News 23 November 2026 | English article

Dr Donald Walker Church of God Bishop and Seminary President Dies at 88

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Dr Donald M"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Dr Donald M. Walker, a third-generation Church of God minister who served as a state overseer, a college president and president of the Church of God School of Theology, died on 16 November 2026 at a hospital in Cleveland, Tennessee. He was 88, Faith News Network reported.

Eighty-eight years. Three generations of ministry. One life that touched almost every corner of a denomination: the classroom, the state office, the seminary president's chair and the boardroom. Donald Walker did not chase a spotlight. He spent six decades building the rooms where other people's ministries would happen.

Walker was born on 10 October 1938 in Lansing, Michigan, the son of the Rev. Paul H. Walker and Margaret Walker. His ministerial career began as an evangelist and pastor in South Carolina, and it grew from there into decades of denominational leadership. He served as a state youth and Christian education director in Indiana, Michigan, Northern Ohio and Tennessee, investing in the spiritual development of young people and future church leaders, and he spent 16 years as a state youth director.

His commitment to Christian education shaped the rest of his career. Walker served as president of Northwest Bible College in North Dakota, as assistant director of the Church of God General Education Department, and as president of the Church of God School of Theology in Cleveland, Tennessee, now the Pentecostal Theological Seminary. He recieved the seminary's Alumnus of the Year award in 1990, a mark of how deeply his own formation and his leadership were tied to that one school.

Donald Walker: From Youth Director To Seminary President In Cleveland Tennessee

Walker's leadership was not limited to the classroom. He was appointed and served as state overseer, or administrative bishop, in North and South Dakota, Indiana, North Georgia, and an unprecedented two seperate tenures in Tennessee. He also sat on the denomination's Council of Eighteen, the body that helps steer the Church of God, and at the time of his passing he was a member of the Church of God General Board of Trustees.

Those who knew him describe a leader formed by study as much as by preaching. His academic achievements included attending Lee Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Lee College, now Lee University, a Master of Arts degree from Ashland Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity degree from the Church of God Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Education degree from Nova Southeastern University.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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