



Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing

September 20, 1950 - July 9, 2022

Minister Jerry Jakearl Downing was born September 20th 1950 in Brundidge, Alabama to Dorothy Louise and JD Downing. In his parent's home, Jerry learned the values of faith, family, hard work and entrepreneurialism. He grew up in a Christian household with 12 other siblings: Willie D., JoAnn, Dorothy "Ann", Geraldine, Ernestine, Enorris, Debbie, Vanessa, Lorrie, Terry, Khris and Bryant. Jerry shared a special bond with his maternal grandfather, Clem Flowers, the high school's janitor, with whom he often accompanied to work as a child, eventually inheriting his grandfather's responsibilities. Jerry graduated from Hilcrest High School in Pike County in 1968. At Hilcrest High, Jerry participated in the school choir, debate team and played basketball. Jerry attended Hilcrest with his eventual wife, Katherine, who then teased him by calling him "that ole cat eyed Jerry!" He later reflected, "... I should have known then she liked me!"

Jerry moved from Alabama to Detroit in 1968 where he became a household serviceman. He later also earned an Associate degree in Applied Science from Schoolcraft College of Livonia, Michigan. Jerry and Katherine married in 1971 and together were successful entrepreneurs, running a beauty supply store, salon and serviceman center. In Jerry's home he continued his parents' values of faith, family, hard work and entrepreneurialism. Despite a doctor's diagnosis of infertility, God blessed them with four "blessings": Jerry LaCorey ("Corey"), Kristy Joi ("KJ"), Ryan Vincent ("Vince") and Timothy LaMont

("Timbuktu"), a daughter-in-law, Joy, and two grandchildren, Justus and Julia. Jerry and Katherine's bunch have gone on to become a deacon, four of four engineers, two JDs, an attorney, a PhD professor and an Air Force Captain. This is proof of Jerry's love for education—formal and informal. Jerry has one of the most insightful and analytical minds, often studying everything from physics, to sports and faith. He has even voluntarily advised the White House on aviation safety regarding weather storms that can cause pressure drops underneath airplanes. Jerry shares his insights with everyone, without waiting to be asked; Jerry is famous for his mentorship and giving solid, revolutionary and sometimes lifechanging advice to his kids, nieces and nephews, and their friends. They all repeat adages that "Uncle Jerry" or "Mr. Downing" has conveyed to them over time.

Jerry loved to learn about other cultures and travel with his family, visiting Niagara Falls, Boston, Mackinac Island, the Muir Woods National Park, France and Great Britain. In addition to being a life-long learner, Jerry is an avid sportsman, frequently loving to bowl (to which his brother-in-law Ivey Townsend can attest), play basketball and play softball. He achieved a high-scores honor for bowling a 290 of 300 game, all strikes and one spare. Jerry even carried the Olympic Torch through a stretch of Detroit, Michigan in 1996.

Jerry always found a way to serve the Lord in his community and his church. He cared for his family's elderly neighbor, Bea, years after the passing of her husband, John, even after Jerry's family left the neighborhood. Jerry has served in various churches over his lifetime, being a counter, greeter and becoming a minister at Triumph Church.

Jerry left his earthly body on July 9, 2022, leaving his wife Katherine, four children, two grandchildren and two godchildren (Patrick and Patrice Guess) along with his extraordinary and beloved extended family to forever cherish his memories.

Cemetery Details

United Memorial Gardens

4800 Curtis Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Previous Events

Family Hour

Saturday, Jul. **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Triumph Church- West Campus
16115 Beck Rd.
Northville, MI 48168

Celebration of Life

Saturday, Jul. **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Triumph Church- West Campus
16115 Beck Rd.
Northville, MI 48168

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Katherine, my sincere sympathies on the loss of your dear husband. I have fond memories of Jerry from the days at the Salon on Joy Rd. Jerry was always so pleasant and had kind words to say. May the God of Comfort be with the family. Sincerely, Diane Dawson*

Diane Dawson - July 23, 2022 at 04:43 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.*



July 22, 2022 at 01:17 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.*



July 22, 2022 at 10:34 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



July 21, 2022 at 04:37 PM



“ Mark, Lauren, Tricia, Laura and Lary purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



Mark, Lauren, Tricia, Laura and Lary - July 21, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



July 20, 2022 at 11:54 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



July 20, 2022 at 09:47 PM

FL

“ From the Owens Family with Love purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



From the Owens Family with Love - July 20, 2022 at 09:33 PM

SC

“ It was indeed a blessing to have graduated from Hillcrest High School with Jerry & Katherine. Our prayers and thoughts are with Katherine & family. Please know that others are praying for you during this difficult time and in the days to come!

Susie Baker Copeland - July 20, 2022 at 06:35 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



July 20, 2022 at 06:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



July 20, 2022 at 12:38 PM

-B

“ -Northville HS Boys Basketball purchased the Ful
I Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mr. Jerry
Jakearl Downing.



-Northville HS Boys Basketball - July 20, 2022 at 11:42 AM

HS

“ Sending prayers of comfort, strength, and understanding to my
classmate's family. It was a blessing to be apart of Jerry and
Katherine's lives while in school. Minister Downing, you will always
be remembered. Hilda Shipman Swain - Montgomery, Al.

Hilda Swain - July 19, 2022 at 09:19 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the
family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



July 19, 2022 at 08:47 PM

EC

“ Esther & Arash in Irvine, Calif purchased the Blue
Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mr. Jerry
Jakearl Downing.



Esther & Arash in Irvine, Calif - July 19, 2022 at 04:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



July 19, 2022 at 03:32 PM



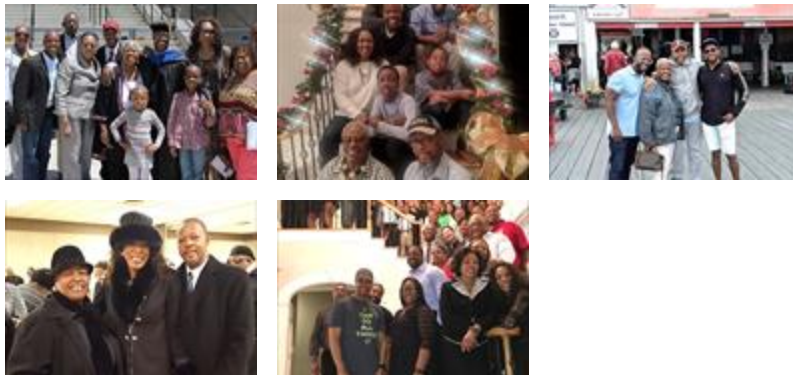
“ Metro LA Church Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. Jerry Jakearl Downing.



Metro LA Church Family - July 19, 2022 at 01:56 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



O.H. Pye III Funeral Home - July 19, 2022 at 12:39 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



O.H. Pye III Funeral Home - July 19, 2022 at 09:48 AM