

Homegoing Celebration

Elder Dennis Joseph Ward

“Holiness unto the Lord”

Pastor, Main Street Baptist Church
Lexington, KY



LYING IN STATE

Thursday, May 1, 2008

12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

FAMILY VISITATION

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

HOLY PRAISE AND MEMORIALS

7:00 p.m.

LYING IN STATE

Friday, May 2, 2008

10:00 a.m.

HOMEGOING SERVICE

1:00 p.m.

Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL
1st Vice President-at-Large, National Baptist Convention, USA
Officiating

Elder G. M. Spotts, Pastor, New Home Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN
The Preached Word of God

Holiness unto the Lord: A Life's Journey

Elder Dennis J. Ward, a native of Murray, Kentucky, was born to the union of the late Nishie Sims and Fletcher Ward. He was summoned home to be with the Lord on Friday night, April 25, 2008 at the St. Joseph Hospital Hospice Care Unit. He grew up in Calloway County, KY where he graduated from Douglass High School.

On Thursday night, June 19, 1952 during revival services at the St. John Baptist Church, Murray, KY, Elder Ward was engrafted into the body of Christ. Rev. R. L. West was the evangelist. Baptized by Rev. C. E. Martin, Pastor, he became a member of the St. John congregation. His early childhood as a Christian was greatly influenced by his maternal grandmother, Emmer Sims affectionately known as "Good Mammy."

As a young man he answered the call from God to preach the gospel. On Sunday, April 4, 1962 he preached his initial sermon from Psalms 116:12, "What Shall I Render?"

Elder Ward graduated from the American Baptist College, Nashville, TN in 1969 with a Bachelor of Theology degree. Having been invited to preach a Youth Revival at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Milwaukee, WI, he was further nurtured under the ministry of the Pastor, the late Dr. E. M. Kelly. God purposed and initiated his pastorates in the following churches: Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Hendersonville, TN; Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, TN; and the Main Street Baptist Church, Lexington, KY.

Recognizing the need for a deeper spiritual and educational study of God's Word, he was the founder of the Sovereign Grace Bible Conference which will commemorate its 25th year of existence in August, 2008.

During his tenure at American Baptist the sovereign hand of God "enjoined" his heart to the heart of Brenda Joyce Jones (also a student at American Baptist) and they were united in holy matrimony on August 18, 1968.

He was preceded in death by siblings: Larry Dillard, Augustus Tharpe, Stanley Tharpe, Billy Gene Tharpe, and Betty McKinnis; Milwaukee family members Van Johnson, Harold Johnson, Vivian Siders.

He leaves cherished memories in the hearts of: his beloved and God-given help-meet Mrs. Brenda J. Ward; one son, Kimon A. Henderson-Ward, Knoxville, TN; one grandson, Gabriel A. Henderson. Knoxville, TN; siblings: Laverne (Henry) Williams, St. Louis, MO; David (Julia) Rupert, Powell, TN; Joseph (Alfreeda) Rupert, Oak Ridge, TN; Gertie Rupert; Granite City, IL; Robert Whitfield, Harlem, NY; Ruby (Otis) Johnson, Toledo, OH; Robert (Brenda) Tharpe, Flint, MI; father-in-law, Drs. Aaron I. (Mary) Jones, Jackson, MS; brother-in-law Anthony (Kacey) Jones, Nashville, TN; sisters-in-law Gwendolyn McPherson, Kent, WA and Gilda Jones, Detroit, MI; Lexington cousins Frances and Jeanette Williams, Paige Miller; his Milwaukee family, Oscar (Jimmie Ruth) Johnson, William Johnson, Charles Johnson, Gwen Anderson; Emma Johnson, Irma Johnson, Wardell (Mary) Jones, Sr. Ted (Thelma) Newby; Eva Flowers, Callie Lewis, Ralph (Ruth) Shipp, Betty Gillespie; Alisa Kimbell, Anna Johnson, Doug (Mary) Smith; Pearl McNeal, the McClain Family, Cottage Grove, TN; special daughter, Carilynn Bouie, special granddaughters Natalie and Ariel Bouie, Cleveland, OH; special and longtime family/friends Florene McGhee, Administrative Assistant of 31 years; Elder J. R. (Judy) Banks, Buffalo, NY; Elder J. B. (Vivian) Maddox, Knoxville, TN; Sylvia L. Rupert, Oak Ridge, TN; Brenda Hampton, Granger, IN; Dr. Julius (Josephine) Scruggs, Jennifer Scruggs all of Huntsville, AL; Pastor Floyd (Regina) Prude, Beloit, WI; Chaplain Julius Thomas, Norfolk, VA; Dr. Justin Marks, Evansville, IN; nieces, nephews, cousins, numerous special church grandchildren; current Sons/Elders and his flock of 19 years of the "Main House"; the Mt Olivet and Mt. Zion Baptist Church families; beloved Elders and saints of the Sovereign Grace Bible Conference and a host of brothers and sisters of "Our Father's House".

Feeding the Sheep and Lambs--46 years

Elder D. J. Ward--An Holy man of God, which passeth by....

“And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. II Kings 4:9

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Hendersonville, TN 1968-1972

- Educational building was purchased.
- Physical structure of church was enlarged, which included the Pastor's Study, basement with additional Sunday School rooms.
- Baptismal pool was installed.
- Youth Department was organized
- **SONS IN THE MINISTRY DURING THIS PASTORATE:**
- Elder Floyd Shaw--deceased; Elder Thomas Staten; Elder Henry Clark; Elder Herbert Smith

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, TN November 13, 1972 –August 13, 1989

- Taught the great and grand doctrines of the church; Sovereignty of God, Total Depravity of Man,
- Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, Perseverance of the Saints, Jealousy of God, etc.
- Established the Sovereign Grace Bible Conference to bring together in one place a face-to-face gathering of grace preachers and believers for a week of intense preaching and teaching
- Founded the Knoxville Extension Unit of American Baptist Theology Seminary, Board Chairman and Teacher
- Teacher and Lecturer for various Baptist meetings nationwide
- **SONS IN THE MINISTRY DURING THIS PASTORATE:**
- Elder Barney Johnson, Elder Lloyd Jones, Elder Tommy Mims, Elder Darris Waters, Minister Joe Slack, Elder Thomas Dews, Elder J. R. Banks, Elder Oliver D. Bouie--deceased, Elder Mark Anthony, Elder Tony Patterson, Elder Jerome Henderson

Main Street Baptist Church, Lexington, KY August 14, 1989—April 25, 2008

In August, 1989 Elder Dennis Joseph Ward, with his wife Brenda, was called to shepherd Main Street Baptist Church. He began his pastorate in Tuesday night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study with these words:

“Let the records of heaven show that this ministry began in a prayer meeting!”

- Acquisition of Frederick Braxton Educational Building
- Designed and construction of Sovereign Grace Chapel
- Expanded outreach programs to include Feeding Ministry, Clothing Bank, Exodus (substance abuse ministry), Baca Ministry (cancer support group)
- Instituted the Carl Brown Summer Work Program for Youth (funded by the Church as Youth worked for local business)
- Organized the annual Thomas Page-Brutus Price Brotherhood Retreat
- Launched—under the parent Sovereign Grace Bible Conference the annual Preachers-Ministers and Deacons Conference and the annual Women of Grace Conference
- Annual First Lady Day was birthed
- **SONS IN THE MINISTRY DURING THIS PASTORATE:**
Minister Michael Wheat, deceased, Elder Ricky Adams, deceased, Elder Greg Spotts, , Elder Mark Anthony, Elder Roger Wayne Cornelius, Elder Henry Watson, Elder Brian Hinton, Elder Torrance Mulder, Elder Kevin Jackson, Elder Kevin Smith, Elder Steven Gary, Elder Keenan McWhorter, Bishop Raymond Ross, Jr., Elder James Jeffries, Sr., Minister Tendai Gurupira, Elder David Maultsby

Order of Service

Musical Prelude Musicians

Processional Cortège
Praise Medley

Call to Worship Elder Mark Anthony, Associate Elder
Main Street Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

Song of Praise Combined Choirs/Congregation
“It Is Well With My Soul”

Reading of the Holy Writ

The Old Testament Readings

Psalms 116:5-15 Rev. Richard Gaines, Pastor
Consolidated Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

Isaiah 53:7-12 Elder Tom Newman, Pastor
Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Fairdale, WV

The New Testament Readings

Romans 8:28-39 Elder Joe B. Maddox, Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN

II Timothy 4:1-8 Elder Keelan Atkinson, Pastor
Word Fellowship Reformed Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC

Invocation

Prayer of Consolation Elder J. R. Banks, Pastor
Faith Baptist Church, Buffalo, NY

Prayer Response The Combined Choirs
“Oh To Be Kept”

Song of Praise The Music Ministry

Thoughts and Reflections

From the Ministry of Officials..... Deacon Lesley Moore
(Deacons and Trustees)

From the Ministry of Preaching Elder David Morris, Pastor
Word of Life Fellowship, Greensboro, NC

Elder Robert Keesee, Presiding Elder
of the North Nashville District of Tennessee Conference A.M.E. Church, Pastor

Dr. Floyd Prude, Pastor
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Beloit, WS
President, Wisconsin General Baptist State Convention

Dr. Thomas H. Peoples, Pastor
Historic Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

Tribute in Song The Edward Sisters, Lexington, KY
“He’ll Welcome Me”

Church Resolution/Acknowledgements Sis. Beverly Darneal

Silent Reading of the Obituary (soft music)

Song of Praise The Music Ministry

The Word of God Preached ***Elder G. M. Spotts, Pastor***
New Home Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN

Song of Praise The Music Ministry
“We’re Gonna Have A Good Time”

Recessional Cortege
“Come, Ye Sinners Poor and Needy”

We Believe...

We Teach....

We Preach....

The GOD of the Bible!

He Came Preaching... "But we preach Christ crucified"

1st Sermon preached in Main Street Baptist Church prior to —*Marching to the First Order*-- Judges 20:18-23, October 9, 1988 (AM)

2nd Sermon—*Oh, What A Savior*—Psalms 130:3-4, 7-8—October 9, 1988 (PM)

3rd Sermon —*Jesus Only*—Matthew 19:8-- Men's Day—April 23, 1989

(Above sermons were preached prior The Call to the pastorate of the Main Street Baptist Church)

Last Sermons preached in Main Street—*Oh to be Like Christ*—Romans 12:1-16 (#117 of the Roman's series) (April 13, 2008

(AM) *Hiding behind a Fig Tree*—Nahum 3:12 April 13, 2008 (PM)

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## ***When I think of Elder Ward I think of the word:***

Faithful—because he was always right on time

Blessed—of being blessed by being in his presence

Dedication—he was dedicated to his church, the building of God's kingdom, and the cause of Christ

Personal—he had a personal connection with each of us as members

Sovereign Grace Preacher—one who stood boldly for the true "God of the Bible" and he did it when it was not popular

Mentor—wonderful chef

Role Model—he was modeling Christ likeness, he was a good and Faithful servant

Compassionate—no matter how many mistakes we as young adults made, he was compassionate with us

True Teacher

Anointed—because anyone that sat under him truly felt his anointing

Dependable---he was dependable day or night

Extremely Loving—Oh so humble—real—he told us things that we may have not wanted to hear but it was for our own good

Genuine—he was real with God and with God's people

Godly—it took a Godly man to teach the word of God the way he did and that's what he was.

Devoted—when I think of "Pop" I can't think of anyone more devoted—totally absolutely devoted

Saved

Father—Pop has always been a father figure to me and to the entire church

Main Street Church—Elder is the only pastor I have ever known. To me he is Main Street

Loyal—he was loyal to his congregation and people all around

Elected—from Romans 10, the doctrine of election, Elder stated "if it wasn't for the Lord choosing me I surely would not have chosen Him.

***(Above descriptions were spoken of Elder Ward from Young Adults Day choir members on Young Adults Day, April 27, 2008)***

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"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

And the people answered and said God forbid that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods;

For the Lord Our God, He it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed;

...And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold this stone shall be a witness unto you For it hath heard all the words of the Lord which He spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your father."

Joshua 24:14-17, 27

Scripture read from Body of Deacons (by Deacon L. Bredwood) Sunday, April 27, 2008.

And we shall remember...

Active Pallbearers

Deacons, Main Street Baptist Church

Honorary Pallbearers

Derek Johnson

Oscar Johnson, Jr.

Michael Charles Rupert

Van Johnson, Jr.

Clyde Anderson

Micheal Johnson

Pastors and Ministers

Floral Bearers

All Deacons/Ministers' Wives

Sisters of the Music Ministry

Acknowledgements

We warmly acknowledge the abundant mercies and grace bestowed upon us as we pass through this veil of sorrow. With the passing of our dear and precious loved one the tender compassion of God has been showered upon us. Deep appreciation is extended to all Elders, all deacons and saints of the Main Street Baptist Church. Thank you for the loving and caring support you gave and your earnest prayers to God. Your expressions of love have been overwhelming....in gifts, cards, flowers, calls, visits, food, and other acts of kindness. You have walked with us and indeed kept us "wrapped in prayer."

Special thanks to the attending medical staff of the St. Joseph Hospital and the Hospice Care Unit (especially Nurse Wanda and Nurse Nancy).

Added appreciation is extended to the pastors, ministers and Christian brothers and sisters throughout the city, state and nation who prayed and shared their concern and love from their hearts for our loved one who pastured many "warriors" beyond the realm of the Main Street Baptist Church. May God bless you and we ask your continued prayers.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY—GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE

Sis. Brenda J. Ward (First Lady) and Family

Services Entrusted to: Smith & Smith Funeral Home

Interment: Lexington Cemetery

Dinner will be served promptly at the church after returning from the cemetery. Priority serving will be reserved for the family of Elder D. J. Ward and guests.

It Is Well With My Soul

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well; it is well with my soul.*

*Tho' Satan should buffet, tho' trials should come Let this blest assurance control,
Than Christ has regarded my helpless estate And has shed His own blood for my
soul.*

*My sin – oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't My sin – not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my
soul!*

*And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as
a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descent Even so – it is well with my soul.*

Chorus:

*It is well, (It is well), With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, It is well, with my soul.*

Come, Ye Sinners Poor and Needy

*Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, Full of pity, love, and pow'r.*

*Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance, Every Grace that brings you nigh.*

*Let not conscience make you linger, Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requireth Is to feel your need of Him.*

*Come, ye thirsty, heavy laden Lost and ruined by the fall;
If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all.*

Chorus:

*I will rise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms.*