In Celebration of the Life of
Dr. Leslie Sterling Bland

Active Pallbearers
Bro. Gregory Graham       Bro. Sentrell Lee
Bro. Reginal Rose       Bro. Michael Taylor
Bro. Earl Waye              Bro. Wadi Khoury
Bro. Calvin Howard

Honorary Pallbearers
Lionel Williams       Aaron Mitchell       Harold Andrews
Bobby Gibson           William Brown       Grady Sherman

Flower Attendants
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Sisters of the Church of Christ

Friday, April 5, 2019 ~ 11:00 AM
Lake Forest Church of Christ
950 Edgewood Avenue West / Jacksonville, Florida 32208
Ryan Frederick, Minister

Acknowledgments
The family of Dr. Leslie Sterling Bland want to extend our heartfelt gratitude
and appreciation for the outpouring of comfort, love and support. We are
grateful to God for you and the kindness shown during the life and home going
service of our beloved one. It is truly a blessing to have the prayers and
consolations of friends. A special thanks to physicians and staff of Mayo Clinic; Dr. Riffe,
physician; Hobbs Street Church of Christ; Northside Church of Christ; Adairsville Church
of Christ; Wesconnett Church of Christ; Kingsland Church of Christ; Area Congregations in
Tennessee; and a special thanks to Lake Forest Church of Christ. May God forever bless
each and every one of you.
~ The Family ~
A Tribute
My Husband

The first time I saw your face
I knew that love
had finally found me.

Our bond outlasts time and space
A love that will last for
Eternity.

Your Wife, Shirley

Dr. Leslie Sterling Bland was born February 27, 1947, to the late Leon F. Bland, Sr. and Norma Hull Bland in Atlanta, Georgia. At the age of 5, the Bland family moved back to Jacksonville, Florida. He attended the local public schools of Duval County, graduating from Stanton High School – Class of 1964. Furthering his education, he attended Bethune-Cookman College, Edward Waters College, and the Funeral Services Program, Miami Dade College where he completed his studies and successfully passed the National Board Examination becoming a Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer in the state of Florida. Years later, Dr. Bland attended the Southern Christian University where he received his Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, Master of Divinity in Ministry, and Doctor of Ministry specializing in Teaching Biblical Worship. At the time of his passing he was an Adjunct Professor at Asian Christian University.

While working at Dallas Graham Funeral Home in 1970, Dr. Bland was blessed to meet the joy of his life. Not knowing that they would be tested to live out their vows, “in sickness and in health,” they were able to endure through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. As stated in Proverbs 18:22, “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord.” On April 10, 1971, Leslie S. Bland and Shirley A. Thompson married in holy matrimony and began a union that expanded for 48 years and was blessed with two loving daughters, Demetria and Yolanda. Dr. Bland loved his “Bride.” He was so grateful to have a wife that loved him and was devoted not only to him but to the Lord and the ministry. Dr. Bland dedicated his life to Christ December 7, 1977 at Northside Church of Christ under the leadership of Charlie McClendon. After he became a Christian, Dr. Bland
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Order of Service

Theme: “May The Work I’ve Done Speak For Me”
Minister Ryan Frederick, Presiding
Lake Forest Church of Christ / Jacksonville, Florida

Carlos Dawson, Song Leader

Procession................................................................. “Oh I Want To See Him”

Hymn ........................................................................... “I’ll Be Listening”

Scripture
Old Testament ................................................................. Bro. Carl Carney, Minister
Old Hickory Blvd Church of Christ
Nashville, Tennessee

New Testament................................................................... Elder Bobby Gibson
Northside Church of Christ
Jacksonville, Florida

Prayer ........................................................................... Minister Ryan Frederick

My Profession – A Mortician................................................ Robert J. Dean, CFSP
Florida State College at Jacksonville Funeral Service Program

Hymn ........................................................................... “Victory in Jesus”

“Now That I’m A Christian” ..................................Senior Minister Charlie McClendon
Northside Church of Christ, Jacksonville, Florida

Hymn ........................................................................... “He’s My King”

“Hard Fighting Soldier” .................................................... Gregory Graham, Leader
Kingsland Church of Christ Kingsland, Georgia
Minister Robert Gibbons
Johnson Street Church of Christ Brunswick, Georgia

Hymn ........................................................................... “Hard Fighting Soldier”

“We’re On A Mission” .................................................. Minister Bill Irby
West Hobbs Street Church of Christ Athens, Alabama

Hymn ........................................................................... “I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord”

“Family Is All We Have” ........................................ Kevin L. Bennett, Son-In-Law

Hymn ........................................................................... “I’m Going That Way”

Words of Comfort.......................................................... Dr. Demar Elam
Chancellor of Asian Christian University

Recessional ....................................................................... “I’ll Fly Away”