



Mr. Henry Clay White

May 10, 1937 - January 17, 2017

In Remembrance Of Our Beloved Henry Clay White:

Henry (Perry) Clay White was born to Joanna White on May 10, 1937 in Roberta, Georgia. Fletcher White, Joanna White's husband, passed away before Henry's birth.

When Henry was approximately four years old he contracted polio. The disease left him with a physical disability which made it impossible for him to attend school in his rural community. His mother knew Henry needed to have an education to build a future for himself so she moved the family to Detroit, Michigan where Henry would be able to attend a special school.

Henry went on to graduate from Cass Technical High School where he gained training in drafting and mechanical drawing. While Henry was in high school he met a very special young lady, Bessie Mae Doty. Bessie would play a very important role in the rest of Henry's life.

After graduation from high school, Henry was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Detroit. However, Henry found himself distracted by a certain young lady, one Bessie Mae. Henry and Bessie were married on May 13, 1961. The birth of their first child, Tracy Lynn, followed soon after.

Henry worked for the city of Detroit as part of the Public Lighting Commission and during that time he and Bessie welcomed two more children, Perry Heldon and Dana Joyce, to their rapidly expanding family.

In 1965, Henry became one of the first three African-American draftsmen for Cadillac Motors. He would remain an employee of General Motors for the next 27 years.

In 1968, Henry, a lifelong atheist, accepted Christ into his heart. Excited about his new relationship with God, he shared his faith with his wife, Bessie. The two were baptized

together in February, 1969 and became members of the Worldwide Church of God. Bessie, who earlier vowed she would never marry a minister, faithfully stood by Henry's side as he was ordained as a deacon and later a preaching elder. Henry was a reluctant preacher; his true passion was serving the fatherless, widows, and any youth he could help. He preferred serving quietly behind the scenes.

Henry and Bessie continued to be fruitful and multiply, bringing Hope Leticia, David Scott, Jennifer Beth, and Joanna Lynn into the family fold.

After his retirement from General Motors, Henry worked for the Southfield School District for another 11 years, joyfully busing children, many with special needs, to and from school. He was beloved by the children on his route.

After full retirement, Henry enjoyed gardening with Bessie, reading, traveling South during the cold months, visiting those in need, studying the Word of God, and keeping his spades, bid whist and UNO skills sharp for the annual family reunion. He enjoyed sitting in the backyard watching the fruits of his labors with his beloved wife, Bessie. He especially loved times when he was surrounded by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

On Tuesday, January 17, 2017, Henry transitioned from this life after two years of declining health. His wife and son, Perry, were by his side.

Cemetery Details

Grand Lawn Cemetery

23501 Grand River
Detroit, MI 48219

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Henry Clay White*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *My condolences go out to you and your family. I know losing a loved one can be difficult, which is why it's so important to lean on the God of all comfort as mentioned at 2Corthians 1:3,4. I hope my words were of some encouragement.*

Mr. Shaver - January 25, 2017 at 07:35 AM

“ *Resolution from the Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
1548 Dr. F. D. Reese Street
Selma, AL 36703
Reverend James Perkins, Jr. Pastor
Reverend Dr. F. D. Reese, Pastor-Emeritus*

Letter of Condolences

To the Family of Mr. Henry Clay White,

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:28-31

We, the pastor, and members, express our deepest condolences to you upon the passing of your loved one, Mr. Henry Clay White, the uncle of our member, Dr. Jewell Hamner, a faithful worshipper of our congregation. We pray the love of God enfolds you and your family members during this difficult time. May the many memories of your loved one help to sustain you at this most difficult time.

May God bless and keep you is our prayer.

A copy of this letter will be given to the family and a copy placed in the church archives, on this day, Sunday January 22, 2017.

Prayerfully submitted,

James Perkins, Jr.

Reverend James Perkins, Jr. Pastor

F.D. Reese

Dr. F. D. Reese, Pastor Emeritus

Charles H. Johnson

Deacon Charles H. Johnson, Sr. Chairman Deacon Board

Carolyn Robinson

Minister Carolyn Robinson, Church Clerk

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church - January 22, 2017 at 10:35 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Henry Clay White.*



January 21, 2017 at 09:10 PM

LA

“ Linda P., Michael, Karen, David and all..... purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Henry Clay White.



Linda P., Michael, Karen, David and all..... - January 21, 2017 at 02:53 PM

LP

“ Will always be grateful and have happy memories of the family times and meals shared in Detroit and Southfield.
Linda Pearcy and Family

Linda Pearcy - January 21, 2017 at 01:58 PM

PF

“ Henry was a dear and gracious gentleman who had the light of God's love shining through his eyes each time we met. We remember Henry and Bessie most fondly from many, many years ago. Please know we send our prayers to all the family at this difficult time. Patty Sue and Shorty Fuessel

Patty Sue Fuessel - January 21, 2017 at 10:26 AM



“ Grande Gourmet Fruit Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Henry Clay White.



January 20, 2017 at 02:04 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Henry Clay White.



January 20, 2017 at 12:30 PM

EH

“ My condolences to your family. May you draw close to God in prayer and he will sustain you. Psalm 55:22

Evelyn Hunter - January 19, 2017 at 11:10 PM

JW

“ *Jacque Doty Woods lit a candle in memory of Mr. Henry Clay White*



Jacque Doty Woods - January 19, 2017 at 08:56 PM

DE

“ *Dana Enriquez-Vontoure purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Henry Clay White.*



Dana Enriquez-Vontoure - January 19, 2017 at 09:51 AM