



Pastor James Baker

July 8, 1952 - December 27, 2020

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CHAPTER ONE: The Birth: I, James Baker, was born on a Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. to Essie Mae Martin “Mother” and Allie Baker “Father” in Monroe County, Arkansas. As I grew with my parents, they were not able to keep me in their loving care, so my brother “George” (who is now deceased, my brother Charlie and I moved in with my Godparents—Mr. and Mrs. Coleman and Sadeere Hollis. There I received the nourishment that will take me to my teen years.

Although, like any other child, I played, laughed, and oftentimes found myself being a little mischievous; but through it all, I really enjoyed my years as a child. As the years began to increase, so did my ability in finding my place in this world. I knew I had a purpose, but what? I knew my struggles would be the greatest challenge of my life, for one day, my name will be remembered by man.

MY TEEN YEARS

CHAPTER NINETEEN: Now from my birth up until I reached the age of nineteen, I had been alone in my life. Yes, I was around many, but yet I was alone. Until one Sunday I went down to the Gumwood Missionary Baptist Church in Ratio, Arkansas, where Reverend P. L. Perkins was baptizing in the pool down in Ratio, and I became the 41st person to be baptized. Now I see what my good friend Pickle meant when he would sing, “Since I met Jesus, I am a brand new ME”, and to tell you the truth, I am mighty glad I got acquainted with HIM, because from that day I was never alone. After I found Christ, my ability and knowledge from singing took off among the clouds and never came down. My music was not only for me, but for the glory of God, for I loved Him so because He first loved me. Man!!! The memories and the places God took me because of my voice was outstanding; and in that I found a purpose (Singing), and yet He still wanted me to go higher...not singing about His goodness but preaching about His goodness. In the year 1978 I began my journey, not only as a singer, but as a minister for God who found favor

in me when He blessed me to preach His word. Another purpose: TO PREACH THE GOSPEL.

A GROWN MAN

CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT: Now from my younger teens, even while just going day-to-day with certain ideas on how I wanted my life to become, I was still wrestling with the term of being lonely. Yes, I have married and had children and been a father-figure for many others during my years, but something still seemed off in my life. But at the time my life and my heart were still distant and lost, until the day I saw Shirley Diane Anderson. BOY! My spirits shouted and leaped for joy!!! For it was then that I knew my life was complete. So, on May 5, 2000, WE became as ONE until one day when God called me home. And from that day, my days have been sunny and the only rain I will have will be when I must leave my Bae Bae, my Honey, my wife. Purpose: TOO FINALLY KNOW HOW TO GIVE LOVE.

Now within my chapters, I have lost loved ones along the way: my mother, father, Godparents, my brother George, my son Artic Baker, my sister Geraldine Wallace Williams, who one day will be standing on the banks of Jordan to welcome me on the other side. So, on December 27, 2020 on that early Sunday morning, when usually I would be preparing for my Sunday morning Worship Service and to listen to God on what to say to His people, the death angels came down and told me that my story had ended on this side and picked up on the other side with a brand new life and brand new memories.

Now if that day should come, I pray that the chapters that I left behind will be comforted and sweet and loving memories to my loved ones who are left: my loving and devoted wife—Lady Shirley Diane Baker; in my chapters God blessed me with three sons—Kevin (Tysha) Anderson of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Jimmie James Baker of Atlanta, Georgia, and Eric (Kristian) Anderson of Minneapolis, Minnesota; five daughters—Yvonne Baker of Senatobia, Mississippi, Sadeere (Kevin) Edmond of Helena, Arkansas, Tonya Carthan of West Helena, Arkansas, Vandria “KeKe” Brown of West Helena, Arkansas, Jasmine Anderson of Little Rock, Arkansas; one brother—Charlie Peterson of West Helena, Arkansas; three sisters—Annie Lee Hargraves of Monticello, Arkansas, Mae Francis Wilson of Helena, Arkansas, Elnora Banks of Helena, Arkansas, Godmother—Mae Lee Gums of Lakeview, Arkansas; three brothers-in-law—Dennis (Fredrica) Anderson of Chicago, Illinois, Calvin (Karen) Anderson of Atlanta, Georgia, and Michael (Marilyn) Anderson of Barton, Arkansas; two special sisters-in-law—Pastor Caroline Williams and Bobby Pruitt; twenty-nine grandchildren; numerous great grandchildren; with one special little caregiver—Kennedi Neal; and on yeah, my alley buddy—Gretchen Wilson Taylor.

Most of all I leave my love to my preacher brothers and to the Phillips County Quartet Union and surrounding quartet groups who I have loved to sing with and love to hear. And don't you think for one minute that I will forever forget my loving and dedicated Pilgrim Guide for my FINAL STANDING OVATION goes off to you, and always know that your Pastor Baker loves you and will miss you all.

May Heaven's light always shine upon your faith; for I have found a FRIEND in you ALL.

Benediction: Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty dominion and power, both now and ever. AMEN.

MY LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS

Pastoral/Leadership: Mount Lula Missionary Baptist Church, later merged with Pilgrim Guide Missionary Baptist Church | Modoc, Arkansas—40 years

Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church | Southland, Arkansas—14 Years

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church | Marianna, Arkansas—14 Years

MY SINGING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ratio Male Chorus | Johnson Caravans | Faithful Harmonizers | The Southern Tonnetts | The Spiritual Harmonizers | The Angel Voices | The Gospel Six of Tunica, Mississippi | Eternal Light Gospel Singers of Marianna

MY ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS

Organized the Supreme Angels, The Baker Family, The Gospellettes, The Jordan Wonders

Helped Organize Young and Ready (known now as Pastor Randy Williams and the Fellas)

Took up under his wings Beverly Trice-Bell and the New Life, and they have spread their gift throughout the United States.

So long to my longtime friends: Sister Joyce Truitt, Elder Charles Jones, Mother Pinkie Lewis.

Keep a close watch over my Ann for me, okay?

Cemetery Details

Pillow Cemetery

Old Little Rock Road
West Helena,, AR 72390

Previous Events

Visitation with a requirement of a face covering

JAN 9. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

P.L.M.&D. District Center
154 Highway 20
West Helena , AR 72342

Celebration Musical with a requirement of a face covering

JAN 9. 7:00 PM (CT)

P.L.M.&D. District Center
154 Highway 20
West Helena , AR 72342

Service with a requirement of a face covering

JAN 10. 2:00 PM (CT)

P.L.M.&D. District Center
154 Highway 20
West Helena , AR 72342

Tribute Wall

DM

“ I met James when he and I worked for James Cagle at the Exxon station across from Piggly Wiggly on Sebastian in West Helena. We became fast friends and it was he who introduced me to eating Grinnell fish. His wife cooked up a big platter for James and I for lunch one day. Best fish and cathead biscuits I ever ate. His wife could really cook. At work we called him preacher. He was a good man and a good friend. I only just learned of his passing. I'm saddened to learn of it. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Dallis Miller - July 20, 2022 at 03:28 PM

Ray Ellington

“ My Brother, Friend, Father in the Ministry, I have been missing you since you've been gone. Baker, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to play and sing with The Jordan Wonders when I was learning to play the keys. Thank you for coming to South Texas to Ordain me as Pastor even though you were not well. I honor and love you as my Real Father. To be honest, growing up I spent just as much time with you and the JWs as my dad. I told Sis. Baker that I will check on her and I promised her I would, but I will. She really miss you I'm sure. This world lost a good man in you! I pray and believe God is pleased with you. I love you and I will always remember the times we had! As you go "Sweeping Through The City!" -Don

Ray Ellington - April 15, 2021 at 04:13 AM

LO

“ I'm so not ready to see you be put to rest but, God needed you more. I love big uncle. You Loved by so many . I know you and Daddy and Heaven laughing, singing ,and watching over yall family. I love you I'm gone miss you.

Loreita - January 09, 2021 at 11:11 AM

GF

“ I have been knowing Rev. Baker and family a long time from Ratio, Arkansas, this man could sing and preach, his wife shirlyn Baker we have worked together and she took care of my dad, stood right by Rev. Baker side, he will be truly missed. From the Grant-Sanders Family.



Grant-Sanders Family - January 03, 2021 at 02:33 PM

JE

Sorry

Jeffrey - January 15, 2021 at 12:05 AM

CD

“ I Remember him teaching all the younger men and giving all the Younger or new quartets a chance I had a chance to experience his teachings under the plum tree as a child i would watch the fantastic Jordan Wonders practice in Dr.Minor back yard for hours on Saturday as grew up i was in an quartet Elaine Gospel Aires With His Lovely Wife First Lady Ann Baker who kept us in line when we practiced at her house in the country And we traveled with Rev Baker and We Called him the black Elvis Because He would Shake And Do That Fancy Foot Work So we Called Him Shake and Bake. We will Mrs You Greatly . I enjoyed The Moments and years we traveled together Blessings To the Family And Know That we are Praying for you.



Coach Patricia Dobbins - January 03, 2021 at 10:47 AM

AW

“ Lord I can remember Rev Baker preaching at Paradise No. 2 and singing on programs as a child ...RIL Rev Baker

Annette Wynne - January 03, 2021 at 09:08 AM

GR

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Pastor Baker. I Pastor Gaither Robinson, and the Pilgrim Rest Church Family, Minneapolis MN will be praying for your family.



Gaither Robinson - January 03, 2021 at 12:48 AM

NR

“ Neoma Roberts and Blessed Sends Our Deepest Sympathy. Pastor Baker Always Loved Us To Sing Stepping Stones and My Storm is Over. He Never Missed An Anniversary of Ours and We Always Was There For His Celebration. I Thank God for The Many Years That We Shared With Him and He Will Be Truly Missed. Love Ya Pastor Baker❤️❤️ A True Legend of Quartet!!

Neoma Roberts - January 02, 2021 at 09:26 PM

SJ

Pastor and sister Shirley Baker have become family to the Jones family. Over the years they would invite Shawn Jones and the Believers to West Helena for Reverend Baker's birthday celebration. I can not express just how much I appreciate the love that the Baker's showed to ours boys. I will always love you Reverend for your humble and loving spirit. Sarah Jones

Sarah Jones - January 02, 2021 at 11:03 PM

LT

“ So Much to say I really don't know where to begin. First Of All I Truly That God for this Man Of God. My Uncle (Rev) This man Pastor James Baker gave our Group. (Beverly Trice-Bell) our first start, To meet Mr. Ned Johnson & The Jonestown Crusaders that was about 20 plus years. Take your rest !!! Love You !!!

Louis Trice - January 02, 2021 at 08:37 PM

CS

“ My handsome brother in law u will be truly missed

Caroline Speaks - January 02, 2021 at 07:52 PM