

Bishop Lethenial McClam was born on June 14, 1942 in Kingstree, SC. To the late Rev. Dr. Jackson McClam and the Late Mother Velar Mayes McClam Woods. As a result of their union ten (10) children were born, five boys and five girls. As God, in his infinite wisdom would have it, all the girls died as babies; leaving five handsome boys; Wesley, Prince, David, Lethenial, and Esau. Rev. Dr. Jackson and Velar divorced leaving Velar to raise Bishop and his brothers on her own. She decided to move to Philadelphia, PA. in 1954; to make a better life for her and her boys. While living in Philadelphia, Lethenial was introduced to the street gang lifestyle. Velar, his mother, was not pleased with the negative behavior her son was displaying on the streets and then coming in the house acting like he was an angle. In 1957 Velar and her two youngest boys moved to New Haven, CT. Velar kept her boys in church. She was a praying woman who loved God and was determined to raise God- fearing and God-Loving men in the way of the Lord.

Bishop McClam and his family joined Bishop G.W. Morgan's church in November of 1957. After serving faithfully the family decided to move their membership to Corinth Temple Unified Freewill Baptist Church on 519 Washington Ave. in New Haven, CT. Bishop McClam served as an usher, choir member, and, Sunday School teacher. He loved teaching the word of God during Sunday School. Because of his faithfulness to teaching, he was promoted to Sunday School superintendent where he served faithfully. Teaching was not his only love as he loved to sing the songs of Zion. In August of 1959, his baby brother Esau McClam started a quartet group, The Sensational Pilgrims of Faith. When Esau McClam went home to be with the Lord at an early age on November 6, 1969, Bishop vowed to keep the quartet group going. The Pilgrims of Faith are still singing to the Glory of God.

In 1971 the late Bishop Lethenial McClam was called by God to preach. With much prayer and fasting, Bishop preached his first sermon On September 27,1974. Four years later God called him to pastor, and he founded and started Union Disciple Unified Freewill Baptist Church on June 11, 1978. Bishop Pastored Union Disciple for 38 years. Lethenial McClam was ordained Bishop on December 12, 1980. When Bishop first opened the church, many naysayers said that the church would not last a year. Bishop ignored all the negative words of others and held on to God's unchanging hand and continued to do the work of his calling. Forty-two years later Union Disciple is still growing and thriving daily. To God Be All the Glory.

Bishop McClam met Mary Williams in 1967. Mary and Lethenial fell in love with each other and were married on March 9, 1968. Bishop and Mary became the proud parents of four children: Sheena, Shawneeque, Darrell and Darnell McClam. Bishop and Mary had a great life together for 48 years. Through the good and the bad times, they trusted God to keep the family together and to provide. Bishop would always say "She put up with me for many years and I would not trade her for the world" Bishop loved his family, especially his grand and great grandchildren.

Bishop McClam had a passion for helping people find life at its best, which is found in knowing and following Christ. He loved to see people experience Jesus firsthand, grow to love Him and become strong disciples. Bishop planted many seeds of love that are bearing fruit till this day. The members of Union Disciple Church were blessed by Bishops' teaching, counseling, and spiritual Leadership. Under Bishop McClam's leadership and guidance, Union Disciple has been blessed with two young Pastors who have been equipped to carry on his legacy. Pastors Darrell and Darnell McClam have been pastoring for Four years; continuing in Bishops' legacy of love and giving.

Bishop McClam was employed for 32 years at U.S. Repeating Arms Company where he served as the president of Local Lodge #609. Bishop was an advocate for the underdog and for those who did not have a voice. He did not mind speaking to power on their behalf. Once Bishop retired from U.S. Repeating Arms, he, his wife Mary and two sons Darrell and Darnell McClam opened The McClam Funeral Home on April of 2000. Bishop's heart was to help every family that walked through the doors of the McClam funeral Home. Regardless if the family had insurance or not Bishop Believed that every life had significance and was worth celebrating in a special way that only The McClam Funeral Home was able and willing to provide. His philosophy blessed the business of McClam Funeral Home.

On October 4, 2016 God called Bishop Lethenial McClam home to be with Him. He is survived by his wife Mary W. McClam, 4 children, Sheena, Shawneeque, Darrell, and Darnell McClam, 14 Grandchildren, 12 Great-Grandchildren, Two special cousins: Chantel and Wendell Todd, and the entire congregation of Union Disciple UFWB Church.

The Bible talks about a good man leaving an inheritance for his children's children. Bishop has done just that. His labor of love will never be forgotten.