



Evangelist Louise D. Patterson

Louise D. Patterson was a native of Memphis, TN. She grew up in The Foote Homes and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. She was the wife of the late Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson, former Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ. She was a dedicated member and a licensed Evangelist within the COGIC denomination. Her commitment to God's work on earth and expanding her husband's ministry gained her national recognition among various ecumenical and public organizations and ministries.

Sister Patterson believed that all things should be done to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31) and her life was a vivid example of this belief.

Her Commitment to the Church

Sister Louise was actively involved in a number of church ministries. She played a vital role in the Bishop's Wives Circle. The International Sunday School Department named its annual pageant in her honor. She and Bishop Patterson yearly sponsored a pastors and wives dinner hosting upwards of 5,000 individuals during the Holy Convocation of the Church of God In Christ.

For many years, Sister Patterson taught Sunday school at the church her husband founded, Temple of Deliverance Church of God In Christ (Memphis, TN). It was through teaching Sunday school that God led her to redesign the structure and materials for the new members' class. Her innovative model and approach to new member orientation is still used among other religious congregations.

Sister Louise recognized the worldwide influence of her husband, and understood that people from across the country enjoyed visiting Temple of Deliverance Church. She organized the volunteer department and under her leadership developed a volunteer tour guide program for the church. The volunteer department grew from 80 to 800 in the span of five years.

Ministries to serve the needs of those in the church, as well as those outside of the church, were of special importance to Sister Patterson. She organized the church's Clothes Closet - a ministry committed to providing clothing free to needy individuals. She launched the annual Senior Citizens Dinner held every Christmas to recognize and provide gifts to the senior members of the church. The Overcomers Award was presented by Sister Patterson during the church's annual Women's Day to encourage women who have persevered through tremendous hardships and obstacles.

Sister Patterson had a uniquely genuine artistic eye. Her creative handiwork was prevalent throughout the Temple of Deliverance worship center's decor.

Her Commitment to Community Service

Community service was at the forefront of Sister Patterson's life. She and her late husband contributed thousands of dollars in scholarship money to help many young people across the country attend college. Sister Louise was a frequent contributor to the International Dress for Success silent auction, donating items from her personal wardrobe admired for their distinctive style and superior quality. She was a mentor to many young women locally and across the country. She was an advisor to many pastors' wives and a symbol of strength to women across the world. She received countless awards and accolades for her humanitarian work.

Sister Patterson founded The Total Woman Women's Conference to highlight national crises in the African American community. The TWWC drew women from across the U.S. inspiring them to take action against the social, physical and spiritual ills affecting our community.

For many years, Sister Patterson was seen every Sunday on many Christian networks as well as non-Christian-focused television stations introducing her husband's ministry to thousands of viewers of the Bountiful Blessings telecast.

Sister Patterson was the president of the board of directors for Bountiful Blessings, Inc. She also served as general manager of WBBP radio station and president of Podium Records.

Her Commitment to Life

Sister Louise was blessed with the spirit of restoration. Her favorite leisure activity was redesigning furniture. She re-engineered many pieces granting them new purpose and life. Her love for rejuvenation moved beyond inanimate objects to that of helping to restore the lives of men and women who are spiritually broken. Sister Patterson was known to spend inexhaustible hours encouraging others and directing souls to Christ - the true restorer of hope and healing.

Until her passing in 2022, Mrs. Patterson worked tirelessly to continue her husband's legacy. She spearheaded the effort to erect an eternal flame in his honor currently located at the entrance of the Temple of Deliverance Church. The flame burns 24- hours a day to remind all who look upon it that a man of God willingly devoted his life to the everlasting service of God.