

BISHOP RUFUS L. SANDERS



Bishop Rufus L. Sanders is a native of Brooksville, MS. He was raised in Birmingham, AL, but later moved to Detroit, MI, to live with his aunt. In 1952, he was drafted into the Korean War and married the late Mother Flora Sanders. In 1954, he returned to the States and continued serving in the Army Reserve for twenty years.

Although Bishop Sanders did not know the Lord prior to being drafted, he got saved after he returned to the States in 1954 and moved back to the South around his family who believed in being saved and sanctified. He joined 17th Street A.O.H. Church of God, pastored by the late Bishop Jasper Roby in Birmingham, AL.

When he later returned to Detroit, he opened his own barber shop (which he closed after he started preaching). To further support his family (wife and four children), he worked for General Motors for thirty years before retiring.

Soon after he accepted his calling to preach, he was sent to pastor Rose of Sharon A.O.H. Church of God in Flint, MI. He would later be sent to pastor in New York, then Viola Phillips Temple A.O.H. Church of God in Birmingham, AL. During this time frame, he was appointed as the overseer over New York, New Jersey, Washington, DC, and the 5th district. He also served on the National Executive Board and was appointed as President of the Foreign Mission Board in 1988. In 1994, he was set aside as a bishop-elect. In 1996, he was sent to pastor Bell's Temple A.O.H. Church of God in Macon, GA, after the passing of Bishop L. M. Bell. In June 1996, he was consecrated as bishop by the late Bishop Jasper Roby. In 2002 when the A.O.H. Church of God split, Bishop Sanders helped to found the Apostolic Church of Promise. Although his local congregation had to move out of its church building due to the split, the Lord blessed them with a new name, Temple of God Apostolic Church of Promise, and a new location, 3015 Churchill Street, which was dedicated in February 2003.

Since 2006, Bishop Sanders has been the National Presider of the Apostolic Church of Promise. In addition to being a member of the Board of Bishops and the National Executive Board, he serves as the diocesan bishop over the North-Central Georgia/West Florida Diocese and the supervisory bishop over the National Education Department, Youth Department and Sunday School Department.