

WASHINGTON STATE JURISDICTION WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT HISTORY

*A Working Document of the History of the Women's Work and Contributions
In the Building and Growth of our Jurisdiction*

Women Pioneers 1940 – Present

(Jurisdictional Supervisors, not included in this document)





CARRIE REESE

Mother Reese was a God Fearing, Christian woman, who loved God and family. She accepted Christ as her "Personal Savior" in 1920 and was filled with the precious Holy Ghost.

Mother Carrie Reese was married to Mr. Edward Reese, Sr. They were the parents of twelve children, six sons, and six daughters. In 1924, She and her husband stepped out on faith and moved from Mississippi to Seattle, Washington. When they first moved to Seattle, they lived in the North End of the city, the Ravenna area. "All Saints Hotel" Mother Reese was full of hospitality and entertained many of the saints. Her home was always open for the saints. Many of the founding pioneers stayed in her home. The founding pioneer of the Church of God in Christ, **Bishop C. H. Mason** stayed in her home. At one time, twenty-one church dignitaries were staying in her home. She would cook three meals a day. In addition to Bishop C. H. Mason, other saints who stayed with Mother Reese during the early 1940s included: Mother Lillian Coffey, Mother McGlothen, Bishop Oliver, Bishop Crouch, Bishop Douglas, and Bishop Roberts out of Chicago Illinois. Mother Oran, the famous blind pianist, visited the first State Convention. She spared no pain in making her home comfortable for the people of God. Mother Reese was known for her cooking. She could bake pies, cakes, and fry some chicken. She was an excellent cook, many of the saints lived with Mother Reese upon their arrival in the Seattle Area. Bishop Causey and his family, Mother Doretha O'Brien, Elder Colorado Douglas, Elder Searcy, Bishop Goodlow, and his wife stayed in Mother Reese's home upon their arrival to the State of Washington. The last house where Bishop C. H. Mason stayed in Seattle was located at 1735 25th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122, which was occupied by Mother Reese's granddaughters: Mrs. Almata Witherspoon and Ms. Bernice Jones. According to her granddaughter, Bernice Jones, Mother Reese's home was considered the "**All Saints Hotel.**"

"Loved and Respected"

Mother Reese was loved and respected by many saints as well as sinners. Mother Reese would walk in the taverns and the people would hide their drinks and she would come in preaching the Word of God. She was a teacher and loved talking about God. She was a witness to many and let many people to Christ. She was a saintly woman of God and lived the life she talked about. She departed this life on Sunday, December 20, 1981, at 8:10 p.m. at Swedish Hospital. She lived a long life and died at the age of 98 years old.



GENEVA TOLLIVER

(Aunt Gen)

Mother Geneva Tolliver was the first Church of God in Christ member to ever “touch the souls” in Washington State. She was fondly known as “Aung Gen.” Aunt Gen was a kind and considerate woman of God. She was an excellent teacher; she taught Sunday School and Bible Band at Madison Temple (the mother church) to the younger children and some of our family members (i.e., Almeta Witherspoon, James, L. C, Rueben, Otis Jones, and Willa Mae Reese).

Aunt Gen was never married, but she was a mother in Zion and was loved by many. She stayed in the back of the church on 21st and Jefferson where her brother, the late Bishop L. E. Tolliver was pastor at the time. Aunt Gen died on October 17, 1960

LULA M. POWELL

(State Chairlady)

1943 - 1967

Mother Lulla M. Powell came to Bremerton, Washington in 1943. She was a member of the church that was then pastored by Elder L. J. Greene. She moved to Yakama in 1945 and worshipped under J. M. Young and Elder N. Nobles. She served twelve years under State Supervisor, Moher Rita Douglas. She was appointed Assistant State Supervisor to the State Supervisor in 1964 by Bishop Van Goodlow. She was also Chairman of the Evangelist Board

WILLA REESE

(2nd Assistant Supervisor)

Mrs. Willa M. REESE Sunset, February 7, 2006, Mrs. he peacefully departed this life on February 7, 2006, surrounded by her loving family. Willa Reese worked as a registered nurse at Swedish Hospital for 30 years and retired in 1990. Mrs. Will Reese was an active member for 55 years at Madison Temple Church of God in Christ where he held various positions and was a loyal and faithful member until her death. Mrs. Reese served the Washington State Church of God in Christ as a District Missionary to District Number One under the leadership of Superintendent James M. Young. She remained a devoted, loyal, and resolute Assistant State Supervisor to Mother Gertrude Young, Jurisdictional Supervisor, of Washington State Church of God in Christ, until her death. She will forever be in the hearts and memories of all those who knew and loved her and who knew her noble sacrifices and achievements. She was more than a faithful wife and mother; she was a good soldier who fought a good fight.

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Bishops Wives 1940 – Present

(HUSBANDS NAMES IN RED)





ELIZABETH TOLLIVER

Bishop's Wife: 1926 - 1941

Mother Elizabeth Tolliver was the wife of the Auxiliary **Bishop Lafayette. E. Tolliver** of Hazelhurst, Mississippi. They lived at 403 26th N, Seattle, Washington. Bishop and Mother Tolliver started the mission at 424 21st. Avenue in 1943. She was by his side as he worked out four churches in Washington State (two in Tacoma and 2 in Seattle) between 1925 and 1941, Van Bishop Van Goodlow was appointed over Washington State. She continued by his side as continued to work with Bishop Goodlow. In 1942. The Lord blessed Bishop Tolliver to begin another as founder and pastor of Tolliver Temple until he was appointed Bishop of Alaska in 1951.



FRANKIE GOODLOW

Bishop's Wife: 1921 - 1942

Mother Frankie Goodlow, born 27 Jan 1888 in Fort Worth, Texas (the daughter of Bill Sassay and Tillie Taylor) was the first wife of **Bishop Van Goodlow** at the time he was called into the ministry around 1922. Married on March 30, 1921, in Alameda, California (ancestry.com), she was by his side for approximately fifteen years, prior to her passing. Mother Goodlow was blessed to be First Lady of several churches prior to her homegoing. Notable locations were Pittsburg, California, a tent in Bakersfield, California, and building and paying for the first church in Joaquin Valley, Weed and Oroville, California, Ellis Street Church in San Francisco, California, Washington, and Orgon (1967 Washington State Souvenir Book). Frankie Goodlow passed away on April 23, 1942, 2020 East John St., Seattle, Washington.

NOSILEE GOODLOW

Bishop's Wife: 1943 - 1967

Mother Nosilee Bailey Goodlow, (the daughter of James Young and Bessie White), married **Bishop Van Goodlow** on January 29, 1943, after the passing of his first wife, Frankie Kinlow. In addition to her many works alongside Bishop Goodlow, she was also appointed International President of the Home and Foreign Missions Women's Department; and was by his side until he departed this life on February 4, 1967. They had been married for 24 years. at which time, under his leadership, the state had grown to twenty-two churches and missions (1967 Washington State Souvenir Book).



TENNIE KINLOW

Bishop's Wife: 1967-1972

Tennie Smith married Thomas Jefferson Kinlow on Christmas day, December 25, 1923, in Dumas Arkansas. She served as First Lady of Holy Temple Church Of God In Christ for many years, and as her husband assisted Bishop Van Goodlow until his homegoing, after which she became First Lady of Washington State Church Of God In Christ after **Bishop T. J. Kinlow** was appointed to succeed Bishop Van Goodlow.



BERNICE ALTHEIMER

Bishop's Wife: 1972- 1977

Mother Bernice Altheimer, one of the pioneers of the Church of God in Christ in the Northwest area, was called from labor to reward on Wednesday, December 26, 2001. The Memorial service was Wednesday, January 2, 2002, at the COGIC Headquarters - 9201 Pacific Avenue - 11:00 AM.

Mother Altheimer, affectionately known as "NANA", was one of 11 children born to the late Henry and Mattie Sims, on May 25, 1917, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Nana married the love of her life, the late **Bishop R.E. Altheimer**, on June 3, 1934. To this union was born two children, Clarice Altheimer Hammond of Tacoma, WA, and Ernett Altheimer of Seattle, WA. In 1943 her family moved to the Pacific Northwest and settled in the Seattle area. Two years later they moved to Tacoma, WA. She and her late husband, Bishop Altheimer co-founded the Emmanuel Temple COGIC. The church was renamed "Altheimer Memorial" after the death of Bishop Altheimer as a memorial to him. So great was their impact on the city of Tacoma, that "G" Street (The block where the church is located was also renamed "Altheimer Street.") The church was established in 1945. Their motto was "Come with us and we will do you good." Mother Altheimer spent the next 56 years ensuring that this motto would ring true throughout the ages. Nana was an extraordinary lady. She was an elder's wife, pastor's wife, and a bishop's wife; all to her late husband, Bishop Altheimer. Yet with each one of these transitions, she never lost those qualities that endeared her to everyone she met. Through the years, Nana worked in various segments of her local church, the jurisdiction, and the national Church of God in Christ. Her entire life was centered around her family, her church, and all the people in need of her help. Her next passion was volunteering. Nana would seize every opportunity she could to volunteer; for which she received numerous awards, both local and state. She will be remembered by those who knew her best as a woman with a tremendous amount of love in her heart, and she gave it out in healthy doses every day. She fed the hungry and gave to the needy. She gave shelter to military families, encouraged the preachers, and served her church and community well.

Lovingly submitted by the Altheimer Memorial Church



LOIS WESTBROOK

Bishop's Wife: 1957 - 2012

The Lord called Mother Lois Inez (Kinlow) Westbrook, 84, home on February 9, 2012, with her husband of 68 years, **Bishop T.L. Westbrook**, by her side.

Lois was born on April 29, 1927, to Rev. William and Louise Kinlow Sr., in the town of Pickens, Arkansas. As a young woman, she attended Gourd Church of God in Christ under the pastoral guidance of Superintendent F. LaFlora. She married the love of her life, Tommy Lee Westbrook, on August 31, 1943, at the age of 16. They started a mission in Cole Spur, Arkansas. She and her husband moved to Tacoma, Washington in 1956 and founded the New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ in 1957. As a mother of 13, she and her husband successfully parented 11 living children. She was preceded in death by her parents Reverend William and Mrs. Louise Kinlow, two children, and one sister, Retha Mae Watson. She is survived by her devoted husband, Bishop T. L. Westbrook, and her children Tommy Lee Jr. (Milwaukee, WI), Evelyn Ruth (San Bernardino, CA), Louis Andrew (Angelique), Glenda Louise (Hank), Milton (Las Vegas, NV), Kelvin Ray (Valerie, St. Louis, MO), Jacqueline (Derrick, Temecula, CA), Eric Charles (Julie), Charlotte Genise, Cheryl Inez (Raleigh, NC), and Debee Shan, thirty-one grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives, New Jerusalem Church Family and Washington State Jurisdiction. Homegoing services were held at the Washington State Church Of God In Christ Headquarters, 9201 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, WA on Friday, February 17, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.

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BARBARA BROWN

Bishop's Late Wife: 1936 – 2011

Missionary Barbara Jean Brown, the beloved and resolute wife of 35 years of **Bishop Leo C. Brown, Jr.** who became the Prelate of the Washington State Jurisdiction, Church of God in Christ. To the True Vine family, Missionary Brown was a precious jewel and a fearless example of a true believer. As she ministered, the anointing of the Lord would saturate the sanctuary bringing joy, peace, encouragement, and strength to the congregation. The True Vine congregation was her family! She had an extraordinary way of making everyone she touched feel special and loved. To those that had no mother or grandmother, she became Mom and Grandma; to those that needed a sister or friend, she was that also; and to those that needed a spiritual mentor and counselor, she was all of that and more.

Missionary Brown was born in Omaha, NE on June 29, 1936, to Charles Gentry DeLespine and Thelma Lynette Walker. She was provided a strong foundation as she attended school in Racine, WI. In 1953 the family moved to Tacoma, Washington where she graduated from Lincoln High School. Missionary Brown was led to Christ in 1961 by her brother-in-the-Lord Lannie Berryman.

For her years of service in ministry to the local community and abroad, she received her Evangelist Missionary license in 1977. One of the overwhelming joys of Missionary Brown's life was to work alongside State Mother Gertrude Young in the Washing State Women's Department. For over 20 years she devoted herself to teaching younger women how to live holy, honor their families, and minister in their local Churches.

As a highly influential woman within the Church of God in Christ affiliation, Missionary Brown held various positions on the state level. She was appointed as the Unit # 2 Leader of the Washington State Minister's Wives during the June 1998 Holy Convocation. Other appointments included: First Lady of the Puget Sound District - Chairperson of the Puget Sound District Missionaries - President of the Women's Department of True Vine COGIC, former President of the Washington State Third Generation, member of the Washington State

Women's Convention Finance Committee, member of the Washington State Women's Convention Advisory Board, former member of the Steering Committee for the Billy Graham Crusade, and Appointed as a Washington State Member of the Public Relations Committee for the 1989 International Women's Convention.

Missionary Brown served her community well and was an advocate for those who were less fortunate. She had a strong compassion for children and believed in raising them up knowing and loving God. In 1968 she formed a summer camp for underprivileged children entitled "Operation Longthrust" where she served as Camp Director for 43 years. She also served as the director of the Dorcas House, a halfway house for women, from 1974 to 1977 and for over 35 years traveled to Purdy Treatment Center to minister to women who were incarcerated. In recognition of her community involvement and humanitarian efforts, she received the 1984 Outstanding Citizen Award from the Eta Mu Zeta Graduate Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Missionary Brown also received the 1997 Volunteer of the Year Award. She led a life of extraordinary courage and strength, was a true witness to God's saving and healing power and was a woman of extraordinary grace and dignity sent to us by God for such a time as this.

Her service and leadership standards live on!



PATRICIA BROWN

Bishop's Wife: 2017 - 2021

Patricia Brown was the wife of the **late Bishop Leo Charles Brown, Jr.**, Prelate of Washington State Jurisdiction. Patricia Brown is recognized as an outstanding educator who has accomplished an impressive forty-plus-year career in the field of Educational Leadership and Administration. She has the distinction of being a trailblazer in many areas of her life. In 2005, she felt led by God to establish Lewis Academy of Excellence, the first charter school in Clayton County Georgia. Her school began with 254 students and grew to over 835 students within five years. From its inception, the school developed a sound academic reputation whose standardized test scores met and exceeded state standards. One of her proudest moments was in August 2007 when, by faith, she purchased the former Woodward Academy Campus at the reduced price of 3.5 million dollars. The campus sat on a 28-acre site consisting of five buildings, two playgrounds, twenty classrooms, a football field, administrative offices, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, a technology lab, a gazebo, an equestrian trail, and a beautiful home. Dr. Brown declares, "It was only the FAVOR of God."

Patricia accepted Christ at the tender age of twelve and has served in numerous capacities of her church as a Youth Leader, Sunday School Teacher, Pastor's Aid President, State Missions President, Hospitality President, Women's Department Chair, Trustee Chair, Dean of State Bible Bowl, Workshop Instructor for International AIM, and member of Special Products Committee for the International Women's Convention (COGIC).

In 1983, Dr. Brown went on a life-changing mission trip to Haiti and in 1984, Mother Mary Gulick, the Supervisor of Haiti, bestowed upon her the first missionary license. And was honored to receive the Bishop J. O. Patterson Award from her national Presiding Bishop.

Dr. Brown has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education, a Master of Science Degree in Psychological Foundations, Early Childhood Education, and a Ph.D. Degree in Educational Administration. She has received over seventy awards and honors for her dedicated service to her church and community. "To God Be the Glory for the Things He Has Done."



MARIA ELENA MOORE

Bishop's Wife: 2021 - Present

First Lady Maria E. Moore was born in Fresno and grew up in Los Angeles, CA. Her religious journey began in the Catholic Church. She had a "Damascus Road" experience with the Lord later on in life and that's when God saved, sanctified, and filled her with the Holy Ghost. Over 31 years ago, while serving in the Air Force, she met and married her husband (*Bishop Alvin C. Moore, Sr.*), and together they have two adult children and one grandson.

She attended schools both in Mexico and the United States until the age of thirteen. After graduating with "honors" from Garfield High School in Los Angeles she attended California State University in Los Angeles before entering in the United States Air Force. She served her country faithfully for seven years as a Logistics Non-Commissioned Officer and Military Training Instructor and obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant before receiving an Honorable Discharge.

First Lady Moore has served in numerous capacities of ministry as a Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, Bible Band Teacher, Young Women Christian Council President, Sunshine Band President, Youth Ministry Director, Sewing Circle President, Women's Ministry President, and First Lady of the Jubilee Church of God in Christ, Everett, WA. She is a Licensed Evangelist Missionary in the Church of God in Christ; is bilingual and utilizes her language skills to assist in spreading the Word of God.

First Lady, Dr. Moore has also received certifications, licenses, and degrees in Early Childhood Education, Psychology, Marriage & Family Therapy, and in 2021 she graduated from Liberty University with a Doctorate in Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision. She is currently employed by the Veterans Administration as a Mental Health Therapist. She lives, understands, and practices her favorite scripture: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth!" – Romans 1:16

Submitted by: Bishop Alvin C, Moore, Sr.