Dr. Gail Terrell co-founded school

He ran Temple Baptist College and was pastor at Grace Baptist Church

By Nicole Hamilton
The Cincinnati Enquirer

It was when he was pursuing his master's degree in business that Dr. Gail E. Terrell - then a professional chemist - decided he needed to start reading the Bible. The more he read, the more his future began to unfold before him. The message was clear: He could combine his knowledge of science with his love of religion, and his desire to educate. He earned his MBA in 1968, and four years later, he also earned a master's degree in divinity from Cincinnati Bible College.

Dr. Terrell, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Hamilton for 17 years, died Friday at University Hospital of heart and lung failure. The Fairfield resident was 59.

"Though blessed with exceptional academic skills, his selfless humility was evident to all who knew him," said Dr. David Pitman, pastor of Addyston Baptist Church and a former student of Dr. Terrell. "He was the genuine article."

In 1972, Dr. Terrell co-founded Temple Baptist College in Springdale, which offers arts and science courses in a Christian environment.

He served as president of the college from its inception until 1985, and was responsible for the total operation of the college - from teaching to managing the finances. From 1985 until 2001, he also taught math, science and religion classes to grades 9-12 at Landmark Christian School in Evendale.

Dr. Terrell became a professor and chairman of the business department at Temple Baptist College in 1993. In 2001, he was named dean of academic affairs.

"He was called the professional student," said his wife, Carolyn Terrell of Fairfield. "He encouraged me to get my doctorate degree. Even when he was in the hospital, he was urging his oldest son to get his master's degree."

Dr. Terrell earned a doctorate in theology from Cincinnati Bible College in 1973; master's degree in education from the University of Cincinnati in 1980; and a doctorate in philosophy from UC in 1981. At the time of his death, he was completing his dissertation for another doctorate in ministry, this one from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. "He was truly blessed by God," his wife said. "He had the ability to manage so many things at the same time."

For several years, Dr. Terrell was owner and principal broker for G.E. Terrell Realty Co. He also worked in the organic chemicals division of Emery Industries for about five years, from 1967-72, and as a laboratory technician in research and development, under contract to the Atomic Energy Commission for Monsanto Co., where he performed atomic energy research and explosive component development.

Besides his wife of 36 years, survivors include two daughters, Shelley Woodby of Springdale and Deborah Hall of West Chester; two sons, Gail Jr. and Matthew, both of Fairfield; parents, Seymore and Doris Terrell of Dayton; a brother, Jerry of Huber Heights; and five grandchildren.

Visitation will be 5-9 p.m. today at Landmark Baptist Temple, 1600 Glendale-Milford Road, Evendale. Service will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Landmark Baptist Temple. Burial will be in Landmark Memorial Gardens. Memorials: Grace Baptist Church, 2630 Hamilton-Mason Road, Hamilton, 45011.
Dr. Terrell Life Summary
By Deborah Hall and Shelley Woodby

Dr. Gail Terrell was a mentor to many Christians around the world because of his love for learning and his devotion to teaching others. “Though blessed with exceptional academic skills, his selfless humility was evident to all who knew him. He was the genuine article,” says life-long friend Dr. David Pitman, Pastor of Addyston Baptist Church.

Dr. Gail E. Terrell pastored Grace Baptist Church in Fairfield Township for 17 years. He died of heart and lung failure at University Hospital of Cincinnati, Friday evening, October 10th, 2003. He was 59.

Dr. Terrell was born Christmas Day, 1943, in Dayton, Ohio, and graduated from Trotwood Madison High School in 1962. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies, M.Ed. in science and mathematics, M.B.A. in marketing, and B.S. in chemical engineering. He earned a Doctor of Theology and a Master of Divinity from Cincinnati Baptist College. He felt his greatest calling was to glorify the Lord and to share God’s Word with others.

In 1972, Dr. Terrell and Dr. Chester Ratliff founded Temple Baptist College in Springdale, a college of arts and sciences. He continued to serve in various capacities at the college until his death, most recently as academic dean. Dr. Terrell’s motto was, “An education without God is no education at all.”

Dr. Terrell presented scientific creationism in debates with evolutionists from various colleges and universities. He appeared on TV programs defending scientific creationism as the most scientific explanation of ultimate origins.

Dr. Terrell worked 10 years in the chemical industry and accumulated over 31 years of teaching at Cincinnati Baptist College, Temple Baptist College, and Landmark Christian School. He loved playing the piano, traveling with his family, and capturing precious memories on camera.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Carolyn (Ervin) Terrell, his children, Shelley (Bart) Woodby, Deborah (Steve) Hall, Gail (Lisa) Terrell Jr., and Matthew (Candice) Terrell, his parents, Seymore and Doris Terrell of Dayton Ohio, his brother Jerry (Helen) Terrell, and five grandchildren, Austin and Amber Terrell, and Joshua, Rachel and Abigail Hall.

Visitation will be held Monday, October 13th from 5-9 p.m. at Landmark Baptist Temple, 1600 Glendale-Milford Rd. in Evendale. The funeral service will be held Tuesday, October 14th at 11:00 a.m. at Landmark, also. Vorhis Funeral Home is assisting the family. Memorials may be made to Grace Baptist Church, 2630 Hamilton-Mason Rd, Hamilton, Ohio 45011.
Gail Terrell, 59, dean and pastor
Gail Terrell, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Hamilton and dean of academic affairs of Temple Baptist College, died Friday at University Hospital.
He was 59.
In 1972, Mr. Terrell and Chester Ratliff founded Temple Baptist College in Springdale, a college of arts and sciences where he still served as both dean and chairman of the business department. An advocate of scientific creationism, he debated evolutionists from various colleges and universities, and appeared on television programs defending the theory.

Mr. Terrell earned a Ph.D. in interdisciplinary studies, a master's in education in science and mathematics, a master's of business administration in marketing and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Cincinnati. He also earned a doctor of theology and a master of divinity from Cincinnati Baptist College. He worked 10 years in the chemical industry and accumulated more than 31 years of teaching at Cincinnati Baptist College, Temple Baptist College and Landmark Christian School.

"Though blessed with exceptional academic skills, his selfless humility was evident to all who knew him," said his life-long friend, David Pitman, pastor of Addyston Baptist Church.
Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Ervin Terrell; daughters, Shelley Woodby and Deborah Hall; sons, Gail Terrell Jr. and Matthew Terrell; his parents, Seymore and Doris Terrell of Dayton; a brother, Jerry Terrell; and five grandchildren.
Services are at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Landmark Baptist Temple, Evendale. Visitation is from 5 to 9 tonight at the temple. Memorials are suggested to Grace Baptist Church, 2630 Hamilton-Mason Road, Hamilton 45011. Vorhis Funeral Home is handling arrangements.
OBITUARY

Fairfield man ‘loved to learn’

JOURNALNEWS STAFF REPORT

FAIRFIELD — Gail Terrell of Fairfield dreamed of becoming a millionaire as college graduate. However, the call to ministry and to learn the gospel was greater.

Terrell, who held doctoral degrees in philosophy, theology and Christian service, became a religious educator and pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Fairfield Township for 17 years.

On Friday, he died at University Hospital of Cincinnati at age 59.

“He felt the Lord was leading him, whether it be pastoral or education ministry,” said his wife of 36 years, Carolyn Terrell. “Education was his life. He loved to learn and wanted others to learn.”

Carolyn Terrell is a professor of education and dean of women at Temple Baptist College in Springdale.

At the time of his death, Gail Terrell had nearly finished his doctorate in ministry at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., his wife said.

Gail Terrell, who is originally from Dayton, attended the University of Cincinnati, where he received a doctorate in interdisciplinary studies, a master’s degree in science and mathematics, a master’s in business administration, a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering and doctorate of theology and master of divinity from Cincinnati Baptist College.

In 1972, he and Chester Ratliff founded Temple Baptist College in Springdale.

Terrell worked in the chemical industry for 10 years and has taught for a total of 31 years at Cincinnati Baptist and Temple Baptist colleges and Landmark Christian School.

“Though blessed with exceptional academic skills, his selfless humility was evident to all who knew him,” said former student David Pitman, pastor of Addyston Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Terrell; his children, Shelley Woodby, Deborah Hall, Gail Terrell Jr., Matthew Terrell; his parents Seymore and Doris Terrell; his brother, Jerry Terrell and five grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. today at Landmark Baptist Temple, 1600 Glendale-Milford Road in Evendale.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Baptist Church, 2630 Hamilton-Mason Road, Hamilton, OH 45011.

Vorhis Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.
Well-known township pastor dies

Gail Terrell led Grace Baptist Church for 17 years

BY PATRICIA STIRNKORB
Fairfield Echo

Most people spend their lives trying to make a difference. According to friends and colleagues, Gail E. Terrell was one of those who could truly say he accomplished that feat.

Terrell died Friday after fighting a heart and lung problem that placed him in intensive care for the past several weeks.

Terrell was the pastor at Grace Baptist Church in Fairfield Twp., where he has been the spiritual leader and friend of the congregation for the past 17 years. He was also the academic dean at Temple Baptist College in Springdale, a Christian college that he helped to found in 1972 with Chester Ratliff.

Perhaps one of his greatest desires was to see others learn, friends said. He wrote books and magazine articles, led heated debates, spoke at workshops and chaired various committees and events. According to his family, his heart was in the service of the Lord, as he mentored many Christians through his teaching. His motto was, "An education without God is no education at all."

Over the past several years, Terrell fiercely defended and debated the credibility of creation theory over evolution. He debated on TV programs and defended scientific creationism as the most scientific explanation of ultimate origins in many colleges and with many science professors.

"Though blessed with exceptional academic skills, his selfless humility was evident to all who knew him," said David Pitman, life-long friend and pastor of Addyston Baptist Church.

He leaves behind his wife of 36 years, Carolyn (Ervin) Terrell; his children, Shelley Woody, Deborah Hall, Gail Jr. and Matthew. He also is survived by his parents, his brother and 5 grandchildren.