



## Mr. Darris D. Payton

December 29, 1960 - October 10, 2008

Mr. Darris DeWayne Payton went to be with the Lord, Friday, October 10, 2008 at Metro Health Hospital, in Byron Center, MI. He was born December 29, 1960 in Flint, MI, the son of William and Patricia (Payton) Simmons. He attended Flint Community Schools graduating from Flint Central High School, in 1979. He was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in Football, Basketball and Baseball. He earned a Business Administration Degree from Eastern Michigan University in 1984 and was employed by the State of Michigan as a Business Facility Manager for the Dept. of Corrections. He was employed over 22 years with the State of Michigan. Darris received Christ as his personal Savior, February 22, 1970 at Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Pontiac, MI. He was a dedicated member of Christian Life Center and devoted his life to living by the Word of God. He was an avid sportsman and enjoyed traveling to play in various Gus Macker Basketball tournaments, where he won several trophies. He also enjoyed playing "Fantasy Football". Darris was joined in holy matrimony on August 9, 1997 to Melva McNeal and to this union two children were born. He was devoted to his family and he spent a lot of his time attending the various activities his children were involved in, such as soccer, basketball and recitals. Darris was known for his sense of humor. One of his many attributes was his ability to make people laugh. He was a lot of fun to be around. His wealth of knowledge was astonishing. If anyone could not remember events or facts; without hesitation he knew and was always correct! He will be truly missed by his family and

friends. Darris was preceded in death by his father ,William J. Payton. To cherish his memory, Darris leaves his wife, Melva; daughter, Cydni; son, Spencer; parents , Patricia and Dr. Robert Simmons, of Flint; mother-in-law, Bertha Barbee McNeal, of Kalamazoo; father-in-law, Earl (Renea) McNeal, of Kalamazoo; two brothers, William (Cheryl), of Mt. Morris and Robby (Christal) Simmons, of Flint; two sisters, Cynthia, of Grand Blanc and Tricia Simmons, of Birmingham; brother-in-laws, Ricky Evans, of Grand Rapids; Martin ("Marty") McNeal, of Indiana and Corey McNeal of Kalamazoo; one sister-in-law, Jaynita Wise, of Illinois; nieces, Michele, Christianna and Robbi; nephews, Philip, Aaron, Andrew and Kahari and a host of other nieces and nephews; specials friends, Mark Gragg of Grand Blanc, Stuart Boswell, Rick Floyd, both of Detroit, Brad Purves and Denise Trierweiler from the State of Michigan Corrections Facility in Ionia, the Fantasy Football League in Lansing and his Christian Men's Breakfast Group in Flint. He also leaves many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends to cherish his memory.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **15.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Harper Funeral Home Inc.  
521 Douglas Avenue  
Kalamazoo, MI

## Service

OCT **16.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Christian Life Center-Kalamazoo  
1225 W. Paterson Street  
Kalamazoo, MI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Darris D. Payton*

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ *Mr. Darris D. Payton*

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ *Melva, I am so profoundly sorry for your loss. Martha and I will be praying for your strength and the strength of your family. If there is anything I can do to help please let me know.*

*With love and deepest sympathy,*

*Brian Case###imported-begin##Brian Case###imported-end##*

October 22, 2008 at 11:03 AM



“ *I am so very sorry to hear of Darris. i was in Florida and just retruned home to learn of this, so am sad to have missed visitation.*

*I worked with Darris for a few years, and we very often talked of sports, sometimes endlessly. WHat a wonderful man he always was.*

*All of my heartfelt sympathy goes to you in this devastating loss.###imported-begin##Dexter Arnold###imported-end##*

October 21, 2008 at 09:48 PM



“ My deepest sympathy to your family, Darris was one of my good friends and classmate at Flint Central he was always funny and always RIGHT never a dull moment, im so glad i had the pleasure of meeting you melva at our 20th class reunion and laughing with Darris again.

*Paula M Booker*##imported-begin##*Paula McDill Booker*##imported-end##

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October 17, 2008 at 04:35 PM



“ I was very saddened to hear that Darris passed away. I have been praying for Cynthia and the entire family since I heard the news.

*Take care of yourselves and lean on each other for strength.*  
*Renee*##imported-begin##*Renee' Whitaker*##imported-end##

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October 16, 2008 at 06:49 PM



“ Rest on my friend you are in a better place.##imported-begin##Kevin Strozier##imported-end##

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October 16, 2008 at 05:55 PM



“ Melva,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. May God surround you during this time and always.##imported-begin##Carol Voss##imported-end##

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October 15, 2008 at 08:52 PM



“ Melva,

*I am so sorry for your loss, just know that you and your family are in our prayers during this difficult time.*

*Your cousin,  
Kimberly Brown##imported-begin##Kimberly Brown and  
Family##imported-end##*

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October 15, 2008 at 08:00 PM



“ Ms. Payton: Darris was a very fond friend of ours from our days at HMTU. He had a very good sense of humor and was considered a great friend. You and your family is in our thoughts and prayers. We are so sorry for your lose.##imported-begin##Judy Bingaman and Ron Jones##imported-end##

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October 15, 2008 at 07:46 PM



“ I just wanted to say how much Darris will be missed. I was only able to work with him for less then a year but it was truly a privilege. We got to be good friends through our mutual love for sports. He was one of the best people I have worked with and I will miss our conversations. I am grateful I got a chance to know him.##imported-begin##Mark Fox##imported-end##

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October 15, 2008 at 07:14 PM



“ *Melva,  
My thoughts & prayers are with you, your children & all of your family. God Bless*

*Kathy Trylick###imported-begin###Kathy Trylick###imported-end###*

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October 15, 2008 at 06:41 PM



“ *i was so sad and hurt to hear the loss of Mr. Payton. I might have not known him well, but everyday when he came and picked up Cydni and Spencer from the daycare he always had a smiling face that warmed my heart. He will be deeply missed b me and everyone at Room to Bloom. you will be in my prayers.*

*love Alissa###imported-begin###Alissa Ball###imported-end###*

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October 15, 2008 at 06:25 PM



“ *Dear Payton Family,  
I know that God will bring you through this very tough time. I am praying for all of you everyday. Cydni- you are a beautiful young lady and I know that you will continue to bring smiles to everyones face with your sunshine personality. Spencer- during the past 2 years of knowing you, I have seen how determined you are. I am confident that you will grow into a great guy just like your dad. You have a strong family, and with God's help you will become even stronger.*

*Love,*

*Miss Sarah*

*(Room to Bloom)###imported-begin###Sarah McKee (Room To Bloom)###imported-end###*

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October 15, 2008 at 06:16 PM



“ Dear Cydni you have been in my prayers since the day I found out your dad died. everyone misses you at school and can not wait to have you back.

*i am thinking of you.*

*rebekah quinn##imported-begin##Rebekah Quinn##imported-end##*

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October 15, 2008 at 04:13 PM



“ OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE FAMILY AT THIS TIME OF LOSS. I WILL MISS MY FRIEND AND ALL THE GOOD TIMES AND CONVERSATIONS THAT WE SHARED THRU THE YEARS, DARIS WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME.##imported-begin##STUART, JANET AND ERICA BOSWELL##imported-end##

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October 15, 2008 at 04:00 PM



“ To the family of Darris, He was such a wonderful and funny guy. I'm glad that I had the pleasure of knowing him. I'm going to miss his jokes. He always had something funny to say. Cyn whenever you're having one of those difficult moments, just think of something funny that he said and I promise you, you'll feel better. Mom, please know that I am just a phone call away.

*Love Mel##imported-begin##Melody B. Bondon-McGee##imported-end##*

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October 15, 2008 at 03:14 PM



“ *Melva, Cydni & Spencer, We are so deeply saddened by your loss. Darris was such a sweet, fun man, he will be so very missed. We are celebrating the fact he is with Jesus but we are also mourning with you. Please know that we are keeping you and yours in our prayers.*  
*Jo, Ellie & Zoie Locatis##imported-begin##Jo Locatis##imported-end##*

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October 15, 2008 at 01:43 PM



“ *I worked with Darris at ITF until 2005. I am very sorry for your loss, you are in my prayers.##imported-begin##Mary Fedewa##imported-end##*

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October 15, 2008 at 11:55 AM



“ *Mrs. Payton, Sydney and Spencer, I am so sorry to here about Darris. I've gotten to know your family so well since you came to Countryside. I am praying for your family, and will keep a special eye on your children when their here. I love you all very much.*  
*Pat##imported-begin##Pat Van Dyke Countryside elementary custodian##imported-end##*

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October 15, 2008 at 10:58 AM



“ *My heartfelt sympathy to Melva and family. My thoughts and prayers are withyou during these difficult times.##imported-begin##Bob Comte##imported-end##*

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October 15, 2008 at 09:52 AM



“ I just want to say Im sorry for your lost.And you and your family will be in our thoughts and prayers.Love your cousins from Flint Michigan Harolds children.Love the Payton Family.##imported-begin##Sheryl Payton##imported-end##

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October 14, 2008 at 10:27 PM



“ Please know that your family are in our thoughts and prayers. I will always remember Darris with a smile on his face. He seemed to have a joy to life that I wish more people expressed. He was a good neighbor and a fun and challenging competitor in our fantasy football league. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Paul & Carrie Brandell##imported-end##

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October 14, 2008 at 10:15 PM



“ Mel~ You know we love you and yet God LOVES you even MORE. Think of the joy Darris brought into your life. You are blessed because of the special bond and the precious moments the two of you shared together. George & I are praying with you and for you and your loving family. (((HUGS)))##imported-begin##George & Octavia (Crawford) Turner From Albion##imported-end##

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October 14, 2008 at 08:42 PM



“ Cindy,  
We're so very sorry that you have lost your Brother. Your love for your brother will keep the memory of him always with you. Carry him in your heart and remember those special times you had with him and your family. Our hearts go out to you and your family Cindy with our deepest sympathy. And will pray for you and your family that you find comfort in knowing that you have friends that care and love you.

Diallo & Audrey Sekou##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Diallo & Audrey Sekou##imported-end##

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October 14, 2008 at 06:31 PM



“ Melva our thoughts and Prayers are with you and your family.

Yolanda Saunders & Family  
Charlotte, NC##imported-begin##Yolanda (Wiggins) Saunders##imported-end##

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October 14, 2008 at 03:15 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Darris was truly a "nice man", honest, open and very funny. I enjoyed the time I spent working with Darris at ITF. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Nancy Houts##imported-end##

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October 14, 2008 at 02:49 PM



“ My prayers are with the family during this time of transition. *##imported-begin##A. Jeffrey LaValley1##imported-end##*

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October 14, 2008 at 08:43 AM



“ Know that Darris will be greatly missed at ITF. Darris's smile and kind words would always brighten my day. May God be with you and give you the strength you need to face the coming days. *##imported-begin##Sally Ann Spry##imported-end##*

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October 13, 2008 at 04:19 PM



“ We were so sad to hear of the loss of Darris. We want the family to know that all of you are in our prayers. God will give you all the strength you need to get through this difficult time. *##imported-begin##Angela and Steve Staten##imported-end##*

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October 13, 2008 at 10:52 AM