

Reverend. Dr. Donald Douglas Skeir **By Charmaine Willis**

Reverend. Dr. Donald Douglas Skeir, (1926-1999) was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was the son of the late Joseph and Eva (Johnston) Skeir. He served 40 plus years as Pastor of three of the largest African Nova Scotian Communities in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, namely: East Preston United Baptist Church; Cherry Brook United Baptist Church; and St. Thomas United Baptist Church in North Preston. He earlier Pastored Churches in Guysborough, Windsor Plains and Africville (Seaview Baptist Church). He studied at Acadia University obtaining a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Theology. He studied Special Education at Dalhousie University. In 1995, he received an honorary doctorate degree from Acadia University.

Not only was Rev. Dr. Donald Douglas Skeir a Pastor in the African Nova Scotian communities he was also a Teacher (Educator) with the Halifax County School now known as Halifax Regional Centre for Education for over 25 years teaching at Nelson Whynder Elementary, Sir Robert Borden Junior High and Bell Park Academic Centre.

He was a member of many organizations and societies which included: Past Moderator, and Clerk, of the African United Baptist Association (AUBA); Board Member of the Black Incentive Fund for Black Students; Charter member of the 100th Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society- Preston Branch; Charter member of the Nova Scotia Association for the Advancement of Coloured Children; Chairperson of the East Preston Daycare Centre Board of Directors; Former- President, Board Member and Treasurer of the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children; Member of the Black Learners Advisory Committee; Member of the Advanced Management Committee for Blacks; Member of the Advisory Board for the Black Educator's Association of Nova Scotia (BEA); Member of the County School Committee on Racism; Director of the Society for the Protection of Black Culture in Nova Scotia (Black Cultural Centre); Director of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission; Preached the Convention Sermon at the Atlantic Baptist Convention of which he was a long time member; a Representative to the Baptist World Alliance in Los Angeles, California and a representative for the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission at the Southern Leadership Convention in Philadelphia, USA.

Reverend Dr. Donald Douglas Skeir was noted for his strong voice concerning religious and human rights issues. He was a noted human rights advocate and was recognized as Newsmaker of the Year by the media and by the communities for his interest and action. [See Rev. Skeir service.](#)

Reverend Dr. Donald Douglas Skeir was an eloquent and dynamic Preacher and was often referred to as the "Nova Scotia Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King" for his unwavering stand in support of Human Rights. He received numerous awards such as: Harry Jerome Award, Unsung Hero Martin Luther King Jr award, Human Rights Commission of Nova Scotia, Canadian Red Cross Society, Newsmaker of the Year in Nova Scotia, Halifax County School Board, Black Wall of Fame and numerous other awards both locally, provincially and Internationally.

Reverend Dr. Donald Douglas Skier conducted the largest outdoor Baptism in the history of Canada in July, 1976 where he Baptist 110 people down by the riverside in East Preston, NS, Canada.

Rev. Dr. Donald Skeir passed away on Sunday, October, 1999 on Thanksgiving weekend. His passing impacted all who knew, loved and respected him across the African Nova Scotian communities as well as the broader communities in Nova Scotia, Canada and in the United States.