



Deacon John Steed

November 3, 1933

We pay tribute to a man that loves God and His people. Deacon Steed was born in Vance County, NC in 1933 and attended the Virginia Palmer Swain-Cotton Creek School. His parents were farmers and hard workers. Their goal was to make sure the family needs were met. Everyone had to help out therefore schooling on RAINY days was a joy.

He met the Lord at the age of 15. He went to the "Mourner's Bench" and asked the Lord to show him what he needed and how to accomplish His work. He felt good about it!! He left Henderson, NC at the age of 19, moving to New York. Very shortly afterwards (in 1953) he was drafted into the U S. Army; however, he was deferred because his parents were sick. His career instead was spent at General Motors, where he retired in 1992.

He worked on the assembly line because the foreman taught health and safety as a team concept in order to teach people how to work together. All the while, Deacon Steed said that God was preparing him for something greater. He was president of the Layman's League of New York Central Baptist Association for 4 years and had 58 churches under his care.

He became a deacon at age 35. At Indian Woods under the leadership of Rev. White, he taught Deacon Classes, Men's Sunday School, and was Chairman of the Board and also the Men's Department. Rev. White once presented him with the book "The Measure of a Man." He studied that along with Armor Bearing and discovered that he had the gift of teaching. The time was different and the people were older. They enjoyed going from home to home sharing this information.

In order to become a Deacon, he had to study and learn, and also he had to write a sermon. He attended local, state, and National Association meetings until he got sick. He lives by the letter to do things right. He has seen and done a lot in his 84 years. He was involved in the feeding of 500 people at a gathering where he was Assistant Supervisor at the Methodist Church.

He met and married Geneva Gilliam Steed in New York in the 60s. They have two boys and two girls, along with grandchildren.

He wrote a book about teaching the young. He would say to them today, "Read and study the Word. Know the meaning of salvation, and understand the Trinity. Treat your fellow man with respect.

He says his favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13, favorite book in the Bible is Romans. He says that walking the Roman Road is a way to learn a lot. There is one other thing he wanted to mention -- on any given Sunday, he says, when the spirit is high, he tunes the church up with the Word and songs of love, and he can see God bringing him through.

**Interview done by Corneillus Freeman
(Viola Bond, Supervisor)**