

## Obituary of Shellie L. Powe

On August 3, 1916 Rev. Collie W. Powe and his wife, Willo Harris, happily welcomed their first son, Shellie L. Powe on a 300 acre farm in Buckatunna, Mississippi. Shellie was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 9 children. Many hours were spent plowing and preparing crops. Shellie was delighted when it was his turn to go away to Meridian Baptist Seminary for high school. He enjoyed sports and claimed that he frequently made the winning play amid shouts of 'give the ball to Shellie'. He graduated and taught for a while when his sister Theresa was unable to do so. At 18 he left and went to live with his sister Omega and her husband 'Doc' Thomas in Florida and then moved with them to Canton, Ohio. Doc introduced Shellie to salesmanship thru the selling of Watkins and other products. He taught Shellie how to be a good closer which served him well when he went into the insurance business. Shellie's mother died when he was 23 and he grieved deeply for her.

One of Shellie's Watkins associates in Canton, Ohio was the Rev. John Henry Clark who later became his father-in-law when he married Lucinda Mae Clark. When WWII broke out Shellie was drafted into the army. His first son, Gary, was less than a year old. Shellie served in the 'Red Ball Express' unit under the legendary George S. Patton. His unit supplied fuel and weaponry in France and Germany. When the war ended Shellie and Lucinda had 2 more children (Edward Lindsey and Myra Jean). He began working for Supreme Life Insurance Company. Shellie started as a salesman and astonished them with his ability to sell insurance. He was made the manager of the Akron-Canton, Ohio office. After only 6 years of marriage, Lucinda died and Shellie was a widower with 3 small children, ages 5, 3, and 18months. Shellie met and married Virginia Snipes in 1949. Virginia and her son Carl Eugene and Shellie and his 3 children (Gary, Edward and Myra) came together and formed a solid new family living in Akron.

In 1960, Supreme asked Shellie to move to Chicago and manage several districts there. The family lived in Chicago from 1960-1981. It was in Chicago that Shellie obtained his CLU degree which is the highest degree in insurance. Shellie and Virginia retired and moved to Aventura, Florida in 1981 and stayed there for the next 25 years. He enjoyed playing bridge, checkers, golf and shuffle board. He successfully provided education for his children who obtained advance degrees.

During his life Shellie was active with the Frontiersmen, the Lions Club, Kiwanis and he was a degreed Mason. He was an ordained Deacon in the church and Sunday School Teacher in Chicago at St. John Church Baptist and in Ft. Lauderdale at New Mount Olive Baptist Church. Shellie resided in Georgetown, Kentucky for 5 years and was exceedingly grateful for the loving care given to him by his son Edward L. and his wife Janice. He also appreciated the kindnesses extended to him by Pastor Frank Warren Houston and the parishioners of First Baptist Church of Georgetown. He loved his family and above all else he truly loved the Lord. He was never afraid to witness for Christ and if he met you he always talked to you about Jesus.

Shellie is survived by 3 sisters Helen M. Powe Nicholson (Lenae), Nonjeania N. Powe Torrence Ogletree, and Clemetine Powe Phifer; 3 children – Gary Allen Powe, Edward Lindsey Powe (Janice), and Myra Jean Powe Garrett (Jim); 6 grandchildren- Kristie Lynne Powe, Drake Randy Powe, Carl Anthony Powe, Gina Powe, Lynetta Powe Patterson, James Garrett II and a multitude of nieces and nephews and other relatives.