



Rev. Perry Tanksley

Reverend Oliver Perry Tanksley went to be with his Savior on June 21, 2013. The family will receive visitors today at Lakewood Memorial Funeral Home on Clinton Blvd. today from 3-5 PM. A celebration of his life will be held at Clinton First United Methodist Church on Monday, June 24 at 2PM.

Perry was born in 1928 near Lorman, MS to the late Lawrence and Myrtle Tanksley. While in Central High School in Jackson, MS he sensed that he was to devote himself to preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. From passing out tracts in the Jackson train terminal, to preaching at Youth for Christ rallies at the King Edward Hotel in Jackson, to preaching on the town squares of market towns in KY, to pastoring over 20 churches in five states, to authoring books and greeting cards which sold over 60 million copies, he lived to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ had died and that He rose from the grave to give eternal life to all who come to Him by humble faith.

He graduated from Asbury College in Wilmore, KY and earned a Masters of Divinity from Emory University in Atlanta. During his career as an ordained United Methodist minister he led more than 20 congregations in KY., OH., GA., TN. and MS. In MS. he served churches in Byhalia, Inverness, Isola, Caile, Okolona, Clinton and Brandon.

His first book A Gift of Love was self-published in 1967. Over the following decades he wrote 30 books and 1,250 greeting cards. Perry had a unique ability to write poems which brought hope and encouragement to millions. His poetry generated letters from all fifty states and many countries.

Perry is survived by his wife of 63 years, Suzanne Mitchell Tanksley of Clinton, MS., four sons John Tanksley, Robert Tanksley, Perry Tanksley and Mark Tanksley, a brother Winston Tanksley, sisters Anne Short and Glyn Borden, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to Clinton First United Methodist Church.

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