

Celebration of Life
for

Pastor Christopher Neil Howard

JUNE 4, 1967 - MAY 3, 2020

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020

SERVICE: 3:00 PM

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
106-60 Unionhall St. • Jamaica, NY 11433

Obituary

Rev. Dr. Christopher N. Howard

Pastor Christopher N. Howard transitioned into glory on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at NYU Winthrop Hospital, Mineola, NY. Christopher Neil Howard, the eldest child of Deaconess Louise Howard and Clarence Thomas was born on June 4, 1967, in Jamaica Queens, NY. Christopher was raised in Far Rockaway, NY, where he was educated through the New York City Public School System. After graduating from Far Rockaway High School, he attended Nassau Community College and Norfolk State University in Virginia. Christopher graduated from The New York Theological Seminary, New York, NY in 2007. Christopher served his country and was proud to be a veteran of the United States Army. He received numerous medals and citations, but his most memorable award was his Medal of Courage and Honor while serving in Operation Desert Storm in 1990.

Pastor Christopher Neil Howard's Christian journey began with Sunday School and the children's choir at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Arverne Queens, NY under the leadership of the late Rev. Joseph H. May. It was at Mt. Carmel he was baptized and began to know Christ. His journey continued and later Christopher joined the St. John Baptist Church, Inwood, NY, in 1980 with his mother and sister under the direction and leadership of the late Reverend Jack Marks. At St. John's Baptist Church, Christopher began to grow and use his God given talents. He enjoyed serving as the President of the Youth Choir, Usher's Ministries and as a Mighty Man of the Male Chorus. At the same church, under the leadership of Reverend Gregory Stanislaus. Christopher served as the Chairman and only Deacon on the Deacon Ministry for a three-year period. Under the tutelage of the current Pastor, Rev. Gregory Stanislaus, Christopher answered the call to Ministry and was licensed as a Minister in 2004 and ordained as a Reverend in 2006.

Pastor Christopher Neil Howard was installed as the Pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Port Washington, NY in May 2007. While under his leadership, the church grew exponentially and was transformed inside and out with numerous renovations and improvements. Christopher served faithfully as the Pastor of Mount Pleasant for over three years before he was called to Pastor the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Jamaica, NY in July 2010. Pastor Christopher Neil Howard preached his first sermon as Pastor Elect of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church and 28 people joined the church that day. On Saturday, October 30, 2010, an impressive Installation Celebration was held, and Reverend Howard was officially installed as the Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church. Aretha Knight-Howard, their son Christopher and their two daughters, Ania and Crysteale, became the first family. From the beginning, Pastor Howard set out to make Mount Zion "A Church Like No Other."

Pastor Christopher Neil Howard, while serving as the pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, made many structural renovations and repairs that included: the entire sidewalk surrounding the church was replaced, the basement, the pastor's office, the clerical office and hallway were renovated, the kitchen was remodeled and installed with new appliances, the vestibule was restored, the lighting throughout the church was upgraded, new computers were donated and photographs of the four previous pastors are now on display in the vestibule, a new bus and van was purchased, and the pulpit was upgraded with a new podium. Pastor Howard's most proud accomplishment while serving at Mount Zion, was the purchasing of land adjacent to the church. Pastor Howard's vision for the acquired land is to build a multipurpose center that will allow the church to further expand its ministries and service to the community. He was also proud of the Mortgage Burning Ceremony that took place to symbolize that Mount Zion was now debt free. "All Praises Belong to God".

Pastor Christopher Neil Howard was humbled by receiving his Honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree on May 20, 2017. This honor was bestowed upon him by Bishop Winifred J. Pippen, President of the All Christian Bible College, Deer Park, NY. Pastor Howard was elevated to Vice President at Large of the Progressive Baptist State Convention of NY, Inc. on September 29, 2017 and he was appointed to the Board of Offices as Treasurer of the New York City Police Department, #103 Precinct Community Council on July 2, 2018.

Christopher Neil Howard was a Hard-Working Man who loved Pastoring, but he also LOVED driving the bus for the New York City MTA. Christopher was currently working for the New York City MTA as a Bus Operator for over 21 years. He would have the funniest stories and jokes from all his experiences while driving his routes. His passengers knew him and loved him for his humor and great personality. Christopher retired after dedicating 18 years of service to the New York Catholic Charities as a Counselor for the St. John's Home for Boys, Rockaway, NY. in 2008. Christopher's Work Ethics were "Impeccable". He stood firmly on the familiar passage of scripture found in 2Thessalonians 3:10. "If a man don't work, he don't eat". We know Pastor Howard loved to eat.

Christopher Neil Howard's First Love was his family. He loved spending time and talking with his three children: Ania Crysteale and Christopher. He was so proud of all three of them and what they have accomplished in life thus far. Christopher respected and appreciated his mother for raising him and his only sibling Joy by herself. His mother raised them both to be independent and responsible human beings. If anyone really knew Chris, he had an unbreakable bond between him and his sister. They were best friends and each other's protector. Joy will greatly miss her brother who was also an instrumental part in helping her raise her children Tisha and Man,

Christopher Neil Howard was a funny, generous, and kind man who loved God, his family, close friends, and his cars. He had a larger than life personality which brought a smile and laughter to anyone he encountered. Reverend Dr. Christopher Neil Howard, Christopher, take your well-deserved rest. You fought a Courageous and Mighty Battle, But God needed you for his army. March on Soldier!

Preceded in death by his sister Patricia Howard. Pastor Christopher Neil Howard leaves to cherish his memories, his beautiful daughters: Ania Sharde Howard, Locust Grove, GA, Crysteale Aneasha Howard, Albany, GA, his Son: Christopher Duane Knight his loving mother Louise Howard, His sister Priscilla Joy Howard, his niece Letisha Coon, (Terrence Coon) Beacon, NY, nephew Christopher Howard, (Nia Howard), McDonough, GA., Great-Nephews, Aaron Pegues Jr. and Tyler Coon, Uncle Dennis Green, Elgin, SC, Ex-wife, Aretha Knight-Howard, Locust Grove, GA, Best Friend William Cooper, Aunt Lois Thomas, Kendall Thomas, Kyle Thomas, Stephanie Thomas-Pearcey, Katherine Grant & Family and Henry Uptigrow. Christopher also leaves to mourn a host of friends and colleagues.

Order of Service

Pastor Evan D. Gray, Officiating
Macedonia Baptist Church, Rockaway, NY

- The Processional **Clergy & Family**
- The Hymn of Celebration **Hold to God's Unchanging Hand**
- Old Testament Reading..... **Reverend Kevin Crawford**
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Farmingdale, Farmingdale, NY
- New Testament Reading **Minister Oliver Jordan**
Associate Minister, Macedonia Baptist Church, Rockaway, NY
- Prayer of Comfort **Reverend Marquerita Story**
Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Corona, NY
- Selection..... **Bishop Stephen Moore**
Associate Minister, St. John's Baptist Church, Westbury, NY

REFLECTIONS (2-3 minutes)

- Clergy..... **Bishop Phillip E. Elliott**
Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, Hempstead, NY
- Deacon **Deacon Kyle Thomas**
- Pastor..... **Bishop Tracey Henderson**
Pastor, Universal Temple Church of God, Brooklyn, NY
- Friend **Reverend Michael Lisbon**
Associate Minister, St. John's Baptist Church, Inwood, NY
- Acknowledgements/Resolutions **Nadira Taylor**
- Obituary **Reverend Michael Uptigrow**
Pastor, Solid Rock Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY
- Selection..... **Bishop Stephen Moore**
- Eulogy **Reverend James Furman**
Pastor, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Port Washington, NY
- Closing Hymn **I Will Trust In The Lord (Pastor Howard's Favorite Song)**
- Recessional **Clergy & Family**

Interment

Calverton Natonal Cemetery
Calverton NY



Please don't say that I gave up,
just say that I gave in.
Don't say I lost the battle,
for it was God's war to lose or win.
Please don't say how good I was,
but that I did my best.
Just say I tried to do what's right,
to give the most I could, not do less.
Please don't give me wings or halos,
that's for God to do.



I want no more than I deserve,
no extras, just my due.
Please don't give flowers,
or talk in harsh tones.



Don't be concerned about me now,
I'm well with God, I've made it home.
Don't talk about what could have been,
it's over and done.

Just see to my family's needs,
the battle has been won.



When you draw a picture of me
don't draw me as a saint.



I've done some good,
I've done some wrong, so use all the paint.
Not just the bright and light tones.
Use some gray and black.
Matter of fact don't put me down on canvas,
paint me in your heart.



Don't just remember all the good times,
but also remember the bad.

For life is full with many things.

Some happy and some sad.

But if you must do something,
then I have one request,

forgive me for the wrongs I've done

And with the love that's left,

Thank God for my soul's resting.

Thank God for all who loved me.

Praise God for who loved me best.



Special Acknowledgements

Special Acknowledgements to The Mount Zion Baptist Church Family. The Howard & The Knight Family would like to thank you for the outpouring of Love and Support you have exemplified during this most difficult time. Reverend Dr. Christopher Howard took honor and pride serving as your Pastor for almost 10 years. Our prayer is that his leadership and guidance will continue to impact your lives.

The Family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during the passing of their loved one.

Final Arrangements Entrusted To

J. FOSTER PHILIPS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

179-24 Linden Blvd. • Jamaica, NY 11434

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