



THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR  
**OMARI**  
KI TWANA  
*Boyd-Matthews*

10.24.1993 | 04.07.2018



*“The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us.”* - C.S. Lewis



THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICES FOR  
**OMARI**  
**KITWANA**  
*Boyd-Matthews*  
**10.24.1993 | 04.07.2018**



PASTOR CHRIS PRYOR | OFFICIANT  
BISHOP VINCENT MATHEWS, JR. | EULOGIST

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018 | 11:00 AM**

GREATER COMMUNITY TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (EAST CAMPUS)  
5151 WINCHESTER ROAD | MEMPHIS, TN 38118 | BISHOP BRANDON B. PORTER, PASTOR

TABERNACLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
2697 CHIEF BAMBATHA | IVORY PARK, JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA | TIME: 18:00

# OMARI KITWANA BOYD-MATHEWS

ON A COOL FALL SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 24, 1993 IN DETROIT MICHIGAN, GOD BLESSED VINCENT AND SHARON MATHEWS WITH A BABY BOY. THIS BOY WAS THOUGHTFULLY GIVEN THE SWAHILI NAME, OMARI KITWANA BOYD-MATHEWS. OMARI, MEANING "THE HIGHEST" AND KITWANA, MEANING "NOBLE DESTINY". HIS PARENTS DECLARED AT HIS BIRTH THAT HE WOULD TRANSCEND STATISTICS AND NEGATIVE CULTURAL EXPECTATIONS. OMARI WAS AFFECTIONATELY CALLED, "BRUH", BY HIS FAMILY. HIS MOTHER STATED, "HIS LIFE IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT JOY TO ALL OF US".

OMARI ATTENDED DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS: PASTERUR ELEMENTARY, PAUL ROBESON ACADEMY AND CHARTER SCHOOL, DETROIT EDISON-OAKLAND ACADEMY. HIS PARENTS TOOK NOTE WHEN IN THE 4TH GRADE OMARI CAME HOME WITH THE NEWS THAT HE HAD LED HIS 4TH GRADE TEACHER TO CHRIST. THAT SAME TEACHER SOON ASKED OMARI'S FATHER TO PERFORM HER WEDDING, AS SHE NOW WANTED TO LIVE A LIFE PLEASING GOD!

OMARI ALSO PLAYED POP WARNER FOOTBALL FOR THE OAK PARK TROJANS. HIS FATHER RECALLS THAT HE WAS LATE SIGNING UP FOR THE TEAM AND THE COACHES WERE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT HIM. THEY GAVE OMARI A "TRY-OUT" DURING PRACTICE AND HE STUNNED THEM WHEN HE ROUGHLY TACKLED ANOTHER PLAYER, EVEN THOUGH THE OTHER PLAYER WAS WEARING A HELMET AND FULL EQUIPMENT WHILE OMARI WAS ONLY IN "STREET CLOTHES". WITHOUT DISCUSSION OR HESITATION HE WAS MADE A LINEBACKER!

AT GRADE 5, HIS PARENTS TOOK FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR OMARI'S EDUCATION AND BEGAN TO HOME SCHOOL HIM AND HIS SIBLINGS. IN OCTOBER 2004, HE AND HIS FAMILY MOVED TO SOUTH AFRICA. OMARI WAS AN INTEGRAL PART AT TABERNACLE COGIC IN SOUTH AFRICA. AT 14 OMARI SERVED AS A CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER AND ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR IN THE CHURCH YOUTH CENTER. HE ALSO PLAYED BASS GUITAR AND KEYBOARD.

OMARI SPOKE 5 LANGUAGES—ENGLISH, SETSWANA, SEPEDI AND IsiXHOSA AND WAS STUDYING ESPAÑOL! HE HAD TRAVELED TO 3 CONTINENTS (AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE) AND MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. WHEN OMARI COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL, HE ATTENDED THE LEMOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE, IN MEMPHIS, TN, BEING AWARDED A FULL ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP. HE PLEDGED OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. ON THE SAME LINE WITH HIS OLDER BROTHER, JOBARI.

OMARI LOVED READING AND WATCHING SPORTS. HE WAS A STELLAR INDIVIDUAL, KNOWN BY MANY FUNCTIONS INCLUDING; COUNSELOR, FRIEND, SUPPORTER AND MEDIATOR OF CONFLICTS. HE ALSO LOVED TO BARBEQUE (BRAAI)! HE CAME IN 3RD PLACE IN A CITY WIDE BBQ COMPETITION IN JOHANNESBURG.

HE WAS MOST PROUD OF HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER BRAELYN! HE LOVED HER WITH ALL HIS HEART AND WAS PROUD OF BEING A FATHER. HE WANTED TO SPEND EVERY MOMENT WITH HIS CHILD.

AS OMARI SOUGHT TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE THROUGH THE LABYRINTH CALLED LIFE, HE ENCOUNTERED OBSTACLES, DEAD ENDS AND ADVERSARIES. HOWEVER, OMARI WAS HUMBLE AND WISE ENOUGH TO REFER TO THE UNFAILING COMPASS OF THE WORD OF GOD TO SURMOUNT THEM ALL. HE WAS BAPTIZED AS A YOUNG CHILD AT ALL NATIONS COGIC. HE HAD GIVEN HIS LIFE TO JESUS CHRIST AND WAS SEEKING TO LIVE PLEASING TO THE LORD. THE DAY BEFORE HIS TRANSITION TO ETERNITY, OMARI PROCLAIMED THAT HE WAS HAPPY THAT, "JESUS CHRIST WAS HIS ADVOCATE".

HE HAD ENLISTED INTO THE US ARMY AND WAS PREPARING TO BE TRAINED AS A SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST.  
OMARI LEAVES TO MOURN

PARENTS VINCENT, JR. AND SHARON MATHEWS, DAUGHTER, BRAELYN, PATERNAL GRAND PARENTS: VINCENT, SR. AND CHERYL MATHEWS, MATERNAL GRANDFATHER: ROBERT LEE TAYLOR, SIBLINGS MARIO BOYD, SHAUNESE BOYD, JOBARI BOYD-MATHEWS, TALLIYAH COLE, JELANI MATHEWS, JAMIL MATHEWS, AKILI MATHEWS, ANISA MATHEWS, MTUME MATHEWS, GERSHOM MATHEWS. AUNTS PATTYE BOYD (ARTHUR), AND DESHONDA MATHEWS UNCLE LAMAR MATHEWS. 1ST COUSINS, LAMAR II, JAMAR, TAMAR, SHAMAR & MADISYN. AND A HOST OF, FAMILY AND LOVED ONES!

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE

FAMILY PROCESSIONAL

MUSICAL SELECTION.....THE OMARI MATHEWS CELEBRATION CHOIR

THE INVOCATION.....PASTOR ERNEST CANNON

SCRIPTURAL READING.....PASTOR EARL SHANNON

MUSICAL SELECTION.....THE PARKER FAMILY

REMARKS FROM CLERGY.....SUPT. LINWOOD DILLARD, INTERNATIONAL AIM CHAIRMAN  
BISHOP TT SCOTT, NORTHERN MISSISSIPPI JURISDICTIONAL PRELATE

VICE PRESIDENTS OF COGIC WORLD MISSIONS

BISHOP MICHAEL COLE | SUPERVISOR SIDEARY KING | ELDER MARX SUCCES | ELDER CARL PATTEN | DR. FAY MAUREEN BUTLER

BISHOP CARLIS MOODY, PRESIDENT EMERITUS COGIC WORLD MISSIONS

BISHOP BRANDON PORTER, GENERAL BOARD MEMBER, TN CENTRAL PRELATE

MUSICAL SELECTION.....SISTER LENA STARKS

REMARKS FROM FAMILY.....JOBARI MATHEWS, OLDER BROTHER  
SHAUNESE BOYD, OLDER SISTER

ADMIN. ASST. VINCENT MATHEWS, SR., PATERNAL GRANDFATHER

MUSICAL SELECTION.....OMARI MATHEWS CELEBRATION CHOIR

REMARKS FROM FRIENDS.....VUYO & ELIAS  
IMANI ALLEN

EVANG. SUZAN MONYELO/EVANG. LONIA HLABAGWANI, SOUTH AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE

MUSICAL TRIBUTE.....BRO. DERRICK JACKSON

PRESENTATION OF THE OBITUARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDOLENCES AND RESOLUTIONS

MUSICAL SELECTION.....SIS. SHARON JACKSON

EULOGY.....BISHOP VINCENT MATHEWS, JR.

BENEDICTION.....ELDER FRANK CARPENTER

RECESSIONAL.....OMARI MATHEWS CELEBRATION

# WORDS FROM FAMILY

I WILL FOREVER LOVE YOU!—MOM

OMARI WAS KIND COMPASSIONATE CARING YOUNG MAN WHO EPITOMIZED AND EXPRESSED THE LOVE OF GOD THROUGH HIS ACTIONS, WHICH WAS ALWAYS IN A PLACE OF LOVE. HE PERSONIFIED GRACE, CHARACTER, ELOQUENCE AND INGENUITY! I WILL GREATLY MISS MY BROTHER

- MARIO CORDELL BOYD, OLDER BROTHER

MY LITTLE BROTHER WAS A VERY NURTURING, LOVING, AND CARING PERSON. ALTHOUGH HE WAS TAKEN FROM US BEFORE HIS TIME, I KNOW HE HAS INFLUENCED EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER KNOWN HIM IN A WAY THAT WILL STAY WITH THEM FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. MY BROTHER WAS A UNIQUE YOUNG MAN AND HE WILL LIVE ON IN EVERYONE OF US WHO EVER KNEW HIM

- SHAUNESE MARQUITA BOYD, OLDER SISTER

I'M GOING TO MISS BRUH!!! WE DID EVERYTHING TOGETHER ALL OF OUR LIVES! WHILE I FEEL PAIN, I HAVE MANY MANY GREAT MEMORIES OF A GREAT MAN. SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE!

- JOBARI AMANI MATHEWS, OLDER BROTHER

OMARI WAS TRULY LIKE ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS. HE WAS ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE OF ME NO MATTER WHAT I DID. MY HEART IS BROKEN THAT HE IS GONE BUT NONETHELESS HE IS STILL WITH ME.

- TALLIYAH SHONTE COLE, YOUNGER SISTER

MY BROTHER HAS ALWAYS LOOKED OUT FOR ME. SINCE WE WERE YOUNG, HE ALWAYS WAS BY MY SIDE. HIS COMPANIONSHIP WAS CONSTANT THROUGHOUT TIME. THROUGH THICK AND THIN WE HAD EACH OTHER'S BACKS. LEARNING TO LIVE WITHOUT HIM WILL BE A STRUGGLE. HOWEVER, THE DAYS WE DID HAVE TOGETHER WILL ALWAYS BE CHERISHED IN MY HEART.

- JELANI RUBANZA MATHEWS, YOUNGER BROTHER

SIMPLY PUT, I LOVE MY BROTHER OMARI AND MISS HIM ALREADY. WE HAD GREAT TIMES TOGETHER, DEBATING, ENJOYING LIFE, AND GROWING. I WILL CHERISH EVERY MEMORY OF MY BIG BRO.

- JAMIL HASANI MATHEWS, YOUNGER BROTHER

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, OMARI WOULD TAKE HIS TIME AND TALK TO ME, HEAR MY IDEAS, AND LISTEN. EVERY NIGHT WHEN HE PICKED ME UP FROM WORK HE WOULD LISTEN TO ALL MY COMPLAINTS, LAUGH AND TELL ME WHAT TO DO ABOUT SITUATIONS. HE ALWAYS HAD A SMILE ON HIS FACE. I WILL MISS HIM GREATLY. HE WAS A GREAT EXAMPLE FOR ME!

- AKILI MOSHE MATHEWS, YOUNGER BROTHER

WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY BROTHER...HE'S SYMBOLIC OF LOVE AND STRENGTH. I'M REMINDED OF HOW STRONG HE WAS WHEN HIS LUNG COLLAPSED, HE STAYED STRONG AND ACTED LIKE NOTHING WAS WRONG. HE SHOWED GODLY CHARACTER AND KNEW GOD WAS HIS ADVOCATE. I WILL ALWAYS LOVE AND MISS HIM

- ANISA JOHANNA MATHEWS, YOUNGER SISTER

OMARI MATHEWS WAS VERY FUNNY, ENTHUSIASTIC, AND A SMART MAN OF GOD. THROUGH HIS LIFE HE KNEW THAT GOD WAS IN CONTROL AND THAT NOTHING IN THIS WORLD COULD STOP HIM. OMARI SOUGHT FOR THE EDIFICATION OF HIS SOUL, MIND AND SPIRIT. ROMANS 8:31 STATS, IF GOD BE FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US. THAT IS THE MOTTO OMARI BELIEVED. OMARI TAUGHT US MANY THINGS SUCH AS COOKING, TEACHING AND HOSPITALITY WORK. OMARI KITWANA MATHEWS' LEGACY CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN IN OUR LIVES.

- MTUME ZEHREN VINCENT MATHEWS, YOUNGER BROTHER

OMARI HELPED ME WITH A LOT OF STUFF. HE WAS THE BROTHER THAT COOKED ME FOOD AND GETTING THINGS FOR ME FROM THE TOP DRAWER. HE ALWAYS CAME TO THE HOUSE ONCE IN A WHILE WE HAD GREAT TIMES. WHEN WE WENT TO THE BASKETBALL GAME THAT WAS A FUN TIME. HE TOOK ME TO THE STORE ONCE AND HE HELPED ME BUY A REMOTE CONTROL HELICOPTER. WE WILL NEVER FORGET OMARI MATHEWS.

- GERSHOM MWENYE MATHEWS, YOUNGER BROTHER



*"A Father holds his daughter's hand  
for a short while, but he holds her  
heart forever"* - Author Unknown



**PALL BEARERS**  
**MEN OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.**

**THANK YOU**

PERHAPS YOU SENT A LOVELY CARD, OR SAT QUIETLY IN A CHAIR.  
PERHAPS YOU SENT THOSE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS, THAT WE SAW SITTING THERE.  
PERHAPS YOU SPOKE THE KINDEST WORDS, AS ANY FRIEND COULD SAY.  
PERHAPS YOU WERE NOT THERE AT ALL, JUST THOUGHT OF US THAT DAY.  
WHATEVER YOU DID TO CONSOLE OUR HEARTS  
WE THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR WHATEVER PART.

**- THE MATHEWS FAMILY**

**THE COMMITTAL**

**BATESVILLE MAGNOLIA CEMETERY**  
SUPT. TERRANCE LAUCHIE, OFFICIATING  
BATESVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

**SERVICES HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO**  
**CLAY FUNERAL HOME**

2522 E. BROADWAY | FORREST CITY, AR 72336 | 870.633.8135  
[WWW.CLAYFUNERALHOMEINC.COM](http://WWW.CLAYFUNERALHOMEINC.COM)

**PROGRAMS & ANNOUNCEMENT**

**MARLON & MICHAEL CONCEPTS**

MARLON BUSH | 817.690.8636 | [MBUSH@MARLONANDMICHAEL.COM](mailto:MBUSH@MARLONANDMICHAEL.COM)  
ASSISTED BY: **AKILI MATHEWS**, BROTHER OF OMARI MATHEWS