

Rev. Dr. Mathew Wright

July 22, 1933 - June 6, 2010

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” St. Matthew 28:19-20

On his favorite day...The First Sunday...June 6, 2010, Rev. Dr. Mathew Wright left this earthly place to live with the Lord. Born July 22, 1933, to Johnny and Alice Wright in Shaw, Mississippi, he accepted Christ at an early age on a Thursday. Having attended his early school years in Shaw, Mississippi, he later received his Bachelor of Theology and Doctor of Divinity in 1972 and 1974 from the Campbell School of Religion in Memphis, Tennessee. He was united in holy matrimony to Annie Mae McBride on August 11, 1952. To this union, four children were born.

“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” Jeremiah 3:15

Rev. Wright answered the call to the ministry in 1960, pastoring his first church, Greater First Baptist Church of Chicago, Illinois from 1965-1966. He was then called to pastor New St. Mark Baptist Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan from 1966-1970, prior to answering the call to pastor Second Missionary Baptist Church on October 21, 1970. He retired as pastor of

Second Baptist Church December 31, 2009, after celebrating 39 years of leadership, holding the longest pastorate for Second Missionary Baptist Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

“A Man With A Purpose”

Rev. Wright was characterized as a man whose life encompassed the true meaning of spiritual purpose, service, and vision. This inspired man of God became known as a Pastor, Community Leader, Humanitarian, Evangelist and Visionary. His installation theme, “A Man with a Purpose” began his vision of growing a progressive church that would integrate the ever-changing contemporary needs of the individual while strengthening the overall mission of the church. This vision led him to expand the church’s old structure into the new one, which was completed in 1985. Prior to his retirement, as the church celebrated its’ 155th Anniversary, the mortgage was burned in May of 2009. The church currently owns most of the property around the perimeter of the church, leaving it for the next pastor to continue to develop.

Several ministries were created under this vision of which included The Booster’s Club, Young Matrons, Church-Wide Mission, Wednesday Night Bible School, Choir Ministries (Mass, Children, Youth Praise Team and Male Chorus), Ushers (Senior, Inspirational, & Youth), Health Ministry, and a host of other outreach ministries including Church School and “Salvation and Education” monthly talks with the youth of the church.

A noted Evangelist, Dr. Wright was appointed Evangelism Outreach spokesperson for the State of Michigan, Wolverine Baptist State Convention, Inc, taking his “Christ is Alive” message across the state and nation, setting up the program in churches throughout Michigan, California, Tennessee, Arkansas, Texas, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, and the Caribbean. His many travels to Palestine,

Rome, Egypt, and Athens enhanced his ministry, knowledge and his message of hope and repentance, leading the unsaved to Christ.

Under his tutelage, ministers answered their call to preach, becoming his sons in the ministry. They include Rev. J. L. Hudson, Rev. Charles Hudson, Rev. John Smith, Rev. Ralph Henley, Rev. Ira Morgan, Rev. Monroe White, Rev. John Buchanan, Rev. George Lipsey, Rev. Adriel Morgan & Rev. Cody Minor. However, his heart was filled when his own son, Rev. Kevin Wright, began his ministry under his Dad's wings. Other young ministers sought his mentorship as they entered the ministry.

Rev. Wright's fiery sermons were always practical wisdom-filled messages, full of information and biblical truths and frequently taken from the book of St. Matthew. Sermon titles such as "Standing on the Promises of God", "Give up Isaac", "Go Get Gomer", "When You Could, You Wouldn't, Now You Want To and You Can't", "Too Much, Too Little, Too Late", and "How Long is the Night" stirred the many listeners each Sunday. A sermon was never complete without warming his audience with the melodious voice of Pastor Wright singing such songs as "It Is Well", "Walk Around Heaven", "Packin' Up", "He's Sweet I Know" and "Oh Mary Don't You Weep". And if it was your birthday, you could expect to be serenaded with his smooth rendition of "Happy Birthday to You".

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." St. Matthew 5:16

Aside from his commitment to the church, Dr. Wright served the community in a myriad of ways as an active community advocate and leader. Under his leadership, the Ministerial Alliance became an incorporated organization. He was advisor to numerous boards and committees including the city of Kalamazoo's Public Safety and City Commission and Public School District.

His humanitarian efforts extended into the community as he was a lifetime member of the NAACP, established a community garden, and developed a partnership with Borgess Health Alliance to provide free health education and screenings to the church community. He participated with the Cooking Men of Kalamazoo, where he was known for his peach cobbler, and with the Black Women's Round Table, Tent Crusades, and the Martin Luther King Jr., Annual Fund Raiser.

Dr. Wright served as Dean of the New Era Baptist District and on the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Baptist College. He has been the proud recipient of awards and proclamations for his service and vision from the city of Kalamazoo, New Era District Association, and Wolverine Baptist State Convention and Congress.

Rev. Dr. M. W. Wright is survived by his devoted son, Rev. Kevin Wright (Pamela) of Kalamazoo, MI; three daughters, Janette Henley of Nashville, TN; Margie Lenoir-Davis (James) of Skokie, IL; and Lisha Wright-Jackson (Sean) of Columbus, OH; three brothers, Jessie Wright and Samuel (Louise) Wright of Jacksonville, FL; and Nathaniel Wright of Chicago, IL; five sisters, Ruth Caples and Ruth (Earl) Love of Chicago, IL; Mary Rodgers and Christine (Daniel) Spears of Memphis, TN; and Ernestine Bridges (Richard) of Flint, MI; three brother-in-laws, Robert McBride of North Chicago, IL; John McBride (Kendall) of Zion, IL, and Willie McBride (Carli) of Peoria, IL eighteen grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, two Goddaughters, Gloria Bouie of Waukegan, IL and Ramona Brantley of Memphis, TN; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and special friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Annie Mae, of 42 years, his parents, Johnny and Alice Wright, two brothers, Johnny & Lawyer Wright; one sister, Laura Wright. and special in-laws, Eugene, Georgia, and Evans McBride.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 11. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Second Baptist Church
609 N. Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI

Service

JUN 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

Second Baptist Church
609 N. Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI

Tribute Wall



“ Harper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Dr. Mathew Wright



Harper Funeral Home - June 06, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Rev. Dr. Mathew Wright

October 23, 2023 at 06:06 AM



“ Rev. Dr. Mathew Wright

October 06, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ To the Wright family - Kevin, Janette, Margie and Lisa. "Your loved one will always be as close as a memory, and the God of all comfort as close as a prayer". We're sorry we couldn't make it there for the funeral, but you are in our thoughts and prayers for your comfort and peace. Many, many memories of growing up in Second Baptist. Take care.....##imported-begin##Chuck and Judie (Moorehead) Days##imported-end##

June 23, 2010 at 11:31 AM



“ *May God give you strength in your time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Mary M.G. McNair##imported-end##*

June 17, 2010 at 02:45 PM



“ *My prayers are with the family, I too grew up at Second Baptist where My mother ,Mary Ball was In the Music Department, I remember Rev. Wright singing Im packing up at my mom's funeral. He be greatly missed and to the family stay strong cause the Lord is with u!!
Much Love and prayers
Mia Ball- Jackson##imported-begin##Mia Ball- Jackson##imported-end##*

June 16, 2010 at 06:36 PM



“ *To The Wrigh Family,*

Please know you are not alone and our thoughts and prayers are with you.....

Sincerely,

Frank, Jr, Ida and Jaudon Robinson##imported-begin##Frank, Jr, Ida and Jaudon Robinson##imported-end##

June 15, 2010 at 09:07 PM



“ Rev Dr. M.W. Wright was a mentor to me. He educated me on what being a Man of God is. I was a member of Second Baptist Church from 1970-1993. Second Baptist was and is my church home. He was a great man and Pastor. I will miss him. He is getting his reward in Heaven. Thank You, Dr. Wright. I will always love you. God bless the Wright Family and keep them strong.##imported-begin##Mark Harris##imported-end##

June 13, 2010 at 09:58 PM



“ A man who sought after God's directions in his life. May those who love and knew him be comforted by God's enduring love.##imported-begin##Shirley Lee##imported-end##

June 12, 2010 at 01:31 PM



“ This quiet Messenger of God will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with you, the family, doing this time of bereavement. I pray that God will grant you peace and acceptance of His Will to call His servant Home. God Bless you.
Dot McMillon (Grand Rapids, MI)##imported-begin##Dot McMillon##imported-end##

June 12, 2010 at 10:14 AM



“ To the family of Pastor Wright,A man who will be terribly missed with his great expertisees.A man that was a Blessing to others who knew him.May God continue to Bless you and the Church Family on the passing of your loved one.Rev.Joseph Walker-Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.Grand Rapids,Mi.We had lots of fellowships with you all.Love to all.Be Blessed.##imported-begin##Rev Joseph & Janice Walker Grand RApids,Mi##imported-end##

June 11, 2010 at 10:57 PM



“ Lisha, as I search for words that would bring peace and comfort to you in the time of your loss, my thoughts turn to the one who is able to give us peace beyond our own understanding.

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

May our Lord and Savoir Jesus Christ, the peace giver bring perfect peace to you and your family during this hour of sorrow.

Uncle Rick and Aunt Cheryl##imported-begin##Rick and Cheryl White ##imported-end##

June 11, 2010 at 10:26 PM



“ Dear Mr. and Mrs. Margie Lenoir-Davis,

It is with heartfelt sympathy that I convey our love and prayers you and your family during these difficult times. Know that God knows how much one can bear. You and your husband and family members have already been covered by his blood and protected by his love. During those weak moments, know that your friends and love ones are praying for you, and that God is always with you.

Lovingly,

The Ruffs (Oliver, Emma, and Vonyea)###imported-begin##Oliver A. Ruff###imported-end##

June 11, 2010 at 10:07 PM



“ To the entire Wright family, I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to you in the home going celebration of Rev. Wright. I know that you have a strong legacy of faith, so it is my prayer that your faith, trust and reliance on God will give you the strength, peace and comfort that you will need in the coming days. It was obvious to us that Rev. Wright loved his family, his church, and this community. He was always giving back from his heart, often in a quiet, gentle way. Anyone who heard Rev. Wright sing will tell you that God gave him that special gift, along with so many other special blessings. I have a feeling that he is in heaven still singing with the other saints. May God's peace and grace be with you during this time. Sincerely, Sandra M. Williams.###imported-begin##Sandra M. Williams###imported-end##

June 11, 2010 at 03:19 PM



“ *My prayers and thoughts are with you all. Best Wishes.##imported-begin##Matilda L. Pettis##imported-end##*

June 11, 2010 at 01:50 PM



“ *To Jenette and family in the time of your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you during this hour of grief. If there are words of comfort that I can give it would be the consolation that the struggle is over. He 's fought a good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith.*

*With love! Reverend Jeffrey L. Knight
29858 Fall River Road Southfield MI. 48076.##imported-begin##Rev. and Dr. Jeffrey L. Knight##imported-end##*

June 11, 2010 at 12:36 PM



“ *Janette and your beloved family
I met your dad Mr. Wright last year and it was my pleasure. 1Peter 5:6-7
Humble your self under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon him, for he care for you.
Sorry for your loss my prayers, heart and soul goes out to you all.
Just continue to hold on to God's unchanging hands. Janette I'm sorry I couldn't be there for you, my heart is there . Love Rhoda Knight Nashville, Tenn.##imported-begin##Rhoda Knight##imported-end##*

June 11, 2010 at 11:59 AM



“ Our condolences to the family, Dr. Wright was truly a God send. Find comfort in the memories that was made. May God keep you in His care always.##imported-begin##Barbara Maeweather & family##imported-end##

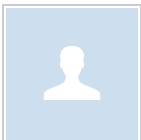
June 11, 2010 at 11:33 AM



“ We are deeply saddened to hear of the death of Rev. Wright. While we enjoyed his spiritual message and they were; we also appreciated the inspiration that he provided to the youth - our children were beneficiaries with the many visits that Rev. Wright made to Albion, Michigan for revivals and other services. His memories will be cherished by those to whom he meant so much. Our sincere sympathy to his family especially his children who were the "Apple" of his eye. God bless and keep you all and remember to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

The Spicer's, Albion, MI##imported-begin##Charles & Joyce Spicer & Children ##imported-end##

June 11, 2010 at 10:24 AM



“ To the Wright Family,

Rev. will be terribly missed by all who knew and loved him. We are here for you and praying for you.

Tamie Moran & Kevin Moran##imported-begin##Tamie Moran##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 11:20 PM



“ Dear Angel,

I would be sad if I lost my PA PA. I will say a prayer for you and your family.

Love,

Mackenzie, age 6##imported-begin##Elizabeth Johnson-Gravelly##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 09:36 PM



“ Dear Jackson Family

I am deeply sorry for you loss. I know I've never met him before, but I am sure he was a good man. Imani, I hope to see you this weekend.

Love,

London##imported-begin##London Polk##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 09:31 PM



“ Dear Lisha,
I was saddend to hear of the passing of your father. As you walk your grief journey know this, Grief never leaves you the way it found you BUT it will leave! And when this midnight in your life passes "JOY" will come with the dawn. When the sun shines again, and the warnth of its rays melt, way the pain you feel now, wrap yourself in those sweet "Precious Memories" that will linger for the rest of your days. May the GOD of all comfort comfort you now and in the coming days.
Love MISS JOHNSON (MOM)##imported-begin##Elizabeth Johnson-Gravelly##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 08:58 PM

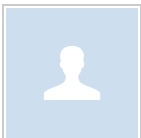


“ My sincerest heartfelt sympathy to
Rev. Kevin and Pam Wright and other members of the Wright family, in the loss of your loved one. Mine was a positive experience with Rev. Wright during the years I was a musician at Second Baptist Church in Kalamazoo.

May God bring you comfort in this your hour of sorrow.

Les Pattin
Battle Creek, MI##imported-begin##Les Pattin##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 08:00 PM



“ To the Wright Family, you have our deepest sympathy. Sorry for your loss.
May God be with you.##imported-begin##Joe and Anne Flemings##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 05:39 PM



“ Our deepest condolences go out to the Wright family. He and our late Pastor, Rev H. J. Cook, I, were inseparably. He was a son of the Gideon Missionary Baptist Church in Waukegan, IL. We prayed, cried and travelled together. What a blessing Rev. Wright was to all of us. "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal." Love to all Sis. Lucille Smith Harper and Sis. Edith Smith##imported-begin##Edith Smith and Lucille Harper##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 05:26 PM



“ We are sorry for your loss and pray God's blessings be upon you as you grieve the loss of your father, grandfather, brother, and friend. You are in our thoughts and continued prayers.##imported-begin##Trisha J. & Shirlene Baker##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 04:05 PM



“ god be with you and the family##imported-begin##robin d. mccants##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 04:05 PM



“ Kevin, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. You should be proud of the legacy your father left.##imported-begin##Marcia Jones##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 03:24 PM



“ *Kevin and Family,
You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. He will be missed on earth but we shall hear him preach, sing again sitting on the right hand of God.##imported-begin##Lillie(Hall) Cotton##imported-end##*

June 10, 2010 at 02:11 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the Wright Family. Throughout Reverend Wright's tenure as pastor at Second Baptist Church, he was someone upon which our family knew we could rely during good and difficult times. He will be missed, and will forever be remembered.##imported-begin##Gregory Moorehead##imported-end##*

June 10, 2010 at 01:14 PM



“ *To the family of Rev. Wright, our prayers are with you always. Gideon has lost a son, someone we will truly be missed. We will miss the sweet sound of "A Brighter Day". As we think of the days we shared with Rev. Wright, there is no doubt in our hearts that he and the late Rev. H. J Cook I are smiling down on us. May God keep you, that is our prayer.*

Alice & Marjorie McCoy##imported-begin##Alice & Marjorie McCoy##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 01:09 PM



“ To Rev. Wright's family, "Earth has no sorrow, that heaven cannot heal. Rev. Wright is missed already, just sitting here I can hear him singing "A Brighter Day Ahead. We loved him so much. Now he's up there with my pastor Rev. H.J. Cook walking around heaven. Love you and God Bless you

Ernest Vaughn III and Family##imported-begin##Ernest Vaughn##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 12:50 PM



“ Margie,
I am so sorry about your loss. My prayers are with you during this difficult time. I am here if you need me.##imported-begin##Arma Hill##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 11:26 AM



“ May GOD give you and your family the strength that you will need to endure these time during the transition of your father. We will lift you all up and know that all is well.

*Stuart & Phillippa
Jackson##imported-begin##Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Alan Sr. ##imported-end##*

June 10, 2010 at 10:26 AM



“ Dear Margie and Family,

My prayers and thoughts are with you at this time. Be well.

Lauren##imported-begin##Lauren Valverde##imported-end##

June 10, 2010 at 09:30 AM

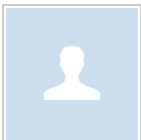


“ To Janette, Jean, Margie and Lisa, and other members of Rev. Wright's family, you have my deepest heartfelt condolences in the death of our friend, father figure and wonderful preacher/pastor. I will miss him terribly. Just remember that we loved him, but God loved him best. Now Rev. can witness that “Brighter Day Ahead” that he always sang about. He's with the love of his life, Mrs. Wright, and a lot of Gideonites that loved him too. If there is anything that I can do to make this sad moment better please let me know.

Love You All!

Doris##imported-begin##Doris Rothwell-Williams##imported-end##

June 09, 2010 at 09:55 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the a family it sadden to the passing of Mr. Wright an awesome leader and father i spent most of my child hood at his family's house with his daughter lisa my GOD continue to bless this family love you all Alisa Watkins and family##imported-begin##alisa watkins ##imported-end##

June 07, 2010 at 01:43 PM