



Elder Samuel McGhee, Jr.

October 25, 1937 - August 10, 2017

A Home Going Celebration For Elder Samuel McGhee, Jr.:

Samuel McGhee, Jr. entered this world October 25, 1937 as the first of two sons born to Samuel, Sr. and Williette (Bunton) McGhee in Chicago, Illinois. From an early age Samuel was known as a tenacious fighter! He often told the story of his first memory. He was only two years old when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He overheard the nurses discussing how he was not expected to make it through the night. After they exited the room, turned off the light, and closed the door, he stood up in the crib and used the walls to work the crib around the room until he could turn the light back on. This became the vantage point from which he would live his life, defying others' negative expectations of him.

His childhood and teen years were filled with the joy and “busyness” of youth. Having accepted Christ at an early age, church activities occupied much of his time. He attended Chicago Public Schools, Moody Bible Institute, and Woodrow Wilson (now Kennedy-King) Junior College, where he began serious pursuit of what he believed would be his career, that of a concert musician. His talent as a soloist was soon recognized and frequent concerts became part of his crowded schedule.

In 1956, Christ Temple Church of Christ (Holiness) USA (COCHUSA), Chicago, rejoiced as one of its faithful young men recognized and

acknowledged the Lord's call to ministry. He was licensed under Bishop M. R. Conic, and ordained under Bishop O.W. McInnis. In his early years of ministry, he served the Lord singing in the choir, as president of the Holiness Young Peoples Union (H.Y.P.U.), and as an author of H.Y.P.U. literature that was used in COCHUSA's Illinois, Indiana, Iowa district. He organized an annual banquet for Christian high school graduates, and was youth leader for Evangelism Incorporated.

Somewhere amid all his activities, he met and won the heart of Mary Hankerson. The two were married in 1958 and served the Lord together for 50 years. To this union, five children were born: Christina, Samuel III, David, Mary, and Catherine.

Perhaps as preparation for future service, God led Elder McGhee to co-organize Second Temple COCHUSA, in Chicago, before he was assigned to his first pastorate in Birmingham, Alabama, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, where he remained for one year. In 1962, he was assigned to Sutter Street COCHUSA, in Montgomery, Alabama, where he led the congregation for more than a decade. Under his leadership the church was incorporated under the name Christ Temple, land was purchased, and a new church building and parsonage were erected.

During his time in Montgomery, civic affairs were important to him. Consequently, he was compelled to participate in the Civil Rights Movement, including the historic March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Additionally, he served as the Chairman of the Montgomery Church Committee of the N.A.A.C.P., Vice President of the Montgomery Improvement Association (one of the founding organizations of the Southern Leadership Conference), and President of the Emancipation Proclamation Association.

From 1971-72, across five southern states, each Sunday, Elder McGhee's

distinctive voice reached out to thousands with a message of joy, hope, and the love of Christ through “The Hour of Praise,” a radio broadcast sponsored by the Extension Board of the COCHUSA.

In 1973, under the leadership of Bishop O.W. McInnis, he was installed as the pastor of Zion Chapel COCHUSA in Detroit, Michigan, where his love for youth ministry continued. During his brief time there, many of the church’s current leaders were encouraged to pursue service to Christ.

In 1975, with the blessing of Bishop O.W. McInnis, Elder McGhee and a small faithful band of believers founded New Hope Progressive on Scotten at the corner of Horatio. He experienced great joy as the Lord used him to win more souls for Christ, and the nation. Under his leadership, the church saved over \$50,000 and secured additional funding to purchase its current location at 4630 Oakman Blvd in October of 2007. He continued to pastor the church until a sudden health crisis, in June 2011, caused him to become incapacitated.

Gifted with an entrepreneurial spirit, Elder McGhee saw the need to record COCHUSA’s conventions at the local, district, diocese, and national levels. He could be found offering recordings of the meetings immediately following services. For over 30 years he recorded some of COCHUSA’s most powerful sermons preached by the likes of Bishops Conic, McPherson, and McInnis.

Always determined to do his best, Elder McGhee was always attending workshops and seminars to expand his base of knowledge. In 1978, he obtained a Certificate from Detroit Bible College and went on to complete his Associate of Arts Degree from Wayne County Community College in 1981. In addition to pastoring churches, Elder McGhee was employed with the United States Postal Services for over 24 years. Upon retiring from the Post

Office, in 1992, he was not content to sit around. He obtained his Certification as an Addictions Counselor in 1998 and served at the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries and Elmhurst House. He also taught various classes for Adult Well-Being Services. He continued his education at Central Michigan University, acquiring a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Community Development: Public Administration.

One of Elder McGhee's favorite hobbies was trying new restaurants with family and friends. From the River Crab to Sero's, he loved dining out and chatting (or debating) with loved ones or any conversationalist he happened upon. Ultra-competitive, he and his wife often battled each other and family members in Monopoly, Sorry, checkers, and other games for fun. To the dismay of his competitors and to his delight, he would often find words in the dictionary, during games of Scrabble they thought he made up. However, to his dismay he rarely won against his beloved wife, Mary.

A lover of physical activity, in his early years he ran track in high school and was also an excellent swimmer. As his children grew, he could be found roller skating, bowling, jumping rope, or racing with children during church youth activities or in his local neighborhood.

Previous Events

Family Hour

Saturday, Aug. **19**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Chapel Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A.
3000 24th Street
Detroit, MI 48216

Funeral Service

Saturday, Aug. **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Zion Chapel Church of Christ Holiness U.S.A.
3000 24th Street
Detroit, MI 48216

Tribute Wall



“ *Elder Samuel McGhee, Jr.*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Christina Dixon - August 22, 2017 at 07:10 AM



To the family members of Elder Samuel McGhee, Jr.:

Elder & Mrs. James T. Nicholson of First Church of Christ Holiness, U.S.A. - Freeman, Virginia offer our deepest sympathy to you. We were deeply sadden by the transition of Elder McGhee. During the 2017 National Convention he was truly missed. We met him at the Convention years ago in the late seventies. He is receiving his reward for the many deeds he has performed during his ministry. We will treasure the collection of tapes we purchased of his recordings. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Elder & Mrs James T. Nicholson - August 26, 2017 at 12:12 AM



“ *May God bless the family of Elder Samuel McGhee, Jr. I enjoyed the fellowship with him in the National Convention and in the Northern Diocese. He will be remembered by me. God made him and he serve
dl God. May the God of peace keep you in comfort in this time. My prayers are for your comfort. Howard L. Young*

Howard L Young - August 18, 2017 at 05:21 PM



“ *Praying for the family. He was a man that made himself known and you would not forget him. He always made his point.*

Varría L. Larry

Varría Larry - August 17, 2017 at 12:50 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elder Samuel McGhee, Jr..*



August 16, 2017 at 12:37 PM



“ *International Christian Education Association purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elder Samuel McGhee, Jr..*



International Christian Education Association - August 15, 2017 at 12:46 PM



“ *3 files added to the album Samuel McGhee, Jr.*



Christina Dixon - August 15, 2017 at 07:54 AM

ML

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort embrace you with peace and hope as we all look forward to the time when even death will be no more - Rev 21:4. You have my deepest sympathy.

Ms Laverne - August 15, 2017 at 05:04 AM

DC

To Christina Dixon and family , I was so sorry to hear about the passing of your Father Elder Samuel McGee , I pray that God comfort you and your family in this time of sorrow and surround each of you with His presence . Will keep your family lifted up in prayer.

Dawn Cudjoe - August 15, 2017 at 06:03 PM

SC

“ Love and prayers to the Family.St. Peter C.C.C.H. Wisner,La.Eld. Leandrew,Pastor

St.Peter C.O.C.H. - August 14, 2017 at 09:55 PM

JH

“ I had the pleasure of working with this kind man. And your family are in my prayers. God reminds us of a resurrection which I know you and I am looking forward to, but until then God will eventually wipe away your tears.
Josephine Holmes

Josephine Holmes - August 14, 2017 at 12:24 PM

CB

“ Praying for the family, trusting God to comfort you now and in the days ahead. I well remember Elder McGhee and his distinctive voice, we'll see him again....

Sister Cynthia Broxton

Cynthia Broxton - August 13, 2017 at 10:50 PM

OJ

“ Praying for the family.
Deacon Obadiah Jenkins

obadiah jenkins - August 13, 2017 at 08:43 AM

JG

“ *The First Church Of Christ in New York send condolences to the Maghee family in this hour of bereavement ,praying that you will find strength in God as you continue your journey in Christ Jesus, Pastor Johnnie Green*



johnnie Green - August 13, 2017 at 06:41 AM

YM

“ *To Missionary Christina Dixon and family, my prayers are with you at this time of loss. We pray that your heart will be comforted with joyous memories of Elder Samuel McGhee and knowing that he resting with the Lord.*

Yolanda Mondy - August 12, 2017 at 11:57 PM

ET

“ I met Elder McGhee while working for him on a Real Estate purchase. It was uplifting and encouraging to hear his vision for the ministry. I had great respect for him. I pray that God fills the void his departure will create. Love, Edna Talon

Edna Talon - August 12, 2017 at 06:22 PM