



## Dr. Millard C. Reed

November 19, 1933 - December 27, 2012

For 31 years, Millard C. Reed was a servant-leader in Nashville. From 1974 to 1991, he served as senior pastor at Nashville's First Church of the Nazarene, the mother church of the South; from 1991 to 2005 he was President of Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. In both capacities, he served the people of the greater Nashville community. As pastor of one of Nashville's larger churches, "Pastor" Reed (as he was and is still lovingly called) served the people of his church and any others who needed a pastoral visit, an ear that could listen, and a friend. His ministry was characterized by his concern for his flock—a concern that was demonstrated by his rigorous visitation schedule to hospitals, nursing homes, and in any other location where he was needed. As President of Trevecca Nazarene University, President Reed served and led in a different area—mostly the scholarship needs of students. Under his leadership Trevecca gained recognition for its innovative degree-completion program that allows students to earn an undergraduate degree while they continue in their careers. Trevecca's education programs expanded, and for some years Trevecca had more graduates teaching in Tennessee public schools than did any other school in the state. Under his leadership, the institution moved from Level III to Level V being the first Nazarene College/University to offer the Ed.D. doctoral program. The accomplishments of his presidency included the achievement of a much stronger financial foundation, initiation of a \$3-million campus improvement plan that included a new main entrance to the university, and the successful

completion of its largest ever capital campaign that raised \$28 million for the Waggoner Library, an increased endowment, and additional operating funds. He received an A.B. From Olivet Nazarene College in 1955 and Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary, 1961. He had two years of doctoral work at the University of Chicago from 1961-63 and Doctor of Ministry degree from Vanderbilt University in 1979.

He served as Chaplain for Nashville Optimist Club, was a member of the Rotary Club, and was on the Board of East Nashville Cooperative Ministry and the Board of Directors for Tennessee Preparatory School. He was the first recipient of Operation Andrew's Pastor of the Year Award (2007), a member of Billy Graham Committee for Nashville Crusade, and Czar Palaver Club. Included among Dr. Reed's many honors are Tennessee's Outstanding Achievement Award-given by the Tennessee governor, the alumni award from Olivet Nazarene College, and an honorary doctorate from Trevecca. Dr. Reed's writings have been published in several books and journals. Additionally, he has written several books, including Improve Your Serve, Consider the Lilies, and From a Pastor's Heart.

On June 16, 1951 he was Saved and acknowledged call.

On June 17, 1951 he was Sanctified wholly.

On June 26, 1951 he preached his first sermon. In that service, Barbara Cunningham was converted. She later became his wife. From September of 1951 through May of 1955 he trained at Olivet Nazarene College.

From September of 1955 through May of 1956 he took first pastorate in Oregon, Missouri (part time).

From September of 1955 through May of 1957 he trained at Nazarene Theological Seminary. From July 1957 through July 1961 he served as pastor of the Page-Warson Church of the Nazarene , St. Louis, Missouri.

On August 7, 1958 he was ordained at Pine Crest Camp in Fredericktown, Missouri. From September of 1959 through June of 1961 he worked toward and earned a Master's of Divinity at Eden Seminary. From August of 1961 through April of 1966 he served as pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in

Kenosha, Wisconsin. From

September of 1961 through June of 1963 he took additional graduate work at the University of Chicago.

From April of 1966 through July of 1974 he served as the Pastor of the Church of the Nazarene, Overland Park, Kansas. From August of 1974 through July of 1991 he served as the Pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, Nashville, TN. From September of 1977 through June of 1979 he completed his Doctorate in Ministry at Vanderbilt University. On August 7, 1988 he celebrated his 30th anniversary of ordination.

In March of 1991 he was elected President of Trevecca College. In July of 1991 he became President of Trevecca Nazarene College. He retired from that position in June of 2005. Dr. Reed married his high school sweetheart, the former Barbara Cunningham. He is survived by his four children, Stephen Reed (Diane), Deborah Reed, Paul Reed (Lisa), and John Reed (Heather Lose); grandchildren, Rebecca Derchy, Sarah Moore, Sarah Anna and John Mark Reed, Jr., Ashley Dean (Tyler), and Elizabeth Reed; great-granddaughter, Gabriella Derchy; sister, Martha Garvin (George). Funeral services will be Sunday at 5pm at First Church of the Nazarene, 510 Woodland St. Nashville, TN. In lieu of flowers please make memorials to the Millard and Barbara Reed Scholarship Fund at Trevecca Nazarene University or Friends of Shelby Park and Bottoms.

# Tribute Wall

JR

“ *Janice Glenn Reaves lit a candle in memory of Dr. Millard C. Reed*



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**Janice Glenn Reaves** - January 30, 2025 at 07:30 PM

JR

“ *Dear family of Pastor Reed,  
I realize this note is many years late, but still wanted to express my love for Pastor Reed. I entered Trevecca and came to Nashville First the first Sunday Pastor Reed preached. I will never forget as a young 18 year old going up to greet him saying that it was my first Sunday there and he responded , “ Mine, too!” We laughed and from then on He became my pastor for the years I was at Trevecca. I was from Jacksonville, Florida and when he came to the North Florida district to visit churches, it was so good to see him again! He came to my parents home after( I kidnapped him ) and he sang to my blind father who had listened to the sermon tapes for many years! He sang “No one ever cared for me like Jesus”. I will never forget his powerful but gentle preaching at 510 Woodland . I still have the tapes today. I gave many to the library at Trevecca and for missionaries to use. It is now 2025 and his life touched my parents and my life. Today mom and dad, Harold and Wilma Glenn, also Trevecca graduates, are in Heaven today with Millard Reed and our Blessed Lord,  
Janice Glenn Reaves*

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**Janice Glenn Reaves** - January 30, 2025 at 07:26 PM



“ *Dr. Millard C. Reed*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *I know these condolences are three years old but I just see the sad news. Clearly Pastor Reed and his family made an impact on my life as I looked him up on the internet and saw this notice of his passing. Pastor Reed and his family meant so much to me in my youth. I recall the death of my young school friend when I was 12 years old and Pastor Reed drove me to the funeral. His words to my young breaking heart have stayed with me my whole life. Never have a met a kinder, wiser man. If men shall know God by a man's works, Pastor Reed left everyone feeling God's presence. Thinking of you Mrs. Reed, Steve, Debbie, Paul and John. Many years have past but I still hold wonderful memories. I wish you all only the best !*  
*Jim KlinglerWetmore, Kansas*

Capt America - September 04, 2015 at 09:07 AM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Dr. Reeds family. My Mother Mrs Countess Mitchum Hurd and her parents, Mr. and Mrs, Robert Balie Mitchum will be welcoming Dr. Reed in Heaven. Gods Love and comfort to you,*  
*Betsy Bourner*  
*Huntsville,AL*

Betsy Hurd Bourner - January 01, 2013 at 10:00 PM



“ *Dr. Reed was a True Light that will be greatly missed.*

Rev. James Merritt - December 31, 2012 at 04:22 PM

RL

“ Dr. Reed was my friend. It was my joy to pastor in Nashville (Nashville Calvary) from 1981-1989. Dr. Reed always included the Nashville Nazarene pastors in anything Nashville First planned. I have fond memories of sitting with him in his office when I needed guidance as a young pastor. I am glad I knew him...I am honored to have known him. We will see him again.

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**Rev. Lane Loman** - December 30, 2012 at 08:48 PM

FR

“ Pastor Reed was our pastor. How we loved him and Mrs.Reed. We loved their singing and was blessed each time. He shared in my mothers funeral and sang with our pastor Woolery. He ate meals at our house. Advice, If long hair is all you have to worry about. You don't have any worries. He will be missed. Bless his family.

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**Fran & Richard Rohmann** - December 30, 2012 at 12:09 AM

RO

“ Pastor Reed was our pastor while living in Nashville and attending Trevecca. He dedicated our first child - Shelly - in 1976 at First Church. We have so many tapes of the worship services from that time which we continue to listen to regularly. We were listening to one of them on Thursday on our way home from Christmas with family. What a wonderful man. I will never forget he and Barbara singing, "A Name I Highly Treasure." He has been such a blessing to our family throughout the years. He will be greatly missed. Love and prayers to Barbara and all the family.

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**Rod & Kathy O'Barr** - December 29, 2012 at 10:11 PM

GH

“ Our condolences to Dr. Reed's family. We will be praying for you during this time. Dr. Reed was our Pastor for many years and we will never forget his messages, his love for the Lord and shepherding of the flock. We will also remember his love for the music of the church and the chance to sing with Steve Green. We agree that Dr. Reed is a GIANT in the faith!

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**Gary and Connie Hofmann** - December 29, 2012 at 08:55 PM

LW

“ It's almost impossible to put into words the thoughts and feelings that come to my mind when I think of my brother, Millard Reed. Uniquely gifted in many ways, he was first and foremost a pastor/preacher! I will always remember one of the comments he made in the first sermon he preached at Nashville First: "I want to be known as a grace preacher." And he was was! His faith has been made sight. Praise be to God for his life and influence and the legacy he has left for all of us!

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**Lee and Alice Woolery** - December 29, 2012 at 06:27 PM

PH

“ A champion of the faith, a mentor to scores of younger pastors, a devoted man of God, and a true example of "pastor" has attained his crown of righteousness. We will miss him, but we will always cherish our shared experiences with Pastor Reed!

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**Pastor Mike Hancock** - December 29, 2012 at 05:54 AM

BW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve Dr. Reed. May God give you great Comfort and Peace; He was a wonderful Christian gentleman in every aspect and we always enjoyed being around him. Blessings, Brenda and Spud Williamson - Georgia District Office

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**Brenda Williamson** - December 29, 2012 at 02:35 AM

BL

“ Dr. Reed was our pastor at Nashville First Church.....he was truly a pastor, not just a preacher . We will always cherish our time spent under his leadership.

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**Bill &Karen Lowe** - December 29, 2012 at 01:01 AM

DH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Pastor Reed's family. He was my favorite pastor growing up. He dedicated my son and was always there when Rob was in the hospital. Everytime I would see him he would always ask about Robert and how he was doing. Pastor Reed will be missed but not forgotten. He will live in our hearts forever.

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**Dianne Mackey Henderson** - December 29, 2012 at 12:25 AM

CW

“ Prayers of Peace for your family. If Jordy could be there and express his love for you all he certainly would. He loved Pastor Reed deeply. I was fortunate to know and love him too after becoming a part of Jordy's life. I have heard many stories from each of them from the wonderful years they shared working together. They were fortunate to have shared such a blessed friendship. Blessings to you all.

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**Cindy Conger (Jordy's wife)** - December 28, 2012 at 11:51 PM

RA

“ We were saddened to hear of Pastor Reeds passing. I still remember his calming words on our wedding day as I stood nervously waiting to enter the old, Main Sanctuary there in Nashville. His sense of humor at that moment are still remembered 32 years later. We both appreciated his guidance and love for our family over the years and he will be greatly missed.

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**Ron and Anita Alex** - December 28, 2012 at 10:06 PM

HM

“ Dr. Reed was my Pastor, mentor and a wonderful friend. In 1995 I diagnosed with Cancer, stage 4. Dr. Reed was my first visitor other than family. What a wonderful time.

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**Howard Marks** - December 28, 2012 at 08:12 PM

DP

“ Praying for the family during this time. Dr. Reed was truly a GIANT in the Nazarene Community.

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**David & Teresa Pitzer** - December 28, 2012 at 07:23 PM

JH

“ Our thought and prayers are with the family. Dr. Reed was greatly appreciated by the Hassell family.

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**Jon & Shirley Hassell** - December 28, 2012 at 07:17 PM

PS

“ He was always a truly caring friend, one of few Pastors I would confide in and know He really understood

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**Pauline Gray Sandoval** - December 28, 2012 at 06:46 PM

PS

“ *Dr. and Mrs Reed were stong influences in our life during a difficult and testing time. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences are with the family*

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**Paul & Nelda Shields** - December 28, 2012 at 05:11 PM

MM

“ *Chris and I send our condolences to our extended family in Tennessee.. May Dr. Millard now rest in peace with his maker. Our prayers go out to the entire family in this time of loss and may his memories live on.. Sincerely, Megan&Chris(neices of Mr. Stephen Reed)*

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**Megan Hassler&Chris Merkel** - December 28, 2012 at 04:59 PM

DR

“ *Pastor Reed was so influential in my life. I attended First Nazarene in the late 1970s and early 1980s. On April 26, 1997 he married my wife Julie and me. We both adored him and will forever remember him with great love.*

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**David and Julie Ridings** - December 28, 2012 at 04:33 PM

GG

“ *You are in our prayers*

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**Gary & Betty Grandy** - December 28, 2012 at 04:06 PM

DC

“ *We who knew Millard well were all the bette for it. A true servant of the Lord in both word and by the many ways in which he conducted his life; a great man who demonstrated humility ... a Godly man who cared for the least of those whose lives he touched.*

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**Dr. James Cook** - December 28, 2012 at 03:36 PM