



Servant of God
WELL DONE



Michigan Southwest Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

BISHOP
JAMES LEE WHITEHEAD, JR.

June 6, 1942



March 8, 2023

THE FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR

The Right Reverend James Lee Whitehead, Jr.

*Prelate, Michigan Southwest Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.*

Thursday, the sixteenth day of March
Ten o'clock in the Morning
Two Thousand Twenty Three
Anno Domini

**Greater Emmanuel Institutional
Church Of God In Christ**

*19190 Schaefer Hwy.
Detroit, Michigan 48235*

THE OFFICIANT

**The Most Reverend John Drew Sheard
Presiding Bishop & Chief Apostle**

Assisted by:

**The Right Reverend Jerry Wayne Macklin
First Assistant Presiding Bishop**

**The Right Reverend Lawrence Marcellus Wooten, Sr.
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop**

**The Right Reverend Brandon Burdett Porter
The Right Reverend Michael Eugene Hill, Sr.
The Right Reverend Sedgwick Charles Daniels
The Right Reverend Darrell Lynn Hines, Sr.
The Right Reverend Prince Earl William Bryant, Sr.
The Right Reverend David Allen Hall, Sr.
The Right Reverend Malcolm Winslow Coby
The Right Reverend Charles Henry McClelland
The Right Reverend Elijah Hosea Hankerson III**

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

THE RIGHT REVEREND JAMES LEE WHITEHEAD, JR.

Bishop James L. Whitehead Jr., the only son born to Administrative Assistant James L. Whitehead Sr., and National Evangelist & Purity Lady Ella Barbara Gillespie Whitehead on June 6, 1942, in the city of Detroit, MI. Reared in a strict Christian home, he matriculated through the Detroit and Highland Park Public School Systems, where he also studied music at the Detroit Conservatory of Music. Graduating from High School in 1959, he went on to pursue higher education and music at Saints Junior College in Lexington, MS.

It was at Saints Junior College where he acknowledged his calling to the ministry. Upon graduation he continued his education at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia; Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan; and Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI, earning the following degrees: an Associate of Arts, Bachelor's degree, Master of Social Work and a Master of Divinity.

On August 3, 1974, Bishop James Whitehead and Evangelist Mollie Ann Cannon were joined in holy matrimony, producing three saved, talented and college trained children; Gwen Lu'el, James Lee the III, and Shekina Mary.

After many years of study and exposure to great men, Bishop Whitehead became a well-respected preacher of the gospel within the Church Of God In Christ. Bishop Whitehead was the spiritual father to the members of Saints City & Whitehead Memorial, "One church in two locations". He began his first pastorate at the Saints City church in Romulus, MI in 1972. Then following the demise of his father in 1986, he was assigned as pastor to continue the work at the church he grew up in, which at the time was called Mt. Zion, and then re-named Whitehead Memorial in honor of his father. He had a passion for Youth ministry as well as teaching, preaching, singing, and counseling.

One of his greatest honors of his ministry was to bring the Quadrennial Sermon for the Inauguration of Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson, the General Board and the Installation of the National Church Officials in 2005.

Bishop Whitehead had a legacy of faithful service in many areas of the church. During his time at Morehouse, he served as Youth Minister at Hinsley Temple Church Of God In Christ and helped to grow the youth department to the second largest youth ministry in the state. He served Michigan Southwest Jurisdiction as the State Dean of Sunday School from 1960-1984 under the leadership of Bishop John Seth Bailey.

On the National level, he served as:

- Master of Ceremony for the National Musicals under the leadership of Dr. Mattie Moss Clark
- Community Relations Director of the former International Youth Congress
- Organizer of the Centennial Celebration in Lexington, MS under the leadership of Presiding Bishop Chandler D. Owens
- Editor-in-Chief of the YPWW Literature
- Editor-in- Chief of the Whole Truth Paper
- Chairman/President of the O.T. Jones Memorial Training Institute
- UMI Liaison of International Sunday School Literature

- Chairman of the COGIC Review Commission Team.

Bishop Whitehead was influenced by some of the greatest leaders of our church, which helped to shape his ministry and preaching style, such as: Dr. Arenia Mallory, Bishop O.T. Jones Jr., and Bishop Ithiel Clemons to name a few, whom in his opinion, possessed the spirit and the letter of Biblical preaching. He was also influenced by individuals such as Bishop F. D. Washington, along with other great Ecumenical preachers such as Rev. Caesar Clark, Rev. William Holms Borders, Rev. Gardner Taylor, Mordechai Johnson, Dr. Benjamin Mays, Dr. Martin L. King Jr. and Dr. Sandy Ray, just to name a few. There were other fatherly examples such as: Bishop Levi Willis, Sr., Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush, Sr., Bishop P. A. Brooks, Bishop Earl J. Wright, Sr., Bishop Isaac King, Jr. and Bishop William Rimson, all who left an indelible impact upon his life.

During the Fall General Assembly of 2009 in Memphis, TN, then Administrative Assistant Whitehead was recommended and elevated to the office of Auxiliary Bishop in the Church of God In Christ and was consecrated in November 2010 during the 103rd Holy Convocation. In 2015, after the demise of his mentor and Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop Earl J. Wright Sr., and serving for over 30 years as First Administrative Assistant, Bishop Whitehead received a unanimous recommendation by the pastors to be the next Jurisdictional Prelate of Michigan Southwest Second Jurisdiction COGIC, confirmed by the Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake Sr. and the General Board.

Bishop James Whitehead Jr. was a one of the greatest scholars, theologian, and preacher of the gospel of our time, not only within the Church Of God In Christ but throughout the world. His labor and impact will never be forgotten. He was preceded in death by his father James L. Whitehead, Sr., and his mother Ella Barbara Whitehead. He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife Mollie Ann Whitehead, his children; Gwen Lu'el (Pastor, Dr. Avery E.) Brown, James (Takia) Whitehead III and Shekina (Caleb) Foster; granddaughter, Alana Brown; three grandsons, Jullian Brown, James Whitehead IV and Jacob Whitehead; his loving sister, LaBarbara Whitehead; a host of cousins, friends and mentors; the members of Saints City and Whitehead Memorial Church, the Michigan Southwest Second Jurisdiction and his beloved grand ole Church of God In Christ.

ORDER OF HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

† *Where Indicated Please Stand*

The Right Reverend Jerry Wayne Macklin
First Assistant Presiding Bishop
Worship Facilitator

QUIET MOMENTS

† THE PROCESSIONAL The Right Reverend Dickerson L.S. Wells
Adjutant General

The Deputy Adjutant Generals
The Presiding Bishop
The General Board
The General Officers
The College of Bishops
The Whitehead Family

THE SEALING OF THE BIER

† THE HYMN OF COMFORT The Choir and Congregation
“We’ll Understand It Better By and By” (page 8)

† INVOCATION..... The Right Reverend Michael Eugene Hill, Sr.

† THE OLD TESTAMENT..... The Right Reverend David A. Hall, Sr.
Isaiah 40:28-31

THE CHORAL RESPONSE The C. H. Mason Memorial Choir
“The Hallelujah Chant”

† THE NEW TESTAMENT..... The Right Reverend Prince E. W. Bryant, Sr.
I Corinthians 15:51-58

† THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (page 9)..... The Right Reverend Elijah Hosea Hankerson, III

THE SELECTION..... The C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

THE NATIONAL TRIBUTES:

The International Department of Women Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis
General Supervisor

The General Council of Pastors and Elders..... The Reverend Michael Eaddy
Chairman
Represented by The Reverend Kiemba A. Knowlin
Vice Chairman

The College of Bishops The Right Reverend Albert Galbraith, Jr.
Chairman
Represented by The Reverend Roger L. Jones, Sr.
First Vice Chairman

The Judiciary Board The Right Reverend Martin Luther Johnson Sr.
Chief Justice

The General Assembly The Right Reverend Lemuel Floyd Thuston,
Chairman

The General Church The Right Reverend Joel Harley Lyles, Jr.
General Secretary

THE SELECTION The C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EULOGIST.. The Right Reverend Lawrence Marcellus Wooten
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

THE SERMONIC SELECTION The C. H. Mason Memorial Choir

THE EULOGY **The Most Reverend J. Drew Sheard**
Presiding Bishop & Chief Apostle
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

†THE RECESSIONAL

WE'LL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER BY AND BY

VERSE 1

We are often tossed and driv'n
On the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests
Oft succeed a bright sunshine,
In that land of perfect day,
When the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain

*By and by when the morning comes,
All the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome:
For we'll understand it better by and by.*

VERSE 2

We are often destitute
Of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter,
Thirsty hills and barren lands,
We are trusting in the Lord,
And according to His word,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain

VERSE 3

Trials dark on ev'ry hand,
And we cannot understand,
All the ways that God would lead us
To that blessed Promised Land;
But He guides us with His eye
And we'll follow till we die.
For we'll understand it better by and by.

Refrain

VERSE 4

Temptations, hidden snares
Often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed
For many a thoughtless word or deed,
And we wonder why the test
When we try to do our best.
But we'll understand it better by and by.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

† Where Indicated, Please Stand

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in the Bible.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written word of God.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in God.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in the Blessed Hope.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe in the blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ, at His return.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in Repentance and Salvation.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the human body in answer to believing prayer.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in the Holy Ghost.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe that the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in Sanctification.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling, the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world.

Amen.

**MINISTRY OF COMFORT
ENTRUSTED TO**

Clora Funeral Home
5801 E. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48234
(313) 368-0100

INTERMENT

Woodlawn Cemetery
19975 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48203

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

The College of Bishops
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

The National Adjutancy
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of the late Right Reverend James L. Whitehead, Jr. wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the many comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers, & expressions of kindness evidenced in thought and deed.

THE PRESIDIUM

THE MOST REVEREND JOHN DREW SHEARD, *Presiding Bishop & Chief Apostle*
The Right Reverend Jerry Wayne Macklin, *First Assistant Presiding Bishop*
The Right Reverend Lawrence Marcellus Wooten, Sr., *Second Assistant Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Brandon Burdett Porter, *Secretary*
The Right Reverend Michael Eugene Hill, Sr., *Assistant Secretary*
The Right Reverend Sedgwick Charles Daniels
The Right Reverend Darrell Lynn Hines, Sr.
The Right Reverend Prince Earl William Bryant, Sr.
The Right Reverend David Allen Hall, Sr.
The Right Reverend Malcolm Winslow Coby
The Right Reverend Charles Henry McClelland
The Right Reverend Elijah Hosea Hankerson, III

THE GENERAL BOARD MEMBER, EMERITUS

The Right Reverend Charles Edward Blake, Sr., *Presiding Bishop Emeritus*

THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The Right Reverend Joel Harley Lyles, Jr.

THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

The Right Reverend Albert Galbraith, Jr., *Chairman*
The Right Reverend Roger Lee Jones, Sr., *First Vice Chairman*
The Right Reverend William Henry Watson, III, *Second Vice Chairman*
The Right Reverend Adrian Dumarr Williams, *Secretary*

THE NATIONAL ADJUTANCY

The Right Reverend Dickerson LeMoynes Shillicutt Wells, *Adjutant General*
The Reverend Glenn Arthur McKinney, *Deputy Adjutant General*
The Reverend Herman George Platt, *Deputy Adjutant General*
The Reverend John Brandon Smith, *Deputy Adjutant General*
The Reverend Nickolus Clay South, *Scribe*
The Reverend Waddee Bernell Thoroughgood, *Adjutant Apostolic*

