

The Honorable Suffragan Bishop Sherman P. Tyler, Sr. - Bio



Sherman Perry Tyler was born in Burnett, Indiana on May 6, 1933 to Joseph Tyler and Nellie Leona Redmon Tyler. He was the sixth of twelve children and the fourth son. If you ever talk with Sherman Perry Tyler, he will tell you he was born during the Great Depression. Needless to say, he was born poor and stayed that way for a very long time. That is why still today he is so tight with a dollar.

Sherman moved to Terre Haute, Indiana with his family in 1939. He graduated from Garfield High School in Terre Haute, in 1951. While at Garfield High School he played defensive tackle on the football team at six-foot 170 pound. He also played the clarinet in the pep band during basketball games. After high school he attended Indiana State University, in Terre Haute, majoring in Education.

On July 26, 1952 he married the gorgeous and vivacious Alice Louise Reeves, in his mother-in-law's living room. It looked like Sherman was going to be drafted into Uncle Sam's Army to serve in the military like his older three brothers. However, he was never drafted.

On September 26, 1953 the couple's first child, Sherman Perry Tyler Jr. was born and Sherman Perry Tyler changed his name to Sherman Perry Tyler Sr. Sherman and Alice were blessed with another boy and girl Donald O'Neal Tyler born September 16, 1955 and Christie Beatrice Tyler born September 25, 1957.

Sherman worked at Montgomery Wards, a large downtown retailer in Terre Haute for a number of years. However, because of some good members of the alternative right, Sherman was wrongfully dismissed from Montgomery Wards.

Sherman was unable to find suitable work to provide for his family of five. He moved alone from Terre Haute, Indiana to Omaha, Nebraska during the summer of 1961. He moved to Omaha to get a job working in the packing houses, which he heard was hiring everyone they could find.

He lived with the John and Jackie Freeman's family in Omaha who were water baptized and Holy Ghost filled. He attended Church with the Freeman's on a regular basis. One night, at Church the most glorious thing happened, he too was baptized in the precious name of Jesus and received the gift of the Holy Ghost. You could hear the angels rejoicing. The Lord immediately took the desire for alcohol and tobacco away from him. Sherman has been a battle tested soldier for the Lord every sense that day.

Just before school started in the fall of 1961, Sherman came back to Terre Haute to move Alice, Sherman Jr. Donald and Christie to Omaha. They were one happy poverty-stricken family. The five of them moved in with the Freeman family of five. However, the Department of Housing found out they were all living in this three-bedroom, housing project, so they were forced to move. They moved in with their new shepherd, Pastor Pope. She was a very generous lady. They often had night service at Pastor Pope's home. They were faithful members.

Later God called them to become members of Greater Bethlehem Temple where the late James Philip Foster was their pastor. Because Sherman and Alice knew they had heard from the Lord, they graciously left Pastor Pope's home and moved into a one bedroom roach infested apartment on Burdette Street. The apartment did not even have its own bathroom, but shared one with the rest of the apartments on the floor. However, it was within walking distance of Greater Bethlehem Temple, which made it perfect for them. They were extremely faithful member for over 16 years at Greater Bethlehem Temple. Sherman was a Deacon and then called to the ministry. Alice was in the choir and worked diligently in the kitchen.

The Lord showed favor on the family, who later moved to an apartment in a 3-story building owned by one of the deacons of the church, next to their own

three-bedroom housing project and finally to purchase their own home in 1963. Sherman was scout master and coached his youngest son's softball team.

During their time in Omaha, Alice worked for a daily maid service, but later earned a sought-after position at the US Post Office. She started out as a mail carrier in the cold Omaha winters, but later became a mail sorter. Sherman worked for various employers, including Evans Laundry, Coakley Enterprises and Vickers of Sperry Rand. He most wanted though to work at the US Post Office where Alice worked and in 1979 after he had been laid off by Vickers, he passed the test to be hired by the US Postal Service.

However, God had other plans. In 1979 God directed Sherman, Alice and Christie to move to Tatum, Oklahoma where Elder Tyler was installed as Pastor and Alice as First Lady of Free Pentecostal Church, which had the best members a pastor could ever pray for. One of those members was Philip McConnell who became Pastor Tyler's first assistant pastor. Philip was a true man of God, who became part of Sherman and Alice's extended family. Philip passed away the way we all should want to, praising and magnifying the God of his salvation.

Later Sherman and Alice moved to Duncan, Oklahoma to pastor True Gospel Tabernacle. They have been pastoring for 40 years and married for 68 years this July. That is will make seven decades.

Sherman and Alice are very faithful members of the Oklahoma State Council. Sherman previously served as 1st vice chairman, 2nd vice president chairman and finally chairman of the Oklahoma State Council. He is now a Suffragan Bishop and serves on the executive board. Suffragan Bishop Sherman and Alice have had so many wonderful memories of their time pastoring and serving in the Oklahoma State Council. Even though they are reaching the sunset years of their life they continue to attend most of the state councils and national conventions.

If you ask Sherman what God has given him that he is most proud of he would say it is his family. There are now five generations of Sherman Tyler's. That pride is

not only for his biological family, but his God made family as well. It was written that if every Church adopted a child the orphanages would be empty. To which end, Sherman and Alice adopted Quintin, Joshua, and Quinette. They grew up in Duncan, Oklahoma.

Their oldest son Sherman married gorgeous Joyce Grant in 1978. They have a son Sherman Perry Tyler III and a daughter Karla Michelle Tyler. Sherman III married Arica Carter in 1999. To this union were born Cortney Dawn Tyler, Torri Nicole Tyler and Sherman Perry Tyler IV. Karla Michelle Tyler married Jeremy Ford in 2009. To this union was born a God made family of Mya Unique Nicole Donaldson, Tanasia Octavia Donaldson, Lillian Sha-Rhon Michelle Ford, and Jeremy Wisham Ford, Jr.

Their second son Donald O'Neil Tyler married Marcia Carter in 1974 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Marcia passed in July of 2018 and has transcended to glory. They had two sons Donald O'Neal Tyler II and Aaron Anthony Tyler. Donald II married Nikki. To this union were born Chelsea, Cherise, and Cherrell. Donald passed in 2007 and has transcended to glory. Chelsea has a son named Rylan. Cherise has a son named Jaden Cortez. Aaron Anthony married Christian Parker in Dallas, Texas. This union produced three children, Elizabeth, Aaron Jr., and Parker. Nikki and the girls currently live in South Carolina. Aaron, Christian and their children currently live in Dallas, Texas. Donald is currently pastoring in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Alice and Sherman adopted Earlene Davis who worked with Christie in Oklahoma City. Christie and Earline adopted Terry Tyler Davis whose fight through his adversities has brought smiles to everyone in the family. Quinette has five children Alyssa, Alexis, Eric, Kobe and Amari.

Suffragan Bishop Tyler has always stayed true to his roots and is not only an unwavering man of principle, but a humble family man that would do anything for the flock that he diligently shepherds. He is also a natural servant leader that has served his congregation and Oklahoma State Council with honor and integrity.

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,(ESV)”. Suffragan Bishop Tyler has embodied the essence of what it means to build up the body Christ and a true testament of God’s Love for humanity.