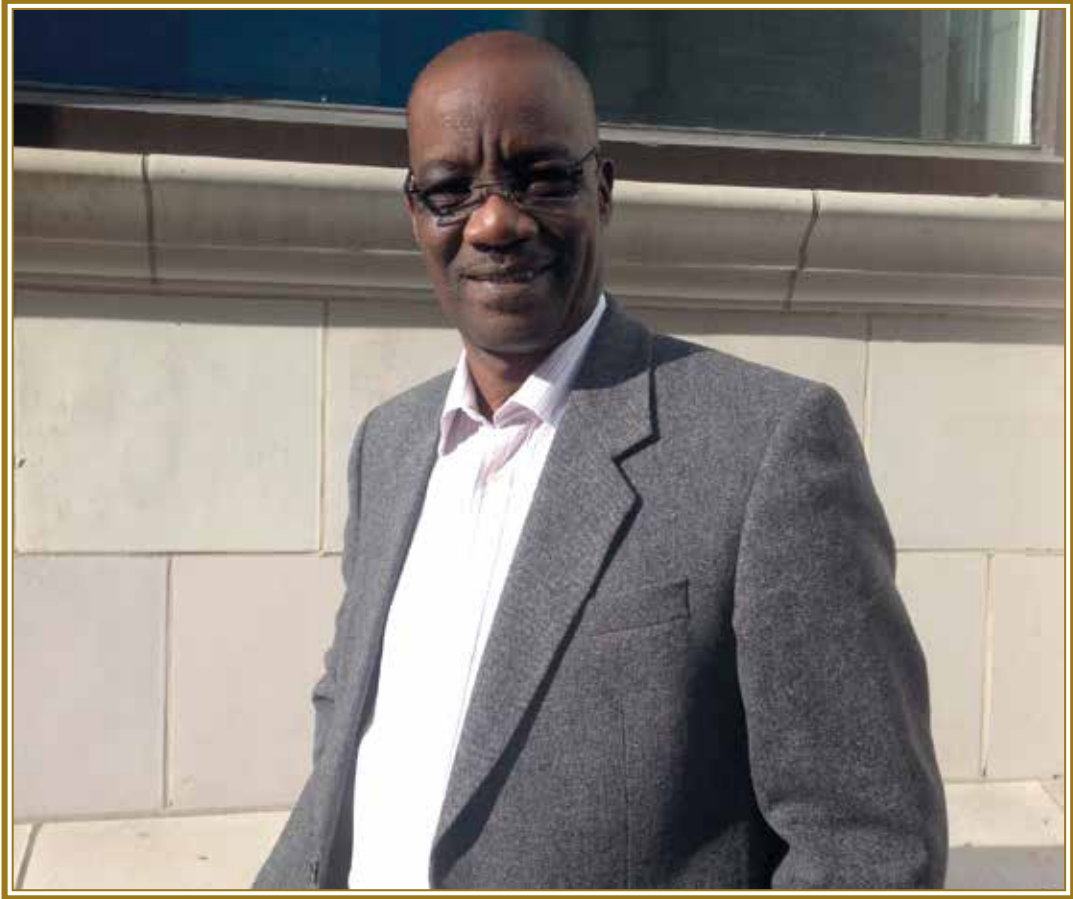






*A Celebration of Life*



*Pastor, Elder Victor Jonathan Stanley*

11th May 1945 - 1st May 2025

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Psalm 116:15

# Bethel Apostolic Church

43-45 Victoria Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1AS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

*Pastor Victor Jonathan Stanley*

**Friday 30 May 2025**

**Service: 11:00 am**

**INTERMENT**

**ARMLEY HILL TOP CEMETERY**

5 GREEN HILL, LEEDS LS12 3QA

**OFFICIATING**

**BISHOP DAVID MILLER**

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH MANCHESTER

**BISHOP NATHAN SIMMONDS**

BETHEL APOSTOLIC CHURCH IPSWICH

Streaming: Sweet Apollo Ltd

<https://acelebrationoflife.online/victorstanley>

# *Order of Divine Worship*

Please stand as opening sentences and the coffin is brought into church

Praise and worship	Minister Sam Moore and Manchester District Praise Team
Procession	
Musical Interlude	Beethoven Sonata No 8 in C Minor
Welcome	Officiant
Scripture Reading 1	Psalm 90, Amogene Parris
Congregational	Hymn Hallelujah, We Shall Rise
Prayer	
Scripture Reading 2	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Marcus Stanley
Family Tributes	Amogene Parris, Grandchildren, Dilara Stanley, Mirvin Kellman
Congregational Hymn	When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder
Leeds Local Church Tributes	Sister Valerie Marshall & Brother Raymond Campbell
Community Tributes	Brother Green, New Testament Church
Ministerial Tributes	Elder Webster Modest, Sheffield Elder Neil Richards, Manchester Board of Bishops Representative
Eulogy	Philip and Richard Stanley and Sandra Kellman
Sermonic Selection	Shekinah Glory Fellowship
Ministry of the Word	Presiding Bishop Dexter Edmund
Prayer of Comfort	
Praise and Worship	Minister Sam Moore and Manchester District Praise Team
Recessional	Beethoven Moonlight, Sonata No 14

# *Hallelujah! We Shall Rise*

JE THOMAS 1904

In the resurrection morning,  
When the trump of God shall sound,  
We shall rise, Hallelujah! we shall rise!  
Then the saints will come rejoicing  
And no tears will e'er be found,  
We shall rise, Hallelujah! we shall rise.

We shall rise, Hallelujah! we shall rise!  
Amen! We shall rise! Hallelujah!  
In the resurrection morning,  
When death's prison bars are broken,  
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise.

In the resurrection morning,  
What a meeting it will be,  
We shall rise, Hallelujah! we shall rise!  
When our fathers and our mothers,  
And our loved ones we shall see,  
We shall rise, Hallelujah! we shall rise!

In the resurrection morning,  
Blessed thought it is to me,  
We shall rise! Hallelujah! We shall rise!  
I shall see my blessed Saviour,  
Who so freely died for me.  
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise.

In the resurrection morning,  
We shall meet Him in the air,  
We shall rise, Hallelujah! we shall rise!  
And be carried up to glory,  
To our home so bright and fair,  
We shall rise, Hallelujah! we shall rise!

# *When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder*

JAMES MILTON BLACK 1893

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,  
And time shall be no more  
And the morning breaks eternal bright and fair  
When the saved diverse shall gather  
Over on the other shore  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

*When the roll is called up yonder  
When the roll is called up yonder  
When the roll is called up yonder  
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there*

On that bright and cloudless morning,  
When the dead in Christ shall rise  
And the glory of His resurrection share  
When His chosen ones shall gather  
To their home in paradise  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

Let us labour before the Master  
From dawn 'til setting sun  
Let us talk of all his wondrous love and care  
Then when all of life is over  
And our work on Earth is done  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there

# *Eulogy*

## EARLY LIFE

Victor Jonathan Stanley was born on 11 May 1945 in Nevis to Mabel and Nathaniel Stanley (Nate). He was named Victor in recognition of VE Day (Victory in Europe). He was the second of four children.

His father, a pastor of the local church, sadly passed away from illness in 1949 when Victor was just four years old. His mother, Mabel, a 22-year-old baker, was left to care for their four young children: Eva, aged five; Victor, aged four; Reuel, aged two; and baby Irma, who was only a few months old. As was customary in the Caribbean, children were sometimes sent to live with relatives who had no children of their own. In this case, it became a necessity. Reuel was sent to live with his Uncle Dan in Trinidad, and Irma with her Aunt Mary in Bermuda.

In 1953, Victor's mother remarried Charles Parris. Three more children followed: Amogene in 1955, Otis in 1956, and Arundel in 1957. With a growing family to support and a drought affecting the land, Victor's stepfather travelled to England to create a better life for the family, arriving on the very day Arundel was born. Mabel joined her husband in 1958, leaving her children in the care of a family friend. Unfortunately, this arrangement did not go well, and 13-year-old Victor and 14-year-old Eva became the primary carers for their younger siblings.

In July 1960, Victor, aged fifteen, travelled to England by boat along with Eva, Irma, Amogene, Otis, and Arundel. They settled at 36 Hamilton Avenue in Leeds, where they were introduced to a new baby sister, Joycelyn.

Victor had not enjoyed school in Nevis and was not academically inclined. In England, the school leaving age was fifteen, and he seized the opportunity to become independent. He took a job as a shoe operative at Applesons Shoe and Boot Factory in Meanwood. His earnings allowed him to buy a bicycle, which he used to commute to work. One day, while riding his bike, he was hit by an off-duty policeman, resulting in a broken leg—an injury that troubled him intermittently for years. He later upgraded to a scooter, a popular choice among youth in the Mod movement of the 1960s.

During this time, Victor attended Bridge Street Pentecostal Church, where he met lifelong musician friends John Colley, John Lawley, and Colin Wilson. They often practiced music together at Hamilton Avenue.

Victor loved music and was a talented pianist, achieving Grade 8 in practical exams. He also played jazz guitar and proudly owned a Hofner President and later a Gibson. He was an avid photographer long before the digital era, and his earliest photos were in black and white.

## CHURCH LIFE

Victor was among the first to be baptised at Bethel, Hyde Park, in the newly installed baptismal tank in the 1960s. He brought a fresh sound to black Pentecostal worship, introducing the amplified electric guitar—an innovation at the time. He also played at convocations in Birmingham and was known for being the only person with an amplified guitar.

Victor used his musical talent to inspire young people. He was generous with his instruments, often allowing children to use them and encouraging them to learn piano. Before becoming a pastor, he served in many roles: church caretaker, choir director, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, PYPU teacher, organist, and Brotherhood President. He was known for insisting on four-part harmony during choir practice.

He was also instrumental in transporting members and visitors to church—first in his car, then as the first van and coach driver when the Leeds church acquired a coach. He was always ready to help, even stepping in when no other drivers were available.

Although a reluctant leader, Victor underwent extensive training under the mentorship of the late Pastor Mabel Parris. He assumed leadership when she became ill and was officially installed as Pastor of Bethel Leeds in 2018, following her passing in 2017.

Victor was a strong advocate of personal Bible study, guided by the verse 2 Timothy 2:15:

*“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

His personal study materials reflected his deep commitment to understanding and applying the Word. His life demonstrated spiritual growth, personal learning, and effective witness. His integrity and stewardship were exemplary.

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

In 1966, while faithfully transporting church members and visitors, Victor met his future wife, Thelma Drummond—a trainee nurse from Jamaica. At the time, Thelma was an Anglican but soon committed her life to Christ and was baptised at Bethel Leeds that same year. After a brief courtship, they were married on 20 January 1968. This year, they celebrated 57 years of marriage.

Their eldest son, Philip, was born on 15 February 1970. Their second son, Richard, was born at their new home on 26 September 1971, just days after they moved in. Their daughter, Sandra, was born on 2 November 1979.

Seeking greater financial security for his family, Victor left Applesons and trained as a driving instructor with George Crawford Driving School. He later established his own business—V J Stanley Driving School—which opened in September 1973. He continued teaching until his retirement in March 2022, marking 49 years in business and 51 years and nine months as an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI).

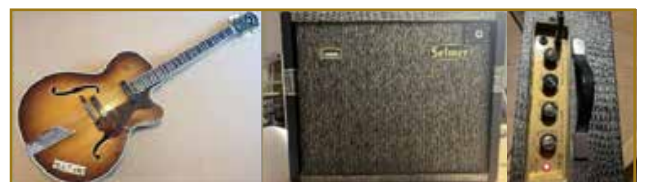
As a family man, Victor encouraged his children to play instruments and practice daily, hoping they would become proficient in the violin, piano, flute, and clarinet. While this didn't quite work out as he had hoped with Richard and Sandra, Philip became a proficient pianist, and the musical talent continues through several of his grandchildren. His children have gone on to succeed in their chosen professions. Victor deeply loved his family and cherished spending as much time as possible with his grandchildren.

Victor was also a technology enthusiast, always keeping up with the latest gadgets—from Palm Pilots and flip phones to Nokias, BlackBerrys, and eventually Apple products. When he switched from a paper diary to a digital calendar, it created chaos at home, as Thelma and the children struggled to keep track of his driving lesson schedule. Once Apple entered the scene, he embraced all things Apple wholeheartedly.

## ILLNESS

Shortly after retiring, Victor was diagnosed with myeloma. Though the initial prognosis was hopeful, he was told that with treatment, he could live many years. However, he faced numerous complications. Challenges with his heart, lungs, eyes, and kidneys, along with the limited effectiveness of treatments, made his journey difficult.

Pastor Elder Victor Jonathan Stanley peacefully entered his rest on 1 May 2025, surrounded by his loving family. His faithful labour on earth had come to a gentle close, leaving behind a legacy of dedication, love, and unwavering faith. Victor is lovingly remembered by his devoted wife, Thelma, his cherished children, Philip, Richard, and Sandra and his nine beloved grandchildren, who were a constant source of pride and joy in his life. His legacy lives on through them, in their lives, their values, and in the love he so generously gave.





# *Family Tributes*

# *Tributes*

## **PHILIP STANLEY, SON**

Dear Daddy

For me this is the best and worst of times, at the same time. The best because you are where you always wanted to be, you did it - you loved God, loved people and left an amazing legacy. The worst because there will be, for all of us, a Victor Jonathan sized hole in our lives that will never be filled.

My earliest memories are sitting next to you at the piano teaching me to play the most boring scales and arpeggios. So dull, so repetitive and of course so important! You realised that Richard with his violin, and I needed 'proper lessons' and it didn't occur to us then how groundbreaking it was for two young black kids in the 70's to be learning classical music at the Royal College of Music. Talking about the classics, Beethoven's Sonata in C minor will always make me smile as it's the piece I remember you practising downstairs not realising you were gently lulling your children to sleep upstairs.

Take your kids to work day in those days meant that we got to sit in the back of the car (invariably a Mazda) whilst you taught your pupil how to drive. We paid close attention to your instructions so that we knew when to duck when they were about to practice reversing. It was during these lessons we got to see how kind and gentle you were, never raising your voice and always remaining calm. One incident stands out whilst you were teaching me - frustrated at my inability to do a good three point turn I got out of the car, slammed the door and walked down the street, you coolly encouraged me to get back in the car to continue the lesson and then told me how smooth my gear changes were!

Psalms 27; 4 could easily read thus: 'One thing has Victor desired of the Lord and that will he seek after, to behold the beauty of the lord and to enquire in his temple'. Whether it was teaching the Sunday school class, leading service, preaching, praying, playing the organ, you just loved being in the house. Your favourite thing to do was sing – the joy on your face and spring in your step as you hit those bass notes was really something to see and hear – a man truly in his element!

Between you and mummy you made sure we never wanted for anything and that our home was always a safe space for us. Thank you for taking us swimming and badminton, the trips to the library, always tinkering around the house, mowing the lawns, fixing, painting and wallpapering. I'm sorry that Richard and I never took the time to learn how you did it, luckily Sandra did so at least one of us has handyperson skills.

Daddy - you were faithful, humble, calm, patient, kind, gentle, very slow to anger and never ever late for anything. You walked this earth with a quiet dignity that I will spend the rest of my life trying to replicate.

Rest daddy rest, you ran the race, fought the fight and left us all a legacy to protect.

# *Tributes*

## **RICHARD STANLEY, SON**

Dad had a quiet sense of humour that always caught you off guard, never loud or demanding attention, but gently present, just like he was. He found joy in being surrounded by family, and that warmth was something we all felt deeply.

One of my most treasured memories is drifting off to sleep, as a child, as he played classical music on the piano after a long day at work teaching his pupils to drive. It was calming and beautiful, and though I didn't realise it at the time, those melodies have become the soundtrack of comfort in my heart. They always bring him back to me.

Some of the pieces he played were incredibly complex and demanding on his fingers, but he never gave up. He would keep playing, again and again, until he got them right. I soon realised that quiet resilience, that determination, wasn't just evident in his music; it was in everything he did. One example of this was every morning, without fail, he would sit in the front room, Bible open, praying and reading. That kind of consistency, that choice to put his relationship with God and the important things first, left a deep impression on me. It's something I have found myself doing for years too, walking in dad's quiet but steady footsteps.

He adored his grandchildren, every single one of them. And with his granddaughter Jasmine, our daughter, there was something extra special, especially when she was little. You could see the light in his eyes when she was around, and it filled the room with a kind of joy only he could bring.

He may never have realised the magnitude of his presence, but he changed lives, not with fanfare, but with kindness, patience, humility and love. His gentle spirit shaped who I am. I see him in myself now, in how I listen, in how I care, in how I quietly try to be steady for others.

I can't put into words just how much I miss dad. His absence is loud, even though he was always so quiet. But now I understand, his strength wasn't in volume, it was in presence. In steadiness. In love. And the legacy he's left behind... it's enormous.

Dad, I love you. I miss you more than words can say. If I can live even half the life you lived, love the way you did, and leave behind a fraction of the impact you've had, I'll have done well. Your presence will stay with me forever.

# *Tributes*

## **SANDRA KELLMAN, DAUGHTER**

I can't believe you're not here. You were always here, present, calm, and quietly consistent. And now, there's a space that can never truly be filled.

Birthdays will never be the same without your deep, unmistakable bass tones. You had a way of singing the birthday song that made me smile every single time, half embarrassment, half joy.

Music was part of the fabric of who you were. The gentle sound of you tinkling away at the piano, practising those same classical pieces, again and again, was the soundtrack of our home. You were an advocate for music and insisted it was part of our lives, ensuring that all your children learnt at least one instrument. You generously shared your love for music beyond the family too, giving piano lessons, sharing your instruments and directing the church choir.

But there was also a side of you many didn't know, the adventurous, fearless spirit I admired so much. I'll never forget watching you leap from the cliffs at Drumville Cove in Jamaica, like it was nothing. You were so bold, so alive. And I'll always remember that first time I rode a jet ski with you, holding onto you tight, heart pounding with excitement and a little fear, but feeling completely safe with you at the helm. I'd like to think that you passed some of that to me.

You were so much more than you ever realised. You were my fix-it-all Daddy, a man of few words but many expressions and distinctive sighs, a respected and reliable leader, a romantic at heart (noted by all the rings Mum wears). Even managing at 77 years old, from your sick bed, to organise a surprise ruby ring to celebrate your 55th Wedding Anniversary! You were a Pastor, a helper, a friend, a lender, a forgiver and a true gentleman. Now the world seems a little dimmer without your music, your voice, your presence.

Thank you, Daddy, for the way you taught me to search for the good in people, to serve faithfully, and most importantly, to love God.

I love you, always.

## **DILARA STANLEY, DAUGHTER IN LAW**

Dad...

So many ways to remember you. Some would say you were quiet, humble, faithful, unassuming, happier in the background. To me dad... You were blessing, true example of a warrior, a servant heart, and a man who wanted nothing more than to see his family live a life in faith and love God as you did.

From the day I met you, you showed your God centred character. No one welcomed as much as you did, No one gave more and expected so little. No one stood for God and spent so much time on his knees. No one worshipped as you did, nor praised as hard. No one had so much time and yet kept so busy pouring into us!

For every time you prayed, every day you we spent together, for the times that were hard, and you stood in the gap, for the memories of laughter playing board games, for the delicious gravy only you could make.

# *Tributes*

For your patience when we got things wrong, for never complaining, and for being a wonderful granddad to Jasmine, Dad, Thank you.

I will always remember you as a man who lived life with a purpose. Thank you for being the best example of a true man of God and incredible human being. I will miss you deeply, love you dad, enjoy relaxing with your bestie!

**JASMINE STANLEY, GRANDDAUGHTER**

**My tribute is my last letter to you, Grandad.**

Thank you for everything you've ever done for me. Thank you for all the laughs you've given me, everything you've taught me over the years, and all the known and unknown prayers you've prayed for me. You've helped shape me into who I am today and who I want to be in the future.

I genuinely hope I make you as proud of me as I have always been of you. I look up to the person you have always been, and I couldn't ask for a better role model.

I'm happy that you get to be with your best friend, but I'm so sad that you're no longer here with us. If there was ever anyone I was sure was going to heaven, it's you.

Thank you for always putting on a brave face for all of us, even though you struggled through the later years. You'll always be in my heart.

I love you so much, Grandad.

xxx

**MIRVIN KELLMAN, SON-IN-LAW**

Small Island man....

But that didn't make you insignificant

Even though overshadowed by such strength and beauty in Parris,

You were still noticed for your own brilliance.

A worker ... bee...it any given time of night or day,

How ironic at first a maker of shoes... who walked through life so peaceably

And your destination? .... cos "Brethren the time is short and the time is nigh."

Somewhere majestic... so much it shaped your entire soul as you set your focus and standard so high.

So unsurprisingly, a life so rich in sacrifice, love, worship a man so gentle and kind.

You would be so blessed with a help so full of beauty, strength, love and faithful to stand, right til the end, by your side.

And it just had to be heaven ordained...

I mean look what Matthew 19:6 is saying....' therefore what God has joined together let no man separate,'

Almost foretells the year of your forever union made in the winter of January 1968

Where 2 became 1 as they say in unity there is strength but around the corner in 1970,

You decided there's also strength in number so this year brought forth more legacy.

# *Tributes*

And on 15th February ..... arrives the one n only Philip “yer nah ready for me!” Stanley  
Then on the 26th Of Sept ‘71 another boy ...  
Soon to be revered, and a blessing so Rich  
Then the second of November ‘79, just perfect...sublime, Sandra Stanley the last but not least on the list.

But Wait! Listen! ...Did you hear that? A slap on the dash... you’re going too fast I hear him telling me!!  
Reverse back cos in 1973, Victor’s standing on business!!!.....adding VJ Stanley driving school to the legacy.

A pioneer, definitely ... “but I’m nothing” he keeps telling me,  
Hiding so many gifts behind a bush like his trying to be David Bellamy.  
But there was no hiding them ..  
Just an amazing man, that boasted only in the Lord.  
Who did everything as unto God .....wanting not a single applause.

So please friends, family, brethren associates reading or maybe even listening,  
Salute or be upstanding for our late and loved Victor Stanley if you ever received his... wisdom, preaching ...  
Sunday school teaching,  
Or you’ve just felt at peace when he’s ministered or speaking.  
Was it your Christening, did he marry you or maybe your baptism,  
or did he give you a bible or word on his visits to prison?  
Was it money, food, then a reminder God loves you ... or did he pray into your mountain...  
so you would see a breakthrough.  
Did he drive you to church, encourage you to search, tell you everything is secondary and to put Jesus first?  
Did he put up your shelf, pray into your health,  
Do everything he could when you needed some help?  
Did he do something random that helped shape your destiny,  
or did he cuss you with a disapproving look and sigh..... really heavily?  
Was he your choir conductor or driving instructor with his patience like a saint,  
or was he your leader .....and church pastor ... before his health...became...too faint?

Thank you VJ for being a living example of humility, a gentleman, family man and lover of Christ.....

Rest in Peace Pops.

## **BENJAMIN KELLMAN, GRANDSON**

Life goes on around me day after day,  
and the day you passed seems to feel like yesterday and eons away.  
I don’t even know how long it’s been since Thursday.  
I can’t ever see myself accepting this as normal.  
It hurts to see our family down;  
The tears they cry that caress their frown.  
At least you’re sat beside the one who wears the crown...

# *Tributes*

But I can't ever see myself accepting this as normal.  
I remember when I was gearing up for high school,  
You told me "You've got to work harder than everyone else –  
because you're a young black boy in a world that's cruel"  
I'll take that with me Grandad, and I will never forget that rule  
But I can't ever see myself accepting this as normal.  
I sit in your room,  
On that same stool  
Where I grew up watching you play music with your God given tool.  
You inspired me to practise on that grand piano that is oh so out of tune.  
I wish you could've waited to see me drive  
We share that passion, it helps us thrive.  
But you were so ready to depart from this life  
So I can't complain that you've escaped the strife.  
We love you so much Grandad, forever and always.  
I miss your presence, your disapproval of my hair,  
Though you liked my braids,  
so I'll wear them knowing 'neat' was your highest form of praise.  
I pray I didn't take for granted your days.  
Because I can't ever see myself accepting this as normal.

## **GRACE KELLMAN, GRANDDAUGHTER**

Grandad was someone to me who had so much wisdom, especially as he was always reading the Bible and knew God's word so well. One thing about him was that he was so supportive of our talents – whenever I showed him my Art, he encouraged me to carry on and attempted to teach me the piano when I asked him to, even when I ended up quitting. He loved everyone so very much, and the memories of being with him when he drove me home from rehearsals after school was so nice. The way he was willing to pick me up and spend time with me was so good, and I didn't really appreciate it until now. Even when he wasn't so well, he always said yes and I had to turn him down a few times so he could get rest! We got to talk in those moments where he drove me, and I remember him playing classical music a lot and how he spoke to me about what he was listening to when he was listening to other music.

Grandad was an amazing person, and it's so strange without him, but his memory is one we can't and won't forget.

# *Tributes*

**REUEL STANLEY, BROTHER**

## **RESOLUTION In Loving Memory of My Brother**

### **Victor John Stanley**

Today we are comforted by the words of our Lord, in Revelation 21 :4 which says: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, no more sorrow, or crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away."

Victor John Stanley has left an indelible imprint on the hearts of so many. His unique ability to serve, inspire and to give encouragement has touched so many lives.

We remember his love and devotion to the work of the Ministry, to which God had called him, that lives may be transformed for the Glory of God. Now that his earthly work and care for this life has ended, he has transitioned to a place where he can rest from his labor.

Victor John Stanley was a Loving Husband to Mother Thelma Stanley, Father to Philip Stanley, Richard Stanley and Sandra Kellman, and Brother to Reuel Stanley of the United States of America, with whom we shared a special bond.

To the Stanley Family: Mother Thelma Stanley, Philip, Richard, and Sandra, be reminded of Psalm 30:5, which says: Weeping may endure for a night, but Joy cometh in the morning. A promise of hope and assurance that we shall meet again on the other shore.

Good night my brother, take your rest, we will see you again in the morning.  
Elder Reuel Stanley

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reuel', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Your Tall Little Brother

# *Tributes*

## **OTIS PARRIS, BROTHER**

In Loving Memory of My Brother VJ

Today, I find myself reflecting on the life of my beloved brother, who has left us far too soon. He was more than just a sibling; I never knew what a half-brother was until later in life. Let me set the record straight, he was my brother. His presence to those that knew him brought joy and warmth to everyone around him, because he was approachable, and his absence leaves a void that can never be filled.

You never imagine that you must pen a tribute to your brother. But here we are. Is there a funny story I can tell you? Only one comes to mind which used to wind him up. Sat at the table drinking tea, after every sip we would all used to say "aah" which usually in him leaving the table. That is how I remember it.

I had the privilege of working with VJ for a short period as a driving instructor in 1981. I opted not to qualify as an Approved Driver Instructor. Unlike him, I did not have the patience to endure the quirks and foibles of the diverse learners, so any hope of a long and lasting partnership was short lived. Gladly he continued his chosen profession for almost fifty-two years and forty-nine of those self-employed! A testament to his enduring patience and calm spirit.

Miss you.

## **FLOYD PARRIS, BROTHER AND CHERRY PARRIS, SISTER-IN-LAW**

Today marks a very sad day for me as I bid farewell to you my beloved brother. Having you around was like having a father figure in the family. Your gentleness, your peaceful nature and your love for God is something I will always cherish.

Whenever I visited Bethel (Hyde Park) my brother would call me up the play the organ so could conduct the service from the pulpit as if there was no one else to play. Getting discount for driving lessons it was a no brainer. He was ever the professional especially when I would cross my hands over the wheel he would say "push and pull". He was shocked when I passed my test the first time.

Now there is a void that no one can fill. I wish it wasn't so, but I know this is the Will of God that we all go to the Father at some point. I pray that the Lord will teach us to number our days and be ready for this day. VJ, you fought a good fight, you ran your race with diligence and kept the faith, now enter into eternal rest, till we meet again. We will miss you dearly and you are forever in our hearts.

# *Tributes*

## **JOYCELYN PARRIS, SISTER**

VJ God has called you home and now you are resting in the arms of the Lord. While it is something we all know will come to us all, it still hurts nonetheless. I will miss your quiet and calm spirit. I will miss your quirky mannerisms, your strength of character which left an indelible mark that I will always cherish.

Sleep on brother dearest.

## **AMOGENE PARRIS, SISTER**

Victor, you have known me all my life and even helped raising me in my very early years. I have never known you to raise your voice. However, there were times I could get a sense from your inflexions when you would make yourself known in no uncertain way. That “don’t mess with me” kind of presence.

You were always so particular about the way you dressed and was fiercely protective of your belongings when you lived at Hamilton Avenue and to ensure that no-one ventured to trouble your things you always took a picture and left it on the dresser as a warning. We would deliberately move stuff and put them back just for the fun of it. We could never quite work out how you managed to know someone had moved something. We always had a sense of triumph when you didn’t return downstairs to challenge the yet unknown culprit.

That aside, your entrepreneurial spirit and desire to be at the cutting edge of advancement and progress was always evident. For example, the first phone we ever had at Hamilton Avenue was purchased by you (even if it had a lock on it!) That was followed by a payphone! And let’s not forget the Rena Ware of which we still have one knife and one pot without the lid and a lid without the pot!

However, my enduring memories will be your strength of character and the way you calmly and quietly advocated difficult situations. How you always worked for inclusion, where differences were not the focal point, but the areas of agreement were the ties that bound people together. You were a diplomat of utmost integrity. I will miss you. You have gone, now I must come to you

## **FLOYD PARRIS, BROTHER AND CHERRY PARRIS, SISTER-IN-LAW**

Today marks a very sad day for me as I bid farewell to you my beloved brother. Having you around was like having a father figure in the family. Your gentleness, your peaceful nature and your love for God is something I will always cherish.

Whenever I visited Bethel (Hyde Park) my brother would call me up the play the organ so could conduct the service from the pulpit as if there was no one else to play. Getting discount for driving lessons it was a no brainer. He was ever the professional especially when I would cross my hands over the wheel he would say “push and pull”. He was shocked when I passed my test the first time.

Now there is a void that no one can fill. I wish it wasn’t so, but I know this is the Will of God that we all go to the Father at some point. I pray that the Lord will teach us to number our days and be ready for this day. VJ, you fought a good fight, you ran your race with diligence and kept the faith, now enter into eternal rest, till we meet again. We will miss you dearly and you are forever in our hearts.

# *Tributes*

## **SEREENA POWLETT, GRAND NEICE**

It is with great sadness that I write this message. I will deeply miss your messages of encouragement on our family chat and during our family prayer calls. As a family, we will carry on these traditions with you and Nana as our anchor and inspiration.

On Sunday, 19th November 2006, you baptised my sister and I (Sarah). It was a joyous and deeply significant milestone in my walk with Christ one I will always cherish. Thank you for being part of such a sacred moment in my life.

In the summer of 2011, you and Uncle Otis married John and I. You blessed our marriage, and we will always be grateful for that beautiful moment. I've always loved telling people that my uncles married us it's something I hold dear.

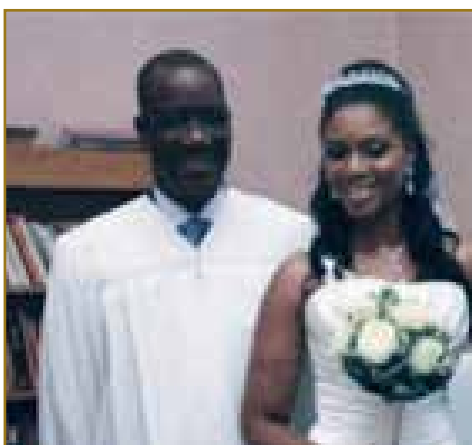
Thank you for teaching me how to drive those lessons this was unforgettable! Yes, I passed on the first time. You were shocked... and honestly, so was I! But I couldn't have done it without you.

As I reflect, I'm reminded that you were part of many pivotal moments in my life. Your presence and influence will not be forgotten.

Rest in eternal peace, Uncle, reunited with Nanna, resting in the arms of Jesus You will always be in my heart.

Goodnight

Sereena xx







# *Tributes*



## **Office of the Presiding Bishop**

15<sup>th</sup> May 2025

On behalf of the Board of Bishops, the Pastors, officers, and members of Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) U.K., along with Lady Yolanda and myself we extend our deepest and most heart-felt condolence to Mother Thelma Stanley, the entire Stanley family and the saints of Bethel Leeds, on the transition from earth to glory of Pastor Victor Stanley.

Though words can seem futile to comfort those mourning the loss of a loved one, our prayers and thoughts are with you during this time.

Pastor Stanley was a courageous and humble man who epitomized faithfulness to the ministry and love for God's people, he was an encourager and served both the local congregation in Leeds and the national church with distinction for many years.

Because we know that Pastor Stanley is now in the presence of the Lord, awaiting the rapture of the church, we do not mourn as those who have no faith. We can rejoice knowing that if we continue to be faithful as he was, we will see him again when the redeemed are gathering in.

May the grace and the mercies of God continue to sustain you in Jesus' name.

In His name and for His glory,

*+ Dexter E. Edmund*

Presiding Bishop  
Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) U.K. & Europe

# Tributes



Bethel United Church Jesus Christ (Apostolic) UK  
393 Claremont Road, Rusholme, Manchester M14 7PA  
Registered Charity No. 1173683

Greetings in Jesus Name.

On behalf of the Bethel United church of Jesus Christ in Manchester and the saints of District 3, I would like to extend sympathy to the family of Elder Victor Stanley. We pray that the Lord will comfort and strengthen you all during this time.

Elder Stanley is a man whom I have known for many years. I have seen his life and ministry flourish to his becoming the Pastor of the Leeds church. I have had the privilege of serving with him on the District 3 Pastoral board, where he proved to be a committed and trusted colleague.

I found him to be a humble and faithful man of God. He was someone you could rely on to help and support you. He was not pretentious, arrogant or self-serving, but modest and kind in the pursuit of his ministry.

I count him as not only a colleague but also a dear friend whose counsel I will miss.

Being a Pastor is very hard work. God's servant must stand when others lose heart and scatter. They have to be an example of holy living even in the most difficult of circumstances. The words of our Lord must ring out from their lives in that they must love their enemies, bless those that curse them, do good to those that hate them and pray for those that despitefully use and persecute them.

Elder Stanley was a good example of a godly leader staying at his post until the very end. There is much that we can learn from his life.

God bless you  
Bishop David Miller

*"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds"*



# *Bethel Apostolic Church Ipswich*

Pastor: Bishop Nathan J Simmonds

Assistant Pastor: Minister Christine Knight

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It is with deepest and heartfelt sympathies that I wish to express my condolences to Mother Stanley and family on the passing of our dearly departed Pastor Victor Stanley.

I've known Pastor Stanley my entire life and as I grew up we became colleagues and friends. A quietly spoken person but a man of principle and order, with a reverence and regard for the house of God.

As an adult, Pastor Stanley always had time for me. I cherished our conversations and the unwavering faith and wisdom he shared. He was always encouraging me with the music and telling me to keep on playing even when times became hard.

He was never too proud to call me up and ask advice on various matters whether it be practical, spiritual or otherwise. He was always willing to give way to those who knew or could do things better.

I have lost a friend and big brother but I'm truly grateful and thankful to God for the friendship and relationship we had.

On behalf of Mother Ethlyn Simmonds, my wife minister Clovette, our family, the Bethel Church in Ipswich and myself, we pray for Mother Stanley and family - that the God of all comfort will wrap His loving arms around you and grant you strength.

We thank you for sharing the gift, who was Pastor Stanley with us all. And while we are all saddened and grieve at his departure, we pray that you take comfort in knowing that he has run his race well and has entered into his eternal reward.

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. 1Thessalonians 4:16-18.”

Know that you are in our thoughts and prayer.

With love,

Yours in Christ

Bishop Nathan J Simmonds

Pastor and District Bishop

Luther Road Ipswich Suffolk IP2 8BL

[enquiries@bethelipswich.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bethelipswich.org.uk)

01473 689864

**Bethel Apostolic Church Ipswich** is a charitable incorporated  
Organisation registered charity **no.1199112**



## **BETHEL DISTRICT 5 HEADQUARTERS**

Mount Horeb Apostolic Church,  
Regent Street, Tipton DY4 9HH

Administration: [admin@bethel5.uk](mailto:admin@bethel5.uk)

Direct: bishoplantell@gmail.com

On behalf of the Pastors & saints of Bethel District 5, Lady Coronet and I share our deepest sympathy & condolences with Mother Stanley, the extended family and the saints at Bethel Leeds at this very sad time of loss.

Pastor Stanley was the epitome of a true soldier, never leaving his post, and staying in the fight until the end... no retreat, and no surrender!

We knew him as a faithful servant of Bethel UK and of the Apostolic faith. A man of conviction, disciplined and trustworthy in looking after the flock of God, he was ready to stand when tasked with taking up the mantle from the late Pastor Parris.

In recent years with the ravages of sickness against him, he continued resolutely in his duty and I never heard him once complain about his lot.

Pastor Victor Stanley you have been faithful and true in your labours to the Lord, and we salute you.

You have ceased from your labour... now claim your crown.

Bishop Andrew Landell.

### **Tipton HQ**

Mount Horeb Apostolic Church

**Bishop A J Landell**

### **Small Heath**

Bethel United Church

**Overseer B Campbell**

### **Coventry**

Bethel New Life Apostolic Church

**Pastor A Codner**

### **Derby**

Bethel Derby Tabernacle Church

### **Erdington**

Bethel Immanuel Apostolic Church

**Pastor M Robb**

### **Hall Green**

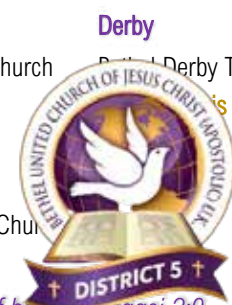
Bethel United Church

**Pastor L Hepburn**

### **Leicester**

Bethel Pneuma Tabernacle Church

**Pastor D Hunter**



*"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts. Hagai 2:9"*

*Building Without Limits, Releasing The Glory...*

## Tribute of Condolence



Pastor: Bishop, Dr. D.W. Lewin  
District 6 Headquarters  
253 Marsh Road  
Luton  
LU3 2RT  
Tel: 01582 945614



**We express our sincere condolences** to the wife of Elder Victor Stanley, his family and saints of Bethel Apostolic Church – Leeds with the fellow co-workers of District 3 led by Bishop David Miller. One of Bethel's faithful son has now fallen asleep, Pastor Victory Stanley has transitioned to be with the Lord Jesus Christ and the company of saints.

Elder Stanley was a well presented spiritual man with an infectious smile and character. He served the local and national church faithfully. During my service in the national brotherhood, I witnessed Pastor Victor's passion in prayer, focus and the Word. I often wondered and marvelled at how Pastor Victor would portray a godly stillness, quietness and yet be vibrant at the same time, the saying, '*...still waters run deep...*' come to mind. Brother Victor, you will be missed and cannot be replaced. Oh the pain of your departure.

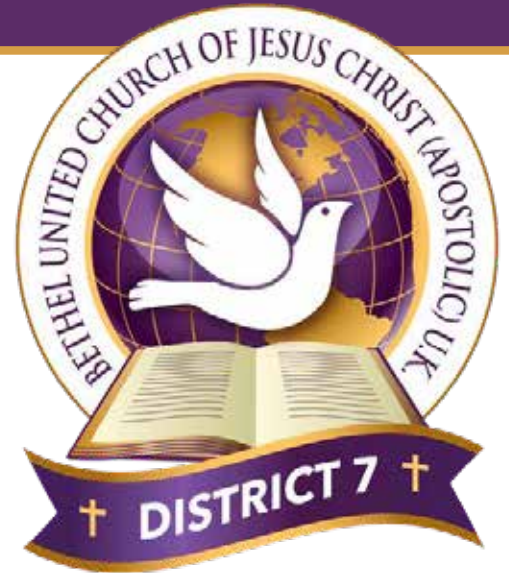
King David in Psalm 23 verse 2 wrote, 'He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.' Let us all pray for still waters as we drink from the fountain of life and support the family and church saints of the Leeds assembly.

Family, we are comforted by the good memories of Elder Stanley and take strong faith in the knowledge that he is safe in the arms of Jesus waiting for us; on behalf of myself, Lady Pam and District 6, we offer our humble sympathy, with much love.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Bishop David Lewin

'They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as Eagles' (Isa 40:31)



### Tribute to Pastor Victor Stanley

On behalf of Lady Genevieve, Dr Davis, the pastors and saints of District 7, I extend heartfelt sympathies to Missionary Stanley, the family and the church in Leeds at this difficult time.

As we reflect on the life and times of Pastor Stanley, we remember a man of God who served the Lord and God's people with integrity, diligence and love. He had a calm and gentle demeanour which was a quality that made you feel at ease in his presence.

Today we thank God for his years of dedicated service to the church in Leeds and he has left a legacy of faith in Christ. He was unassuming but purposeful in his manner, a Pastor who worked for the Lord and now he has gone to be with Lord in glory.

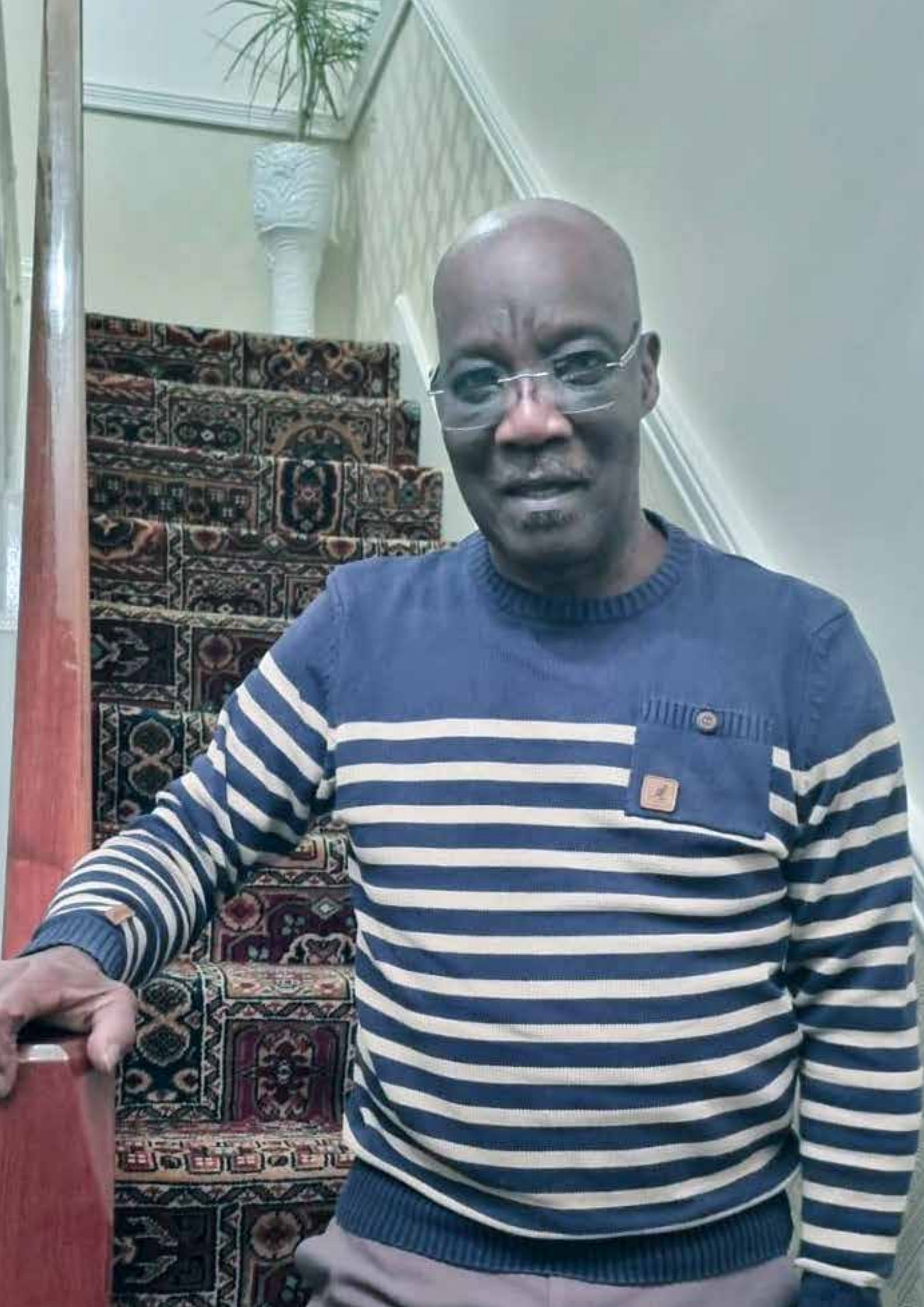
Jesus made provision by comforting his people in these moments of loss and bereavement by giving us His word. As you navigate the present and future, I encourage you to take solace in the words of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain for the former things are passed away” (Rev.21:4).

May God bless you with His comfort and peace.

*Bishop Lansford Dinnall*





# *Other Tributes*

“PRESCIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS”  
PSALM 116:15

# *Tributes*

## **PASTOR WEBSTER MODEST, MINISTER MERL MODEST, AND THE BRETHREN OF BETHEL CHURCH, SHEFFIELD**

Our Sincere Condolences to Missionary Thelma Stanley, Family, and the Saints of Bethel Apostolic Church, Leeds.

From Pastor Webster Modest, Minister Merl Modest, and the Brethren of Bethel Church, Sheffield

To our dearly beloved family in Christ,  
Grace and peace be unto you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. On behalf of the entire Bethel Sheffield family, we extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences on the passing of our dear brother, Elder Victor Stanley. We are deeply saddened by this great loss and join you in mourning a truly faithful servant of God.

Pastor Stanley was a man of deep humility, unwavering commitment, and sincere love for the work of the Kingdom. He carried himself with quiet strength, always pointing others to Christ. His words, life, and ministry made a lasting impact on all who knew him. As the Scripture says, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15). He truly embodied this calling.

Though our hearts grieve, we find comfort in the Word of God: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psalm 116:15), and "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).

To his dear wife, family, and the saints at Bethel Leeds - we want you to know we are praying for you. May the peace of God be your strength, and may His everlasting arms uphold you in the days ahead.

With all our love and heartfelt sympathy,

# *Tributes*

Holy Greetings Missionary Thelma Stanley and the entire Stanley/Parris family.

Please accept our condolences and sympathy at this time for your loss of your dear husband, our brother in Christ, such a humble, sincere gentleman. He taught me to drive and helped me to develop as a young man. About 44 years ago Pastor Dr Mabel Parris called us into service for the Lord, that evening along with others we were petrified. I was 16 at the time and we just wanted to serve the Lord. My father had baptised Elder Stanley as a young man in the early 1960s and he has been steadfast along the journey.



Elder Stanley also taught us this precious choir song....

“When He calls me I will answer here am I, I am ready if He wants me to die,  
There's a mansion now awaiting me on high, I am going there by and by,  
I have made my preparation, from the world of separation,  
I am walking on God's highway, when He calls I will fly away.”



On behalf of the Bethel, Apostolic Ark family, Lady Michelle, myself and the Williams family you remain in our prayers, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

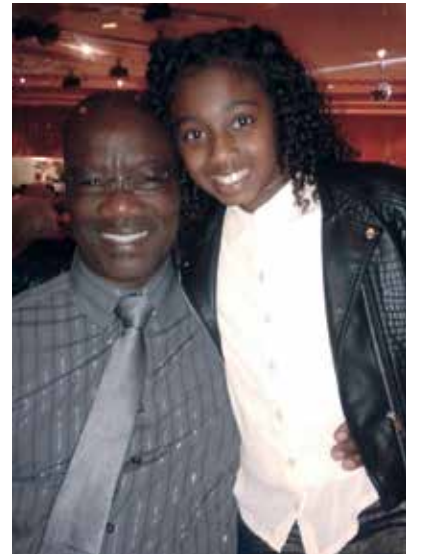
Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Bishop Raymond AO Williams MBE











## *Acknowledgements*

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who has supported us during this difficult time. Your presence here today, your kind messages, flowers, gifts and thoughtful gestures have brought great comfort and strength. I am especially grateful to all those who helped make today a truly meaningful and memorable tribute to my husband, Victor's life. Your love and compassion have been a light in our sorrow, and I will always remember the warmth and care you have shown.

With heartfelt thanks,

Thelma Stanley.

### **Ushers**

Sis Kellman  
Mark Miller  
Judith Gardiner  
Judith Henry  
Janet Freckleton  
Glen Swaby

### **Pallbearers**

Philip Stanley  
Richard Stanley  
Jacob Stanley  
Marcus Stanley  
Mirvin Kellman  
Benjamin Kellman  
Otis Parris  
Floyd Parris

### **Funeral Service**

**Robson & Ellis**  
435 Stanningley Road  
Leeds LS13 4BL

### **Flowers**

**Leonora Rose**  
Unit 3/4, Asda Stores, Oldfield Ln, Leeds LS12 4EX

### **Repast**

**Bethel Church Hall**  
43-45 Victoria Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1AS

### **Catering**

**Clinton's Caribbean Catering**

### **Printing**

**Creative Print Leeds LTD.**  
20 Limewood Road, Leeds LS14 1LU

**Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Matt 24:44**

