

Nellie Beatrice Davis Matheson, known as "Sister Nell," 79, of Clayton, died Friday, Oct. 13, 2006, at Mountain Lakes Medical Center after an extended illness.

She was born in Clay County, N.C., to Warren Davis and Minnie Ola Stroud Davis Dailey. She was an evangelist and ordained minister for 52 years. She founded churches in Jamaica, Haiti, the Bahamas, Hayesville, N.C., and Clayton. She founded Sheltering Arms Gospel Tabernacle in 1963.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Matheson.

Survivors include: two sons and daughters-in-law, Frank Noel and Sara Matheson and James Davis and Sandra Matheson, all of Clayton; two brothers, Hillas Davis and J.B. Davis, both of Hayesville, N.C.; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Sunday at Beck Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul Brooks officiating. Burial followed at Rabun Memory Park.

Memorial donations may be made to Sheltering Arms Gospel Tabernacle, 2771 Highway 76 W., Clayton, GA 30525.

Beck Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. An online memorial register is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

The Clayton Tribune, Oct. 19, 2006