



THOUSANDS MOURNED the death of Elder Solomon Lightfoot Michaux. Paying her last respects, this little girl gets a boost to read the sign

"My Bible and Me to the End" which rested above the body in the casket. Elder Michaux will be buried on Sunday. (Cabell Photo.)

Michaux rites set for Newport News

By JOE ELAM

WASHINGTON

"My Bible and me to the end" — A small sign with these words was placed beside the bronze casket of the Rev. Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux, whose body was lying in state at the Temple of Freedom, 2030 Georgia Ave., NW. A Bible was placed in his right hand, symbolizing a 50-year pilgrimage and a relentless crusade against evil, armed with the Scriptures.

ELDER MICHAUX, the founder and president of

the Gospel Spreading Church with headquarters in Newport News, Va., and active branches in six other states and in D.C., died Sunday morning, at Freedmen's hospital after two months' illness.

An outstanding radio evan-

(Continued on Page 3)

—Nearly 6,000

(Continued from Page 1)

gelist, Elder became a byword in many American homes when he declared "war on the Devil" and all forms of unrighteousness.

The Elder's early Sunday morning "Happy Am I" radio program broadcast by station WTOP for more than 30 years has brought cheer, comfort and faith to millions of Americans.

Funeral services will be held at the Newport News Church of God at 11 a.m. Sunday. Special services will be offered by the pastor of the church, Rev. James Taylor assisted by Rev. Morris White, the Rev. Dan Russell and the Rev. Willie Bryant.

The body will lie in state at the Temple of Freedom here until 9:30 p.m. today (Friday) when it will be moved to the Newport Church.

• • •

THE CASKET was placed before the altar of the church around 12:30 p.m. Wednesday for public view. Nearly 200 people filed past the casket and paid their homage to the renowned evangelist within an hour.

A deacon of the church estimated, at least, 5 to 6,000 people will see the body by 9:30 p.m., (Thursday) before it is moved to Newport News.

The younger sister of the evangelist, Mrs. Ruth Mitchell, told the AFRO that she has received several telegrams and messages from all over the country. Flower pots and wreaths were pouring into the church.

• • •

MRS. MITCHELL came from New York last Octo-

ber to stay with the ailing Elder, when Mrs. Mary Michaux, his wife died on Oct. 28.

Mrs. Mitchell was a benign influence in his evangelizing career. She was the inspiration behind Elder's starting of the Temple of Freedom, formerly Church of God.

ELDER MICHAUX, would have been 85 on Nov. 7. Nelson N. Lyles, chairman of the Ushers' Board at the Temple, said that the evangelist was very active in church matters until he was hospitalized last December for double pneumonia.

"He was a Christlike figure to us. His deep sincerity and love and respect for all mankind will stay with us. He was a marvelous speaker. It was something new everytime he spoke. He was superb on the pulpit. He could hold the attention of the congregation for hours," said Mr. Lyles, chairman of the board for the last 36 years.

Frank Biggs, 60, a member of the church, who knew the late evangelist for 35 years put his feelings thus: "He has well-finished his work for God. He has brought the light of God to many of us. He was a spiritual force among us."

The 1,000-pound solid bronze casket made by the Boyertown Casket Co., Pennsylvania, was medically sealed with a glass top. Joseph B. Jenkins, embalmer at the Johnson and Jenkins Funeral Home, 480½ Georgia Ave., NW said he had done "a thorough and complete job. Every caution was taken for the preservation considering the length of time the body will lie in state."