

Arthur Linder was born on December 5, 1940 as the fifth of eight children to Dugar and Roberta Linder in Salisbury, NC. Prior to the Great Depression, this area was very prosperous due to the textile, lumber, and rail industry. Around the time of Arthur's birth, the area was undergoing a revival because of World War II.

His childhood included attendance at Dunbar Elementary School and memories of picking cotton, working in the garden, and spending summers walking barefoot. Being the middle child of eight in a close-knit family gave him plenty of playmates and distractions. The family regularly attended church at Mt. Nebo Glorious Church of God in East Spencer, NC and his parents brought him up in the fear and admonition of God.

At 11, Arthur's mother died. Such a tragedy could have caused young Arthur to completely lose his grasp on the world or God that would take his mother, but the strong foundation had been laid and his father's formidable determination held the family together.

At 13, Arthur suffered another tragic blow. His father passed away leaving the eight children orphaned. After his father's death, he and his siblings were moved to Brooklyn, NY. The calm, slow, carefree pace of Salisbury, NC was now replaced with the cold, cruel, fast-paced reality of Brooklyn where he lived with his aunt's family. He attended PS 25, worked in vegetable markets after school, and went to church. He graduated from Boy's High in 1959. He attended Mt. Sinai Glorious Church of God in Brooklyn, where his uncle – Elder A.B. Branch – was pastor. At 22, Arthur married his love, Rose Jackson. He joined Mt. Calvary Glorious Church of God in Jersey City, NJ where he became Deacon Arthur Linder, Sr.

He accepted the call to ministry in 1967 and received his Bachelor of Theology from Manhattan Bible College under the leadership of the renowned Dr. Edward H. Boyce. He later received a Master of Theology, a Doctorate of Theology, and a Doctorate of Divinity from Evangelical Bible Institute in Newark, NJ. He also received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Living Epistle Bible College in Browns Summit, NC.

Minister Arthur Linder, Sr. was ordained in the Glorious Churches of God in 1970. He was appointed pastor of Mt. Sinai Glorious Church of God in Danville, VA in 1971. Along with his wife and sons Arthur, Jr., Steven, and Derek, the family moved to Danville in the 1970s and added a fourth son, Everett by the end of the decade.

He was later ordained as Bishop Linder and became the junior Bishop in the Glorious Churches of God and ultimately the Senior Prelate. He worked for years in his trade as a painter for Dan River Mills and in his own business. He served the community through his work in the Ministerial Alliance of Danville and vicinity. His love of bible study resulted in the formation of The Living Epistle Bible College, where he not only taught classes but also served on the Board of Trustees.

In 2008, Bishop Linder's wife Rose passed away. His unwavering faith and belief that God does not make mistakes gave him strength. He later married Sandra Dean in 2009 and she is his present First Lady.

For the last 53 years, he served faithfully and diligently as the Senior Prelate and Shepherd of Mt. Sinai Glorious Church of God in Danville, VA.

Bishop A.R. Linder

