

## Obituary

Pastor Emeritus Joe E. Cole was born on July 2, 1932, to the late Clifton Cole and the late Dorothy Bolen in Paducah, Kentucky. He lived in Paducah for most of his young life and was educated in the Lincoln High School system. He loved sports and was very active in football and basketball, which he received letters in both. At the age of 12, he joined and was baptized at the Seventh Street Baptist Church, and this began his journey of serving the Lord. Pastor Cole married Carolyn Thomas and to that union had two daughters, Carla Ruff and Sharita Winstead. Pastor Cole served two years in the United States Army, 1954 through 1956 serving in France for 18 months and then was honorably discharged. He joined the Mason Order and was a loyal member for years obtaining a 32° rating.

When Pastor Cole returned to Paducah he married the love of his life, Tassie Lee Sloan, on April 24, 1957. He was so happy to finally be home with his wife and their young son Martin Cole. In 1964, they relocated to Mt. Clemens, Michigan and he began working at Ford Motor Company where he worked for 30 years before retiring in 1994. During this time, they were blessed with another son, Joe Edward Lathan and they loved him dearly. Pastor Cole joined Greater Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in Mt. Clemens, Michigan and stayed there for several years until he joined Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in 1975. In 1976, Pastor Cole became a Trustee and served in this position for five years. In January 1981, Pastor Cole was crowned a Deacon and served on that board for three and a half years.

In 1984, Pastor Cole was called to the Ministry under the leadership of Pastor John Lewis, Sr. His love for the Lord was evident by the life he lived and the many works he did at Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. In October 1997 Pastor Cole became interim pastor of Calvary until

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Pastor Lewis made his heavenly transition. He then was elected and ordained in 1998 as the Pastor of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. There he was very instrumental in rebuilding the Lord's house. Under his leadership the church grew in membership, he shared a special bond with his congregation, and they loved him dearly. Through hard work and faith in the Lord, in ten short years, the church was paid off and the mortgage papers were burned in celebration in October 2001. He also established the church's Library, the Reverend John W. Lewis, Sr. Fellowship Hall, the baptismal pool, the elevator and so much more. Pastor Cole's knowledge of God's Word was commendable, and he was steadfast in his belief and service to GOD. You couldn't have a conversation without him giving you a scripture for your situation to help you through it. Pastor Cole loved Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, but his first love was for the Lord.

Pastor Joe Cole made his heavenly transition on December 16, 2021, at McLaren Macomb Hospital with his son Martin Cole and granddaughter Marteen Cole by his side. He was preceded in death by his wife, Tassie Cole; his son Joe Lathan; his granddaughter Monica Levi; his son-in-law, Rowlaine Ruff; his parents Clifton Cole and Dorothy Patterson; two brothers, Ray E. "Baby Ray" Patterson and Robert Lee Patterson, Sr.; and three sisters, Geneva Combs, Pearlie Wesson, and Gladys Faye Patterson Thomas. He leaves to cherish his beloved memory to his son Martin "DeeDee" Cole (Dawn); his daughters Carla Ruff, Sharita Winstead and Robyn Lathan; 10 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren.

Pastor Emeritus Joe E. Cole's memory will be forever engraved in the hearts of his family, friends, and all those he made contact with during his unforgettable life and pastoral service.