right now !*

Keisha Avant - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ *To the gray family, sorry for your loss, stay strong and god bless you all.*

Tyra Ledbetter - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Praying for your strength and comfort during this time.*

Deborah Bailey - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *We would like to extend our sympathy and sincere condolences. Your family will be in our thoughts and prayers. Wishing you peace as you grieve this loss.*

Pamela Smith and Family - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *may God keep Blessing your family in your time of grief*

the Bennett Family - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *My prayer is, God will grant you peace, will comfort your hearts, & know that He is with you, & will never leave you. Trust God.*

Bernice Wats - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ To the Gray Family, No words can take away the loss of Your "Loved" One! Stay Strong & Know that GOD will wipe away "all Your tears"!
We will be praying for you!!!
Love to all!!!

Debi & Victor Brown - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WT

“ Sorry to hear about mr.gray my prayers goes out to you and your family. And I haven't seen u guys in a long time simon, arthur, and benita

willie tanzy - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ I'm going to miss you buddy. The only one who kept us on our toes at St. Mary's. Deac you got your reward.

Torrie Carter - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ GOD bless u all

minnie brewer brewster - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ WE ARE SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

malone family - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Our prayers are with you and for the strength of your family...But through it all just remember that HE loves you and HE cares and HE'll never put more on you than you can bear. We love you all cousin...God will continue to Bless and Keep you all.

Clarise Mitchell & Family - December 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM