



James E McKnight

March 14, 1930 - May 29, 2021

Bishop James E. McKnight was a life-long resident of Gainesville, FL. He was married to Mother Jessie Camps McKnight over 67-years. They have four children, Janice, James, Jr., John, and Jonathan. He has eight grands and seven great-grandchildren. He was born into the Church of God by Faith (COGBF) and became a full-pledged member in June 1953. Bishop McKnight graduated from Lincoln High School and attended Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, FL. He was called to serve the U.S. Army during the Korean War and received special training as a sergeant in the Intelligence Division. He then attended leadership training at a seminary in Meridian, MS and became an ordained minister of the COGBF in 1957. He taught minister's training classes at Matthew Scippio Academy and later received an Honorary Doctoral Degree.

Bishop McKnight was first appointed as a deacon in 1957 for one month under the leadership of his father, Ruling Elder H. A. McKnight, Sr. He was appointed Senior Pastor of Gainesville but also pastored in Hopewell, Hawthorne, Raleigh, and Gainesville #2. He has faithfully served as Senior Pastor of Gainesville COGBF for over 54-years. In December 1960, he was appointed Executive Secretary of the COGBF and held that position until 1984. He was then appointed Assistant Bishop in August 1970 and held both the position of Executive Secretary and Assistant Bishop until 1984. He was appointed Presiding Bishop in 1984 and served until December 2014. Bishop

McKnight was also very involved in his community and has served as a Board Member of the Eastside Clinic and Development Project and the Black-on-Black Crime Task Force for many years. He was also instrumental in providing shelter to the residents of a major apartment community that was displaced by fire. He has received several awards as a distinguished leader in the Gainesville Community and is highly respected locally and in the National Church.

Bishop McKnight was preceded in death by his mother, father, and siblings: Vernetta Bostic, Edith Bryant, Sarah Camps, Dec. Aaron McKnight, Dec. Horace A. McKnight, II., Alfred McKnight, Betty Hutchinson, and Eld. Charles A. McKnight. He was also preceded in death by his in-loves, Eld. Joseph Camps, Bishop Walter Camps, Dec. Leon Daymon, Mother Delia McKnight, Mother Georgia McKnight, Dec. Rollie Hutchinson, Dec. Horace Sanford, Bro. Willie Sanders and son-in-love, Dec. C.W. Phillips. He leaves to mourn his devoted wife, Lady Jessie and their four children: Janice Phillips, Presiding Bishop James McKnight, Jr. (Lady Delois), Dec. John McKnight (Phyllis), and Pastor Jonathan McKnight; His grands: Candace Jordan (Nick), John McKnight, Jr. (Katrina), James McKnight, III (Kendra), Jessica Lucas (Alonzo), Devin McKnight (Lashay), Carla McKnight, Chase Phillips, and Jonathan (Jay) McKnight, Jr.; His remaining siblings, Mother Gloria Daymon, Supt. Willie McKnight, Sr. (Dora), siblings-in-love Barbara McKnight, Janie Sanford, Pearlie Sanders and, Jaycee Camps. He also leaves seven adorable great grands: Joel "JP" and Lilia McKnight, Madison and Alonzo "AJ" Lucas, Laila and Devin "DJ" McKnight and Riley Jordan. He also leaves scores of nieces, nephews, cousins, and the extended Church of God by Faith Family in the Lord.

In lieu of flowers the family request donations be mailed to the Bishop James E. McKnight Scholarship Fund, Church of God by Faith, 2409 Old Middleburg Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32210.

Tribute Wall

HA

“ My sincerest condolences, love, & prayers to Mother Jessie, the McKnight/Camps families, & the entire COGBF family. Bishop McKnight & the COGBF family has impacted my life greatly. Both of my parents (Elder Hugh Anderson II, MDiv. & Miss'y Fernsene L. Monuel-Anderson) loved and respected Bishop McKnight a great deal. My grandparents (Deacon Kelly & Mother Margaret Monuel) & great aunt (Mother Naomi E. Middleton) worked diligently at "Numbah 1" under Bishop McKnight's leadership & in COGBF as a whole (even dating back to the early Matthew Scippio days when my great aunt Naomi happily traveled and dedicated herself to God & her beloved COGBF family). I've always felt right at home in By Faith as much as I do in COGIC partly due to Bishop McKnight's welcoming nature. Some of my happiest childhood memories are of my siblings, cousins (Aunt Faye's kids), and I attending VBS EVERY summer at "Numbah 1" COGBF. Bishop always addressed us kids and encouraged us all to start serving the Lord in our youth so we can spend our WHOLE lives living for the Lord instead of waiting. That has stuck with me all these years. I also remember sometimes attending mid-week prayer and Bible lessons @his church & hearing Bishop's passionate prayers along with Deacon Dix. Sometimes, my family would ride with my dad when he had to visit various individuals @AGH (hospital) to pray and administer communion with. During those visits, we would park in the clergy parking section and would see Bishop McKnight heading toward his car after having visited the sick and shut-in himself. Dressed in his signature white clergy collar [and often] his black hat, he was ALWAYS so cordial toward my dad each time, and would laugh and speak with my mom (and us kids) briefly as well. I'm so grateful to my parents, grandparents, & great aunt for seeing to it that we kids got to grow up in and around COGBF & around this beautiful, loving, welcoming, gentle, kind, dignified, and upright man! He would always pat me on my head or hug me while calling me "Lil Fern." That would always make me smile even as a little girl. 😊😊 I'm still dealing with the unexpected loss of my father, and now my favorite Bishop. He was a great man



*and will forever be cherished in my heart. RIH, Bishop McKnight. ❤️
Compassionately & Sincerely, Hulaunda K Anderson*

Hulaunda Anderson - June 14, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *Our sincere love , peace and condolences to The McKnight Family,*

Dame Nicola and Momentum Society - June 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *To :Mother.Jessie & McKnight Family to God be the Glory a Soldier gone home Well done thy Good and Faithful servant he will be miss but never forgotten cause of the Legacy Will live on God bless Rest In Peace (Sis.Rose&Tynisha McNabb Family*

Rose McNabb - June 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ *My prayers of love and peace that surpasses all understanding to The McKnight Family From Dame Nicola Smith Jackson and Momentum Society*



Nicola Smith-Jackson - June 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *My prayers and condolences to the McKnight Family. Bishop James along with Mother Jessie McKnight have always been the most loving, caring and prayerful people I know. It was an honor to know him.*

Rhonda Wilson - June 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ *Mother Jessie McKnight and Family. My prayers are with you at this time. Peace, comfort and Gods continued blessings. I Love you all.*

Rhonda Wilson - June 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ *My sincere condolences to the McKnight family and friends. Your love one touched so many lives in so many ways. You are in my prayers* ❤️🙏

Sarah Graham - June 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ *MARILYN TUCKER lit a candle in memory of James E McKnight*



MARILYN TUCKER - June 03, 2021 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ *With Deepest Sympathy to Family. May God continue to lift you up at this time.*

Naomi Milligab - June 03, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ *May the God of heaven shine down his almighty power of strength upon mother McKnight, my dear friend Pastor Jonathan, my Heart and prayers are with you in these most sorrowful times. Annette Larkin*

Annette Larkin - June 03, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Dear Ms. M, Jan, James, John, Jonathan and the entire McKnight family, this expresses my sincere sympathy as you mourn the loss of Bishop. Bishop served as an exemplary example of a man of God who not only knew the Word but consistently lived the Word. He possessed a quiet presence but delivered bold and powerful messages promoting a Godly life. I have many memories of him in the pulpit; as well as memories in social settings. Although he generally presented this serious and "no nonsense" demeanor, he also had a less serious side; making jokes and laughing. It was wonderful to see. He will be missed not only by his wife, children and entire family but the community-at-large. It is my prayer that your grieving will be short and your loving memories endless. I also hope that you will continue to comfort each other and you seek strength from God's word. Much love, DJ



DJ O'Neal Ferguson - June 03, 2021 at 12:00 AM

FH

“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of my beloved childhood pastor, Bishop James E. McKnight, Sr. (Bishop). I cannot say enough about how he influenced my moral and spiritual development. He also instilled in me the confidence to stand before any audience (large or small) to speak, pray, or take the lead in worship. He was not only a dynamic spiritual leader, but an occasional babysitter (along with his devoted wife Jessie) to the Hutchinson brothers, barber, mentor, and family friend. Also, he was my fiercest competitor for the corner pieces of my late mother Josephine's bread pudding, which he truly loved.

As a kind-hearted & gentle pastor, Bishop took great care of the parishioners entrusted to him. He cheered me on when I did well, visited me when I was sick, and even traveled to South Carolina when my wife Adriane and I married. I have such fond memories of Bishop as my Pastor, from traveling with him to sing in the choir for his speaking engagements to Sunday dinners with his family that my mother prepared at our home or the church.

Bishop McKnight was a leader among leaders. He was firm, but always fair, and insisted that all we do for the Lord be done with excellence, decency, and order. He will always be remembered as a devoted pastor, family man, and upstanding member of the community. My family and I will always have a special place for him in our hearts and we will never forget the lessons he taught us.

Take your rest, Bishop. Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done.

Frederic, Adriane, & Jade Hutchinson Hawthorn Woods, Illinois

Fred Hutchinson - June 02, 2021 at 12:00 AM

OC

“ Temple Church of God by Faith, Inc. , pastor, Officers, and members extend our condolences to Mother McKnight and the entire McKnight families.

Ocala District Cogbf - June 02, 2021 at 12:00 AM

OC

“ On behalf of the entire Ocala District Cogbf and District Superintendent, Dr. James T. Ware, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the McKnight family.

Ocala District Cogbf - June 02, 2021 at 12:00 AM