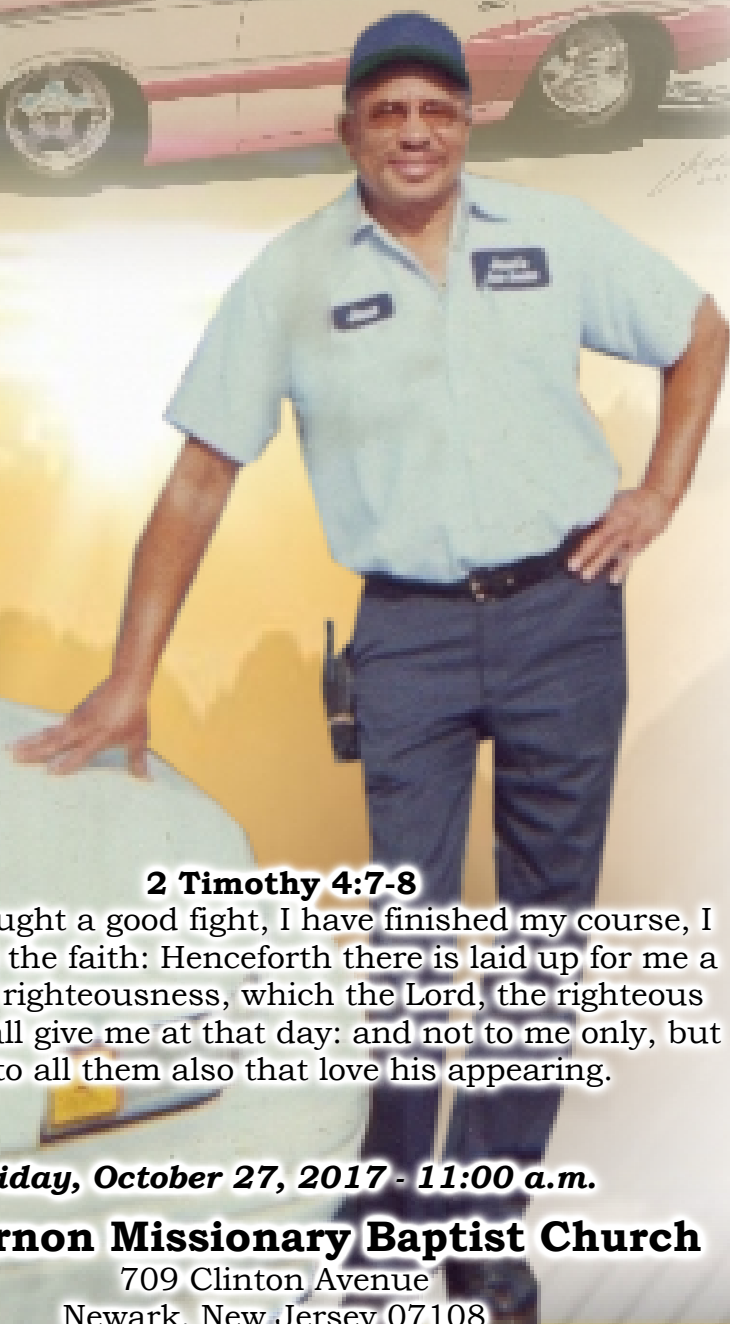


Honoring the Life of

# Jesse L. Leggett

September 14, 1938 - October 22, 2017



**2 Timothy 4:7-8**


I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

***Friday, October 27, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.***

**Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church**

709 Clinton Avenue  
Newark, New Jersey 07108

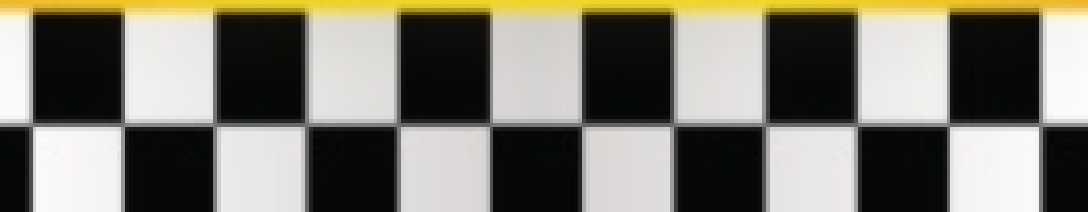
**Rev. Dr. Milton Biggham, Officiating**



Today the journey is ended,  
I have worked out the mandates of fate;  
Naked, alone, undefended,  
I knock at the Uttermost Gate.  
Behind is life and its longing,  
Its trial, its trouble, its sorrow;  
Beyond is the Infinite Morning  
Of a day without a tomorrow.

Go back to dust and decay,  
Body, grown weary and old;  
You are worthless to me from today—  
No longer my soul can you hold.  
I lay you down gladly forever  
For a life that is better than this;  
I go where partings ne'er sever  
You into oblivion's abyss.

Lo, the gate swings wide at my knocking,  
Across endless reaches I see  
Lost friends with laughter come flocking  
To give a glad welcome to me.  
Farewell, the maze has been threaded,  
This is the ending of strife;  
Say not that death should be dreaded—  
'Tis but the beginning of life.”



# Obituary



**Jesse Lee Leggett** departed this life on October 22, 2017, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Above all others, he leaves behind his devoted wife, Anna Leggett, to whom he was married 55 years.

Jesse was born in Beaufort County, North Carolina, the first of twelve children. He was tinkering with car engines by the age of 6, and as he grew older he displayed a natural talent for fixing all things mechanical. In 1959, he moved to New Jersey to find better employment, and his first job here was in a factory at Seton Leather

Company in North Newark. He then went on to work for Avalon Corporation in Cedar Grove, manufacturing fiberglass insulation. He worked at Avalon for thirteen years, eventually becoming a manager. When Avalon went out of business in 1976, Jesse relied on his mechanical skills for employment and worked in auto repair shops before opening Jesse's Auto Service in 1980, located at 696 Bergen Street in Newark. He operated Jesse's Auto for 35 years, providing the community with honest and professional car repair services. For those who could not afford necessary repairs, Jesse often fixed their cars for free.

Besides providing for his family, Jesse's other passion was drag racing. In 1965 he bought a brand new Pontiac GTO for \$3500, and modified the engine for racing on the street. He won his first race, then another and another, and soon Jesse became known on the street racing circuit as "Big Red." Over time he befriended many racecar enthusiasts in the tristate area, including Danny Jesel, with whom Jesse developed high-performance engines and began adding nitrous oxide to fuel to boost a car's horsepower! Jesse remained ahead of all his competitors and went on to become a New Jersey drag-racing legend. Jesse raced cars – including driving them – into his early 70s, and continued to consult with others and attend car races until his body would no longer permit.

Jesse was extremely insightful and wise. He never missed an opportunity to dispense wisdom to whoever he thought could use it, even if they hadn't asked. People often sought Jesse's advice, however, including many of the young men he met while racing. Jesse mentored many kids in the Bergen Street neighborhood surrounding his shop as well. He was especially proud of his godson, Johnath Davis, whom he guided from the age of five (after repairing Johnath's great-grandma's car) through and beyond Johnath's college graduation. In October 2013, Jesse and Anna stood as Johnath's parents at his wedding, and Johnath blessed Jesse with another grandson last December.

Throughout the years Jesse attended Mount Vernon Baptist Church where his wife Anna has been a member for more than 40 years. In May 2013 he became a member and was baptized.



Jesse and Anna had their first date in January 1960 at Ben's Cotton Club on Frelinghuysen Avenue in Newark. They married two years later and their son Wayne was born in 1963. Their daughter Wendy was born five years after Wayne, and the family lived in the Vailsburg area of Newark for more than 25 years before moving to Union in 1990.



In addition to his wife, Anna, Jesse leaves to cherish his memories his daughter Wendy Leggett Faulk (Sean) and granddaughters Sydney Faulk and Christina Danner (Frank) and four great grandchildren: Levi, Sofie, Della and Frank; grandson Jon Jesse Leggett; godson Johnath Davis (Mary) and grand godson Levi; siblings Bettie Bell (Harvey), Nellie Taylor; Daniel Leggett (Louvenia); Hattie Leggett; James Leggett (Roslyn); Larry Leggett (Sherrie); Bonnie Leggett; Ann Elizabeth Reddick; Joanne Holloway (David); Jessie Brown; first cousin Leonard Stevenson (Millie) whom he always referred to as his brother-friend; and many, many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Jesse was predeceased by his mother and father, Rosa Lee and Simon Louis Leggett; son Wayne; sisters Ethel Marie Leggett and Gladys Brown; and brother Simon Leggett.



# Order of Service

Processional

Hymn of Comfort  
Rev. Dr. Milton Biggham

Prayer of Comfort  
Rev. David Holloway

Scripture Readings  
Lisa Letang  
Rev. Rah'D LeTang

Musical Selection  
Cynthia Crawford

Reading of Obituary  
Bonita Gilliard

Special Reflections

Eulogy  
Rev. Dr. Milton Biggham

Musical Selection  
Bobby Fields

Recessional

## **Entombment**

Glendale Cemetery  
Bloomfield, New Jersey

## **Pallbearers**

Daniel Leggett - Brother  
James Leggett - Brother  
Johnath Davis - Godson

Larry Leggett - Brother  
Jon Jesse Leggett - Grandson  
Sean Faulk - Son-in-law

## Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear,  
though the earth be removed,  
and though the mountains  
be carried into the midst of the sea;  
Though the waters thereof roar and be  
troubled, though the mountains shake with  
the swelling thereof. Selah.

## Acknowledgement

The family of the late **Jesse L. Leggett** is grateful to the many friends and would like to express sincere gratitude and thanks for all acts of kindness you have shown us. We appreciate your calls, prayers, words of comfort, food etc. May Our Father richly bless and continue to keep His shield of protection around you.

### Professional Services Provided By

#### COTTON FUNERAL SERVICE

130 Main Street  
Orange, NJ  
973-675-6400

1025 Bergen Street  
Newark, NJ  
973-926-6400

#### COTTON-PARKER FUNERAL HOME

37 Clinton Avenue  
Jersey City, NJ  
201-433-1000

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