

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE HONORING

Interment

Eastlawn Cemetery
1340 Woodland Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43219

Pallbearers

Mr. Alonzo Edmundo Lemon ~ Mr. Lawrence Lemon
Mr. Rennell Mahone ~ Mr. Dwight Williams II

Honorary Pallbearers

Mr. Randy Burley ~ Mr. David Hall ~ Mr. George Valentine

Flower Bearers

Granddaughters and Nieces

In Gratitude

During our time of sorrow, the family of Elder Ronald Baldrige McNabb, is deeply grateful for the many expressions of love, support, and kindness shown to our family.

A special thank you to Bishop Timothy J. Clarke and the First Church of God family; Bishop Leslie Patterson, Jr. and the First Sterling Church family; dear sister-in-laws, Reverend Nancy Jones and Nadine Williams; nephews, Alonzo Edmundo, Lawrence Lemon and Dwight Williams II; and special adopted sons, Randy Burley and Rennell Mahone.

We are especially thankful for the compassionate care provided by The Ashford on Broad, Brookdale Lakeview Crossing Assisted Living, and Capital City Hospice.

Your prayers, presence, and support have strengthened us, and we will forever remember your love.

— The Family of Elder Ronald B. McNabb

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

— Revelation 21:4

Elder Ronald Baldrige McNabb

FEBRUARY 16, 1937 — AUGUST 22, 2025

“THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; I SHALL NOT WANT.”
— PSALM 23:1



MARLAN GARY
FUNERAL HOME
1 FUNERAL HOME | 4 LOCATIONS

MINISTRY OF COMFORT ENTRUSTED TO:

NORTH CHAPEL
2500 CLEVELAND AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43211
614-267-8310

EAST CHAPEL
5456 LIVINGSTON AVE.,
COLUMBUS, OH 43232
614-604-8774

MANSFIELD CHAPEL
753 MCPHERSON ST.,
MANSFIELD, OH 44903
419-524-6999

SPRINGFIELD CHAPEL
823 SOUTH YELLOW SPRINGS ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45506
937-325-1447

WWW.THECHAPELOFPEACE.COM

Obituary

Elder Ronald "Ronnie" Baldrige McNabb, age 88, transitioned into eternal rest on Friday, August 22, 2025. His life was marked by faith, service, and love.

Early Life

Ronald was born on February 16, 1937, in Columbus, Ohio, the son of Wilbur "Mac" Gee and Cona Baldrige McNabb. He was the apple of their eye and was loved and pampered, though he also carried the sorrow of a sister who passed away after just one week of life. Faith, education, and culture were emphasized in his home, shaping the man he would become. He grew up in Columbus and graduated from The University High School in 1954. From an early age, Ronald developed a deep faith in God. In 1953, as a teenager, he was saved under the African Methodist Episcopal Church and later baptized by the Holy Spirit in 1955 in the Church of Christ. His lifelong commitment to Christ would guide both his personal journey and professional path.

Education and Credentials

Ronald's pursuit of learning was lifelong. His academic and professional training included:
Graduate of University High School (1954)
Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science (1957)
Bachelor of Religious Education, Aeon Bible College (1963)
B.S. in Social Work, The Ohio State University (1969)
Graduate studies at The Way Bible Research Center and Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Professional credentials:

Licensed Funeral Director & Embalmer (1958)
Ordained Elder, Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (1963)
Licensed Social Worker (1969)
Licensed Insurance Agent (1986)
Ordained Minister, Church of God, Anderson, IN (1999)

Family Life

Ronald was united in marriage to Clara Foster, and from this union came three children: Ronald James "Jimmie" McNabb, Sheila Mae McNabb-Tuck (Kim Neal, her partner and first husband), and Dr. Catherine Elizabeth McNabb. After this marriage ended, Ronald reunited with his childhood friend Sybil T. Edwards, and together they shared more than 30 years of marriage, ministry, and community service. Through this union, he also lovingly embraced two stepdaughters: Truphelia M. (Reginald) Parker and the late Tuwanda P. Sherman-Cole. His legacy continues through his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who brought him immense joy.

Faith and Ministry

A man of deep conviction, Elder McNabb dedicated his life to God's service. He taught at several Bible colleges and was instrumental in establishing Aeon Bible College in Columbus, Ohio, during the late 1960s and 1970s. He was ordained as an Elder at the Church of Christ of Apostolic Faith. He was a longtime member of the Church of Christ of the Apostolic Faith, later Greater Christ Temple. He was later ordained as a Minister in the Church of God, serving faithfully for many years as Minister of Christian Education at then Northside Church of God (later Northside Deliverance Church of God). In his later years, he became a devoted member of First Church Sterling (Sterling, Virginia), where he actively participated in the Men's and Senior Ministries. He cherished his fellowship there and often spoke of his admiration for Bishop Leslie Patterson. One Sunday after service, Ronald complimented the Bishop on his tie. Without hesitation, Bishop Patterson removed the tie from his neck and placed it in Ronald's hand—a gesture Ronald treasured deeply.

Grands and Greats



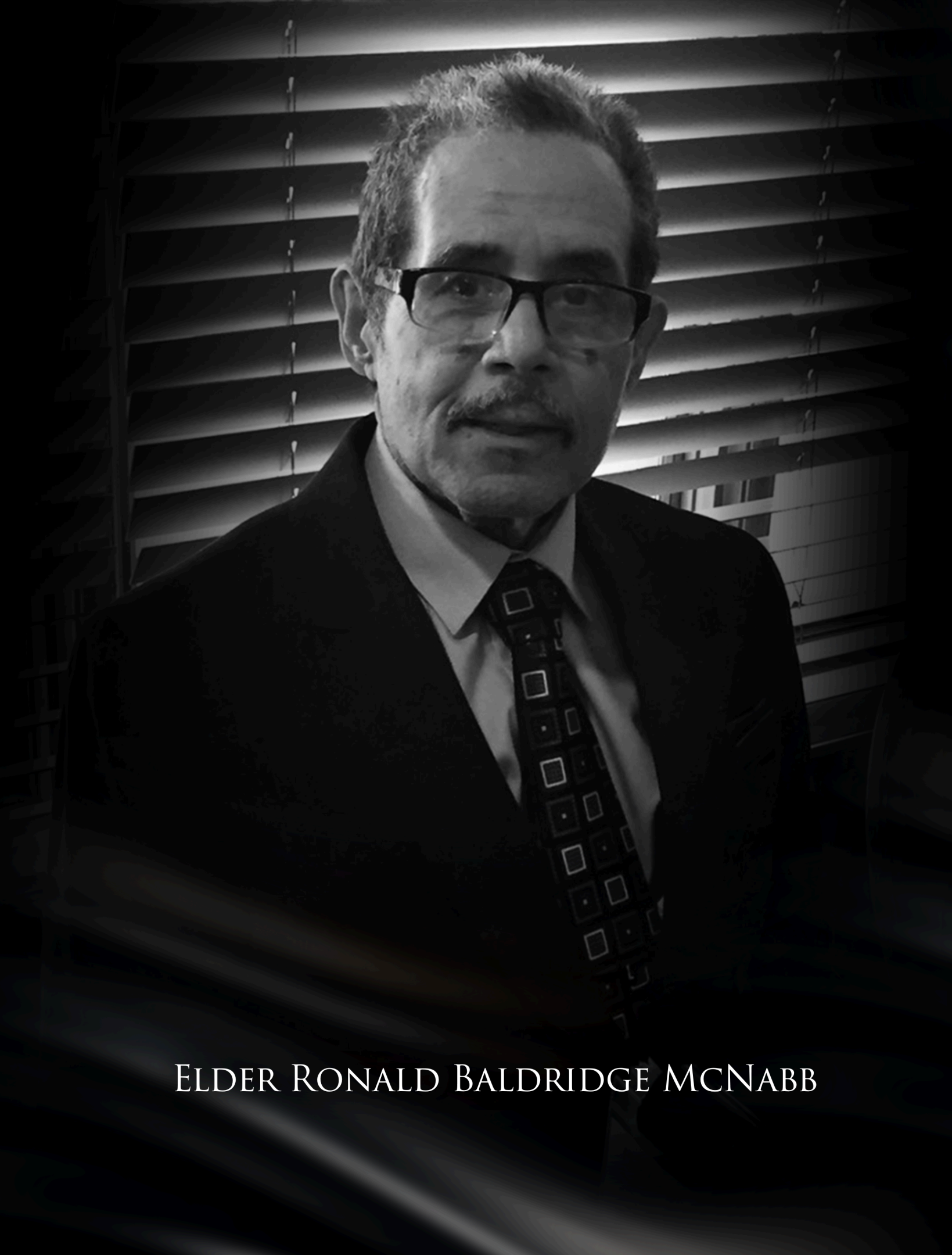
A Life Well Lived

*We gather here to honor one,
Whose earthly journey now is done.
A life of meaning, love, and grace,
Whose light no time can now erase.*

*Though seasons change and years move on,
The gifts you gave will still live strong.
In hearts you touched, your spirit stays,
A guiding star through all our days.*

*So rest in peace, your work complete,
Your legacy is both kind and sweet.
Today we honor all you gave,
A cherished life, so full, so brave.*





ELDER RONALD BALDRIDGE MCNABB

Professional Life

Ronald served as President and CEO, Funeral Director, and Embalmer of the historic McNabb Funeral Home, Incorporated—one of the first Black-owned funeral homes in Columbus, Ohio. Founded in 1942 by his father, Wilbur G. McNabb, and G. Harold Williams, the funeral home became a pillar of the Columbus community for more than 72 years. Ronald apprenticed under his father and later assumed leadership as President, guiding the business with pride and professionalism. Under his leadership, many funeral directors who now serve across the country launched their careers at McNabb Funeral Home, carrying forward the values of dignity, excellence, and service instilled in them during their time there. For the Black community, McNabb Funeral Home was more than a business—it was a source of dignity, employment, and legacy. Ronald and his father proudly represented the funeral home in the Coming Home Celebration Festival and parade, riding with pride down Long Street. During his marriage to Sybil, they worked hand-in-hand for decades, serving families with compassion during their times of bereavement.

He also served for decades as Presiding Judge with the Franklin County Board of Elections, safeguarding the democratic process. Additionally, he was appointed by the Governor of Ohio to two terms on the Ohio State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

Civic and Professional Leadership

Ronald's dedication to service extended far beyond his ministry and profession. He believed deeply in uplifting his community and advancing opportunities for others. A respected leader and mentor, he gave generously of his time, talent, and wisdom to civic, professional, and faith-based organizations. Through these roles, he built bridges, strengthened institutions, and left a lasting mark on the city of Columbus and beyond.

Ronald held leadership roles in numerous organizations, including:

Past President, Ohio Embalmers Association

Past President, Buckeye State Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association

Charter Founder and Past President, Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (Columbus Chapter)

Ohio State Conference Chaplain, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

Member, Columbus Urban League, Better Business Bureau, National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, Capital City Association of Ministers, YMCA boards and clubs

Personal Life and Passions

Outside of ministry and profession, Ronald shared his love for music, travel, and laughter. He hosted a Saturday afternoon program as a disc jockey on WCVO Radio, 104.9 The River, sharing uplifting Christian music across Central Ohio. He had a deep love of hymns, and his distinct voice could always be heard clearly above the congregation.

He enjoyed traveling, reading extensively, and telling corny jokes that always brought joy to those around him. He was also a loyal fan of The Ohio State Buckeyes, often sporting his large scarlet and gray cowboy hat on game days.

Later in life, after the passing of his beloved wife Sybil, Ronald relocated temporarily to Northern Virginia. There, he shared a joyful season with his stepdaughter Truphelia, her husband Reginald, their sons, and his grandson Jordan. He delighted in his independence, often taking the bus daily to the Adult Day Center, where he became known for sharing his testimony and leading songs of praise.

Preceded in Death

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilbur "Mac" Gee and Cona Baldrige McNabb; wife, Sybil T. Edwards-McNabb; stepdaughter, Tuwanda P. Sherman-Cole; four sisters-in-law and six brothers-in-law; one niece; and three nephews.

Survivors

He leaves to cherish his memory:

Children: Ronald James "Jimmie" McNabb, Sheila Mae McNabb-Tuck, Dr. Catherine Elizabeth McNabb, and Truphelia M. (Reginald) Parker
Grandchildren: Julius Q. Neal, Kim L. (Tasha) Neal, Lucas L. Neal, Mekiah Eleazar, Niah Tuck, Porsha Neal, Jordan K. Cole, Reginald Parker II, and Renard Sherman Parker

Great-grandchildren: Destiny Oneal, Jamari Cameras, Jayondre Eleazar, Jayshawn Eleazar, Kylie Oneal, and Omari Cameras

Great-great-grandson: Machia Oneal
Sisters-in-law: Reverend Rhodell (George) Valentine, Reverend Nancy L. Jones, Nadine P. Edwards-Williams, and Earlene Edwards
A host of other relatives, friends, and extended family, including special adopted sons Randy Burley and Rennell Mahone

Closing Tribute

Elder Ronald Baldrige McNabb touched countless lives through his ministry, profession, and unwavering devotion to family and community. His faith, service, and love will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.



A Tribute to Dad Ron

I first met you when I was about sixteen years old. I still remember my beloved mother calling one of her “infamous family meetings” to announce that you two were getting married, and to decide what Tuwanda and I would call you. Somehow, we landed on “Dad Ron.” It stuck—not only for us, but even our friends started calling you that. You would gently correct them, reminding them you weren’t their Dad Ron. But for us, you truly were.

As I reflect on your transition, I do so with deep gratitude.

Your Role in My Life

I am thankful for the life you provided for my mother, sister, and me. Because of your love and care, I was free to dream boldly about my future.

Our Shared Memories

I will forever treasure our “rides” together while I ran my errands. You enjoyed taking in the Virginia views and new scenery—it was your way of finding joy in simple moments.

Life Lessons

You modeled the value of service. While you weren’t perfect, none of us is, I watched you and my mother work as a team to serve our community during times of loss. From you, I learned how to show kindness and compassion to others.

Spiritual Influence

I am grateful for your prayers, your words of wisdom, and your steadfast example as a man of faith. I especially cherish the traditions you introduced us to—like reading the story of Jesus’ birth aloud on Christmas morning before opening gifts. It’s a tradition I now carry into my own family.

Love for My Mother

Above all, I am most grateful for the way you loved my mother. Your partnership gave her the freedom to be the woman God created her to be and to serve in the way He destined. That love overflowed to our family, blessing us all.

Our Home Together

It was an honor to share our home with you. It was not always smooth and easy. I remember our youngest saying, “Granddad has to learn our ways,” and I replied, “and we have to learn his.” I am proud to say that we did. I am grateful for the heritage and example passed from my mother to me. As a child, I remember occasionally caring for my great-grandmother, Nana, in our home. I pray our sons carry a compassionate and servant’s heart with them for the rest of their lives because God allowed us to share space and time with you in our home—even if only for a little while.

For these reasons and so many more, I will always carry you in my heart with gratitude.

Love, Mickie

Order Of Service

PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL

HYMN OF FAITH - “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine”

SCRIPTURE READING

The Old Testament - The 23rd Psalm | The New Testament - John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort
Clergy, First Church of God

MUSICAL SELECTION - “Great is Thy Faithfulness”, Mrs. Camille Betton Williams

REMARKS (2 minutes, please)

Mr. James Washington
State President
Buckeye State Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association

Ms. Pamela Williams Biggs
The Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors

Dr. Derrick Lee Foward
President

Dayton Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Mr. Alfred A. Akainyah
Assistant Director of Community Affairs
Office of The Mayor
City of Columbus

MUSICAL SELECTION - “It is Well”, Mrs. Camille Betton Williams

FAMILY AND FRIENDS Tributes (2 minutes, please.)

Mr. Randy Burley, Adopted Son
Mr. Rennell Mahone, Adopted Son
Mr. Reginald Parker II and Mr. Renard Parker, Grandsons
Dr. Catherine Elizabeth McNabb, Daughter

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

THE OBITUARY - Read Silently / Soft Music

MUSICAL SELECTION - “How Great Thou Art”, Mrs. Camille Betton Williams

EULOGY

Bishop Timothy J. Clarke, Senior Pastor
First Church of God, Columbus, Ohio

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN - “When We All Get to Heaven”

CLOSING PRAYER
Clergy, First Church of God

RECESSIONAL - Clergy, Family, and Friends

*IN THE MORNING
WHEN I RISE*

*In the morning when I rise,
And I open my eyes but do not see you
I remember and I realize I must close them again.
Because I can only see you in my dreams.
Rest well from your labor my friend.
Until we meet again.
For it is no longer you who needs prayer it is I.*



THE MAN, THE PREACHER, THE MORTICIAN



DEAR'S YOUNG

SYBIL,

Today, I take you, not only as my lawful wedded wife, but, as the completion of myself; as the completion of the image of God of my body and soul; I receive you as my companion my helper, as well as my best friend. For in finding & reeking you, God's Word assures me, I have found good substance & obtain favour of the Lord. I need you, I need your love, I need your strength. You, Sybil, are my gift of grace from God, & I offer you up life, my protection, my prosperity. I will love you, cherish you, & ensure you in all seasons & circumstances, for as long as we both shall live.

