

Bishop Vanuel Charles Little, Sr.

# Bishop Vanuel Charles Little, Sr. & Dr. Alice M Little

As non-evocative as they may appear, the words Sumter, Vigo, Cook, and Oklahoma, all have a common theme? The not so elusive association are all names of the counties accommodating four relative cities in which two nobles were born, raised, and subsisted for years totaling 84 and 82. Highly favored and graciously chosen of God, these spiritual pioneers are, without doubt, an integral design of indisputable divine providence. The scrutinizing gaze of the eyes of history have now affirmed and reaffirmed the definitive marks of divine fingerprints wholly over the lives of the Honorables - Bishop Vanuel Charles Little, Sr. and Dr. Alice Marie Little.

Sumter County, Panola, Alabama, was a tiny township situated midway on the north to south Alabama vertical plane lying just east of the Mississippi line. Having a meager sharecropping population situated in Deep South petty prejudices and racial segregations, yet it was a place chosen and groomed to rear a native son appointed to greatness. On Thursday, July 6, 1933 in a humble homestead environment, as employed by the Midwifery of the day, was born a healthy baby boy, Vanuel Charles Little, as named by his proud God fearing parents, the Reverend Andrew Little and Mrs. Mable Almeta Little.



As young Vanuel grew-up and became aware of the challenges of the times, he recalls the day his father, affectionately called Papa, intervened on his behalf by abruptly pulling him away from a conflict with another young lad who had become rude and indignant while in the country store. Many of his peers were aware of his sharp leadership skills and his incapacity for allowing the play-acting of wrong without voicing his dissent. That being said, one can understand why his father chose to remove him from the scene as he was just about to tell the other, much younger boy (of a privileged southern background) of his senseless aggression and rudeness in blocking passage as he only attempted simply to pass around. When Vanuel maneuvered around him, he vented words of his displeasure but no



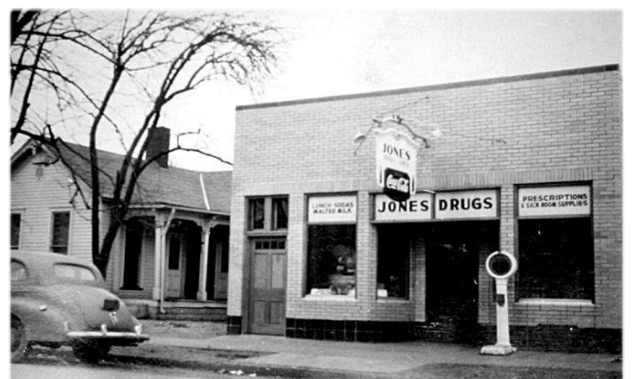
retort was necessary, as Papa had already taken charge of the situation. Vanuel was one also known for staying close to his mom as she baked many treats in the kitchen sharing them with the gratefully modest lingering near.

While growing up in the farming community of Panola, young Vanuel affectionately called Van by his family and friends was a well-mannered youth. Often he conveys his tender memories regarding his father's uncanny capacity towards fairness in treating all of his children with utmost respect, individuality, and needed privacy. He sites his mother's mild soft-spoken manner and her perpetual loyalty to his father's family leadership as fond memoir. He recounts one of many of her favorite emphases to the queries of the day as "Whatever '*lil Andrew*' says goes".



Soon the dusty sun parched fields and hot hills of Panola seemed to offer little economic gain. With the blessing of his parents, Vanuel began his journey northward to Chicago, Illinois where jobs and opportunity seemed to await. It was there that he found useful employment and would soon discover ultimate opportunity, salvation! Soon the devout son of a Methodist Pastor would find himself, as the song goes, in a meeting one night...

Vigo County, Terre Haute, Indiana, was a small town named by French settlers meaning "High land" – due in part to it's positioning on the walloping Wabash River and it's designation as county seat. Amazingly, its global positioning not only gave forth its name designation but also declared the birth and residence of one destined for greatest. In this industry driven town on a special weekend day, Friday, September 7, 1934 in the Maternity Ward of St. Anthony's Hospital was born Alice Marie Stevens, the seventh of eight siblings. The proud parents were Mr. Elzia Stevens and Mrs. Ada Belle Stevens. The unwavering faith and trust in God of her mother impacted her young life significantly. She too received Christ on Sunday, January 4, 1948 at the tender age of thirteen (13). She recalls the tremendous work ethics instilled in her from the great strides of her mother. Her simple goal was to prepare her for a life of promise and professional education over and beyond the trappings of the present day that yielded to meager mediocrity. As a young adult, Alice was blessed to receive





even further spiritual nurturing in the residence of the Assistant Pastor of the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago, Illinois, Elder Elmer Clemmons, Jr. and Lady Daisy Clemmons. She speaks passionately of the loving care and guidance given her while in the home of her second parents. Even now she says seldom does a week pass without the friendship of Lady Clemmons who she affectionately calls, Aunt Daisy, conversing several times a week per long distance calls.

The Midwestern region of the country, specifically the second largest county, by populace, in the United States: Cook County, Chicago, Illinois, was where divine providence was revealed as the two spiritual nomads converged, aligned in the same church. Little did the two realize, at that time, the distinct nature of God's intentional high order slated upon their lives, as they'd become an effective ordained duo position to become fishers of men and women of all walks of life everywhere. On November 10, 1955 there was a worship service at the Apostolic Church of God in Chicago, IL. Vanuel had been visiting a few churches and had received an invitation to attend Apostolic. He went to the Thursday night service and the rest became history, as the song suggests, 'something got a hold of him'. He was filled that night with the precious Holy Ghost after having been baptized in Jesus name earlier. Life for young Vanuel became brand new, even on his job where he began to witness to all and tell of his newfound faith. Many came to Christ hearing his witness. He fondly recalls his posting of 'Jesus Saves' signs on the walls of his factory job. As a consequence of his zeal, employment again was needed. Soon his zeal was integrated with knowledge of the Word of God and the call to the ministry soon became evident under the pastoral leadership of District Elder Walter Clemmons.



**Eld. Walter Clemmons**



Soon Minister Little met Sister Alice Stevens and they grew very fond of each other as both were working faithfully in the same church ministries. Within time they were married on September 22, 1956 and later from that union three (3) children were born. They are now the proud parents of three anointed children: Firstborn - Ada M. Little,



second born - Vanuel Charles Little, Jr. and the youngest - Victor Carl Little, I.

During Minister Little's spiritual sojourn at the Apostolic Church of God, his evangelical outreach progressed into countless souls being lead to Christ including his own immediate family back in Alabama. He went back and forth preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ as his entire clan of siblings and eventually his mother and later his father also had fully received the baptism in Jesus name and the Holy Spirit speaking in tongues.

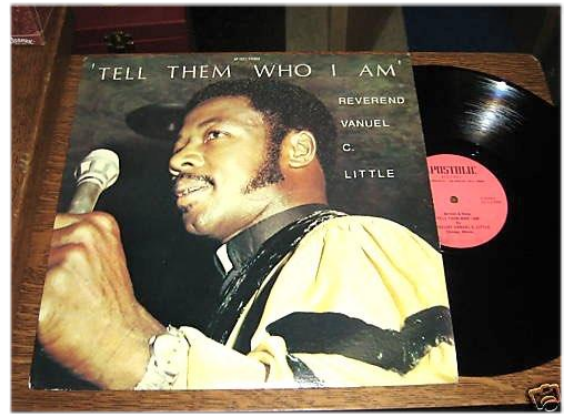


At the untimely death of his pastor, the late District Elder Walter Clemons, Minister Little secured his allegiance with and dedication to the newly ordained pastor, Elder Arthur M. Brazier. He soon became elevated to Assistant Pastor following his ministerial licensing and ordination. The next twenty years were spent serving in these capacities and in the Illinois District Council and as a PAW National Evangelist. He had already faithfully

served as Choir Director, Altar Worker, Youth Vice President and President (local and state), Custodian, and many other hard working capacities. He and his wife, Sister Little spearheaded the "Task Force" outreach ministry which aided in countless souls being added to the kingdom.



In excess of seven years he traveled extensively as a National Evangelist, traveling, weekly flying across the globe became routine over this course of his ministry. Also, during his evangelical experience on the field, after having the



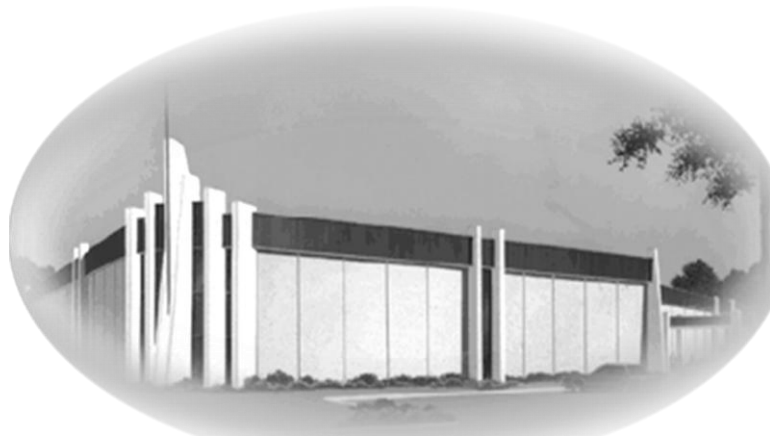
honor of baptizing his parents and siblings, he was invited to baptize his 97 years of age grandmother in the Precious Name of Jesus as she too received the Holy Ghost. Elder Little had made a tremendous impact in the lives of his entire family and friends. One of few, yet rare pinnacles and defining momentous seismic shifts in his life occurred while attending to his mom on her deathbed. Only one year after her

salvation, she declared to him gratitude of having a son in the flesh that had also become her father in the gospel.

In October 1973, upon the inspired recommendation of the discerning Oklahoma Diocesan, Bishop Robert W. McMurray, Elder Little was elected Pastor of the First



Deliverance Church located 2201 N.E. 15th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. At that time, the membership was approximately 35-40 members, mostly children. Approximately one year later, Elder and Sister Little received their doctorate degrees in Theology and Sacred Letters along with many other honorary and scholastic achievements.



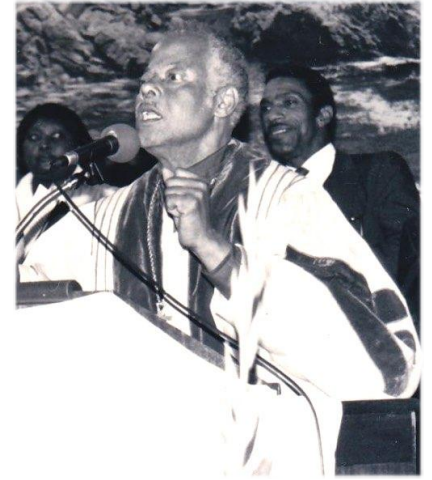
First Deliverance Church soon became Greater First Deliverance Temple in March 1985 as the entire membership moved into its newly constructed, fully equipped church facility at, 2101 N. Bryant Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Temple is presently valued in excess of \$2 million plus. The sanctuary consists of two levels with a seating capacity of fifteen hundred, an roomy elaborate educational wing, and a state of



the art multi-purpose room facilitating a plethora of events ranging from formal banqueting to the hosting of sporting events and basketball tournaments.

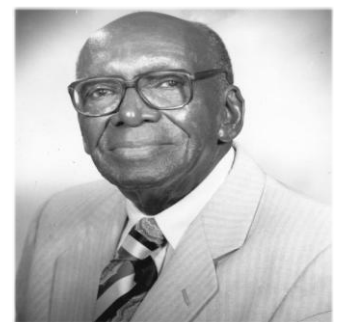
In August of 1988, he became the C.E.O. and Founder of the Greater First Deliverance Temple Bible College, which opened in. These classes were designed for those desiring to enhance and develop their Christian Education experience. Upon completion of a two-year degree program, students will have earned an Associate Degree in Theology. Dr. Little incorporated the "Bread of Life Ministries" in the church program. This program was designed to feed those in need of physical food as well as spiritual food. This program is supported on a donation basis by the membership. He also engaged in vast Prison Ministries, which takes the gospel to those in places of confinement.

Dr. Vanuel C. Little was appointed District Elder by the Honorable, Bishop Robert W. McMurray, Oklahoma Diocesan. Dr. Little became the first to be elected to the official position. He served as he was reelected again and again for the next 3 terms of 2-year periods each. The Official Board enacted newly approved term span conversions of three (3) years per term and again Bishop Little became the choice of the voting council populace for the forth time. He progressed onward to become elected as PAW Lay Director, serving two terms. At that time, Bishop William L. Smith had become the Bishop of the Oklahoma Diocese. Dr. Little often recalls the father/son relationship of unbreakable bonding. Dr. Little cherished their alliance and relishes the honor of having been chosen of God to have had yet another highly favored ambassador/mentor of leadership in his life.



Then, in March 1989 in the city of West Palm Beach, Florida, the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc elected Dr. Little to the office of Bishop. In August of that same year, in Louisville, KY, Bishop Little was anointed in holy consecration by then Presiding Prelate Bishop James A. Johnson. Bishop Little was appointed overseer of the 36th Episcopal District (the Eastern Caribbean Council of Nations) of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World as installation ceremonies took place in January 1990 on the island of Montserrat, Bishop James A. Johnson officiating. In attendance were Bishop and First Lady William L. Smith, Bishop and First Lady Heron Johnson, Evang. Matera Bumpus, Dr. Chuck and Lady Catherine Little, Evang. Easter Hilbert, and First Lady Wilma Ellis who also contributed a sizable monetary gift of love to the cause of the Gospel.

A few years later, Diocesan of Oklahoma, the treasured Bishop William L. Smith made the decision to proceed to the position of Emeritus, leaving vacant the Diocesan position. The leadership baton was passed to the honorable Bishop Little



and in August of 1992 Bishop Little was reappointed as Diocesan of the Oklahoma State Council 26th Episcopal District of the P.A.W. by then presiding Prelate, Bishop Paul A. Bowers. In the same year, during the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.'s Annual Convention in Chicago, IL, Bishop Little was elevated to the Board of Directors of the Bishops of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.

On October 20, 1993, Bishop Little was installed as again receiving the leadership baton from the treasured Bishop William L. Smith, Emeritus?

Bishop Little is seen and heard each Sunday proclaiming the gospel through "Telecast and Radio Ministries" in Oklahoma and surrounding areas. Bishop Little's web page address is [www.GFDT.org](http://www.GFDT.org).

**He has served the Oklahoma State Council in the following capacities prior to becoming the Diocesan.**

- Loyal Council member in dedication and attendance.
- Council host and promoter
- District Elder for 13 years.
- Four-term Council Chairman totaling 9 years.
- Council Resident Bishop fully supporting Diocesan, Bishop William L. Smith for his remaining years before becoming Emeritus.

**1994 to 1998, His International Bishopric appointments included but were not limited to the following:**

- Auxiliary Director of the International Pentecostal Health Professionals of the PAW, Inc.

**1998 to 2001,**

- Auxiliary Director of the International Pentecostal Young People's Union of the PAW, Inc.

**2003,**



- Celebrated his 30th year as Pastor of the Greater First Deliverance Temple, Inc. and his 70th year birthday with the entire Church, Executive Board, and membership of the Greater First Deliverance Temple, Inc.

**2004,**

- Bishop Little was blessed beyond measure and highly favored of God to be found as a recipient of God's healing virtue in his life as a life threatening illness was overcome by God's power.

- Auxiliary Director of the **International Missionary and Christian Women's Auxiliary** of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. as his wife, Dr. Alice M. Little was the President and had been the Women's Retreat Coordinator and Vice President for decades prior.

With all these accomplishments and responsibilities, Bishop Little has remained a “**man of humility**”. He loves the charge God has given him to “**Feed the Flock**” which the Holy Ghost has made him overseer.

*He teaches respect for Leadership,*

*Respectability,  
Accountability,  
Dependability,  
and Credibility*

*-Bishop William L. Smith*

**His motto is: “You Won’t Miss Your Blessing • If You Stay In Line”.**

He is fully and unequivocally also supported by his three anointed children & their spouses:

1<sup>st</sup> Born - Evangelist Ada M. Little-Cutliff (Bro. Eddie Cutliff)  
parents of eight (8) children and twenty-three (23) grandchildren;

2<sup>nd</sup> Born - Dr. Vanuel Charles Little, Jr. (The honorable Junior Pastor of Greater 1<sup>st</sup> Deliverance Temple) (Deaconess Catherine M. Little) - parents of three (3) children and six (6) grandchildren;

3<sup>rd</sup> Born Elder Victor Carl Little, I (Sister Melissa Little) - parents of three (3).

Bishop and Dr. Little are humble grandparents of fourteen (14) grandchildren; and the great-grandparents of thirty-three (33) great-grandchildren and counting. Bishop Little and Dr. Little are honored to be their children's natural parents as well as their “parents in the gospel”.

## ***Timeline***

- **January 1948**                     **Alice M. Stevens (Little) Received  
Baptism in Jesus Name an the Holy Spirit  
3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Apostolic**
  
- **November 1955**               **Vanuel Charles Little Received  
Baptism in Jesus Name and the Holy Spirit**
  
- **August 1962**                   **Minister Vanuel Charles Little, Sr.  
Received Associate of Theology  
Degree Aenon Extension  
College President: Bishop Karl F. Smith  
Extension: Elder Arthur M. Brazier**
  
- **August 1962**                   **Elder Little Received PAW Ministerial License**
  
- **August 1965**                   **Received PAW Ministerial Ordination  
Certifying Prelate Presider:  
-Bishop Samuel Grimes  
Diocesan Bishop John S. Holly  
Council D.E.: District Elder Bradie Robinson  
Secretary: Elder James A. Johnson**
  
- **1960 – 70'S**                   **Theological Studies of Elder Little  
- Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL  
- Chicago Theological Seminary**
  
- **August 1966**                   **Sister Alice Marie Little Received  
Associate of Theology Degree  
Aenon Extension  
College President: Bishop Karl F. Smith  
Extension: Elder Arthur M. Brazier**
  
- **1973**                           **Fundamental Bible Seminary Claremore, OK  
- Honorary  
Dr. Vanuel C. Little  
1<sup>st</sup> Doctorate of Theology  
  
Dr. Alice M. Little  
1<sup>st</sup> Doctorate of Sacred Letters**

-- 1980 – 90's

**Theological Collegiate Studies**  
**Dr. Vanuel C. Little, Sr.**

- American Bible College, Oklahoma City, OK
- Chicago Theological Seminary

-----  
-- 1970 – 90's

**Collegiate Studies of Dr. Alice M. Little**

- Floral Career School of Design, Okc, OK
- Indiana State Teachers College
- Rose State College Accounting Midwest City, OK
- Metro Tech Vocational Computer Technology  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Received Honorary Aenon Bible College**

**Dr. Alice M. Little**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Doctorate of Christian Education**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Doctorate Divinity**

**4<sup>th</sup> Doctorate Theology Degree**

**College President: Dr. Betty Showell-Tyson**



**Christian Education Instructor • 67 years**

**Avid Altar Worker for 65 years**

**GFDI Bible College Instructor**

-- 1980 – 2000's

**Dual Term Vice Presidency  
& Dual Term Presidency  
Oklahoma State Council  
Missionary Auxiliary**

**Selected as Woman of the Year**

**Twice Chosen & Awarded**

**Oklahoma State Council Missionary Auxiliary**

**President of Oklahoma Ministers' Wives Auxiliary 1974**

**Dual Term President  
of Oklahoma Christian  
Education Association**

**Dual Term 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidency – 6yrs**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Presidency – 6yrs**

Presidency – 6yrs  
Retreat Coordinator –15yrs  
International Missionaries & Christian  
Women's Auxiliary

Aenon Board of Directors Member  
Indianapolis, IN

Strivettes (Women's Association)  
President and Member Chicago Chapter 20yrs  
Oklahoma Chapter 40yrs

GFDT Women's Ministry Director

-----

- |    |         |      |   |
|----|---------|------|---|
| -- | March   | 1989 | Bishop Elect of PAW   |
| -- | August  | 1989 | Received PAW Bishopric Installation as Caribbean<br>Eastern Caribbean Council of Nations<br>36 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of PAW Ordination<br>Certifying Prelate Presider:<br>-Bishop James A. Johnson<br><br>Diocesan:<br>-Bishop William L. Smith Installation in Jan 1990 |
| -- | August  | 1992 | Diocese Reappointment of PAW  |
| -- | October | 1992 | Received PAW Bishopric Installation as Oklahoma<br>Diocesan State Council<br>26 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of PAW Ordination<br>Certifying Prelate Presider:<br>-Bishop Paul A. Bowers,<br>Diocesan -<br>-Bishop William L. Smith   |
| -- | June    | 1993 | Pentecostal Bible College, Tuskegee, AL<br>- Honorary 2 <sup>nd</sup> Doctorate<br>Doctorate of Divinity<br>College President: Bishop George T. Austin  |
| -- | August  | 1993 | Aenon Bible College Indianapolis, IN<br>- Honorary  |



2<sup>nd</sup> Doctorate of Divinity  
2<sup>nd</sup> Doctorate of Theology  
College President: Dr. Betty Showell-Tyson

- 1993 & 2000 Oxford's Who's Who Awarded  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Citation  
Elite Registry of Extraordinary  
Professionals International
- November 2007 The State of Oklahoma Citation of  
Congratulations  
First Lady Alice M. Little  
Centennial Salute to Partners in Christ Awarded  
by: Oklahoma Congressional Committee  
Rep. Mike Shelton,  
Sen. Constance N. Johnson,  
Rep. Anastasia A Pittman

2013 -2015,

Auxiliary Director of the International Missionary and Christian Women's Director  
of the International Usher's Board.

Bishop and Mom Little will celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> year as Pastor and 1<sup>st</sup> Lady of the Greater First Deliverance Temple, Inc. and his 80<sup>th</sup> and her 79<sup>th</sup> year birthday with the entire Church, Executive Board, and membership of the Greater First Deliverance Temple, Inc., Oklahoma State Council, and friends and family from across the United States of America.

2015

Bishop Little passed the mantle of Pastoral Leadership to his son, Dr. Vanuel Charles Little, Jr. as Senior Pastor on October 11, 2015.

On August 4, 2016 Dr. Alice M. Little received the Dr. Elma Jean Bowers Excellence in Visionary Leadership Award by the Wayfarers of the Pentecostal Assembly of the World, Inc.

