



Bishop Jabez R. Lewis

April 29, 1925 - December 9, 2017

On Wednesday, April 29, 1925 in the Town of Good Intent, Manchester Jamaica, Jabez Rudolph Lewis was born to Norman and Vidoria Lewis. The first of 10 children born to the blessed couple, young Jazeb was the first to follow in his mother's footsteps, who was a pioneer of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the disciplinarian of the parents and "very strict," as Bishop Lewis described. Growing up and receiving his early education in Richmond, Manchester, Jamaica, he learned to play the piano and trumpet.

He got saved at the tender age of 8 years old under the ministry of mother Watson and continued under the teachings of his pastor Bishop Green of Manchester, Jamaica. As he continued to grow steadfast in the Word of God, Jabez Lewis began preaching at age 15. "I played the trumpet at street meetings winning souls for the kingdom of God," he told us. By the age of 18 he was appointed pastor. He often told the story of a vision where he saw a ladder coming down from heaven, and he was very afraid. Bishop would say: "I saw a hand coming down with a Bible and a song book and the voice from heaven said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel". He said his school friends would laugh at him, giving him but a few weeks to change. Interestingly, later many of them accepted the Lord as well.

He continued preaching and playing his trumpet, pastoring in many parishes in Jamaica including, Mayfield, Manchester, Stewart Town, Trelawny, and St.

Ann.

He went to Savanna-la-Mar for a meeting when he was about 18 or 19 years old where he met Bishop Zachariah Nepaul of the Holiness Born Again Church, Jamaica. They became great friends and together often went fishing at sea. They remained great friends and together they became fishers of men.

Migrating to the United States at the encouragement of his then Bishop, Bishop Carr, he became the manager of a bakery, and later owned his own grocery store. The zealous young man continued his preaching ministry, pastoring in Bloomfield, WV, Washington DC, Philadelphia PA, and Baltimore, Maryland, Brooklyn New York, and Poughkeepsie New York. He was the Overseer and Presiding Bishop of 14 Churches in the United States and Canada; while also being the Presiding Bishop of 27 Churches of the Holiness Born Again Churches in Jamaica. Forty-One congregation bask in the leadership of this great man who cared deeply and passionately for his collective flock.

On September 19, 1987 Bishop J. R. Lewis married Evangelist Milda P. Monteith, who became Evangelist Milda Lewis--the first lady of Bethel United Churches. He often said: "I thank God for the wife God gave me; and if you want to hurt me, hurt my wife." He often remarked that Evangelist Lewis was a source of strength for him on days when he felt low in spirit or discouraged. He would also shared that his wife never presented him with any obstacles surrounding his ministry.

The two shared goals and dreams but most importantly, they shared in the salvation of Jesus Christ and in the love for God and the people of God. The two travelled far and wide together declaring the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Bishop Lewis was a loving and attentive husband. When giving sound marital advice to other husbands, he often drew from his own marriage; reminding the brothers of the importance of giving their wives little tokens of affection, pointing out that whoever comes home first can start dinner, and stressing the fact that wives are gifts from God. Bishop Lewis doted on his wife and their love for each other was evident to all who knew them.

Bishop Lewis attended Northgale Bible College where he received his Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral degrees in Religious Education and Biblical Research in 1976 through 1981. A man of God who truly believed and often taught the words of Paul, "Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth," Dr. Lewis continued his studies, later earning his second Doctorate Degree, in Theology, from Parkersburg Bible College in June 1999. The Spiritual Father to a vast multitude received the Holiness Born Again Church Diamond Anniversary Award for his faithful, devoted and outstanding service from the 6 decades spanning 1940-2000.

He produced and conducted a gospel radio broadcast ministry, in Baltimore City for over 10 years, preaching and teaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. He, with the Bethel United Church, also operated a youth outreach center in Baltimore City where young people were eager to come and be fed by the word of God as well as the natural food.

In 2005 Bishop Jabez Lewis received a Proclamation from the State of Maryland for his outstanding outreach efforts in Baltimore City. Our Bishop also received many citations from the President of the Baltimore City Council for his community involvement and his contributions to outreach ministries in Baltimore City.

We honor him today for his dedicated service to the Lord and his great contribution to the Apostolic Faith. He had no biological children of his own, but was a father to many. His love for children was extra ordinary--Bishop would sit and have long conversations with the smallest of children. He was a great father; he counseled us, he taught us, fed us, he was extremely kind to us. This giant of a man was a phenomenal Pastor, an outstanding husband, a gifted administrator, a wonderful friend, and a powerful, fiery preacher.

His preaching went far and wide around the world, touching lives in every city or country where the boom of his voice was heard. He was a winner of countless souls. At the sound of his voice, under his anointed preaching over 70 pastors in India received the gospel and were baptized in the name of Jesus--and in turn baptized their congregations. Thousands came to Christ at the sound of his voice. He as an excited, exciting and captivating teacher of the word, who commanded your undivided attention. Bishop's messages all had the underlying theme that we should "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints".

A true shepherd, he guided us, his anointing covers us, he comforted the broken hearts, he covered the wounded, he protected us, he defended us. He was never far from the people, but he was reachable. No one ever needed an appointment to meet with him, he was available and always ready to answer to every call. He made everyone feel close to him. He was tender, full of compassion and was full of bowels of mercy.

A peace maker by nature, Bishop would drive for hours or fly out of town or the country to resolve a conflict and bring peace. He was a dancer, even when he began using a cane, he would dance in the Spirit without the assistance of the cane.

A friend, he laughed with us, he hurt when we were hurt. He dined with us, he

shared with us. Dr. Jabez Lewis was a stately man, his very presence commanded respect and honor. When he walked into a room, the atmosphere seemed to change to royalty. He was the best dressed in every room and at any occasion. Bishop Lewis was an extremely generous man who answered to every need, from the smallest to the greatest. He was a spirit led pastor who knew the needs of the people without them asking, and was obedient to the unction of the Holy Ghost for the needs of the congregation, both natural and spiritual.

We thank God for the opportunity of knowing such an anointed Servant Leader who pastored us and befriended us. Our friend, our Pastor, Our confidant. He was the best listener, the best leader, a Pastor of Pastors, He laid hands on many and anointed them to be Pastors and Bishops and Evangelist and Ministers of this great Gospel.

At 10:26 a.m., on the snowy morning of Saturday, December 9, 2017, the Lord saw it fit to usher Bishop Jabez Rudolph Lewis into eternal rest. He graced this earthly home for 33,843 days--92 years, 7 months, and 26 days.

He is predeceased by his two brothers Winston and Ronald Lewis; and five sisters. Left to celebrate his life's legacy is his adored wife, Milda P. Lewis; stepson Oliver Harvey, his two sisters, Cynthia Lewis and Marcia Jackson, nieces and nephews; and a host of other relatives and friends. The host of saints of the Bethel United Churches and the Holiness Born Again Churches will endeavor to preserve the legacy of Dr. Bishop Jabez Rudolph Lewis.

His legacy will live on in all of us forever. Rest Bishop....Rest.

Cemetery Details

Druid Ridge

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JAN 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bethel United Apostolic Church
2301 Mayfield Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21213

Wake

JAN 6. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Greater Bethlehem Temple
8334 Liberty Rd.
balto., MD 21244

Service

JAN 6. 10:00 AM (ET)

Greater Bethlehem Temple
8334 Liberty Rd.
balto., MD 21244

Tribute Wall



“ *Bishop Jabez R. Lewis*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Rocky lit a candle in memory of Bishop Jabez R. Lewis*



Rocky - March 09, 2018 at 05:15 PM



“ *Evangelist Joann Hill lit a candle in memory of Bishop Jabez R. Lewis*



Evangelist Joann Hill - January 02, 2018 at 07:35 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - December 11, 2017 at 10:43 AM

P&

My Deepest Condolences to the Lewis' family and Saints in Christ at the passing of our previous Bishop Jabez R. Lewis. May he rest with the Lord peacefully.

Pastor Andria and Joseph Da Graca & Famil - December 29, 2017 at 12:44 PM

EH

*You have our deepest sympathy, God has carried another good soldier home. Rest in peace Bishop Lewis. Mt. Airy Pentecostal Church will miss you but look forward to seeing you again
You have fought a good fight and it's time to take your rest. Evang. Lewis & the Bethel United Churches God will take care of you and carry you thru.*

God Bless You All, love Evang. Joann Hill, Mt. Airy Pentecostal Church, Inc. Pastor Mable P Hall.

Evangelist Joann Hill - January 02, 2018 at 07:32 PM

PH

We will miss Bishop very much, he was a great role model and inspiration. Our condolences to Evang. Lewis and the Bethel family with deepest and heart felt sympathy. Love Pastor M.P. Hall and the MT. Airy Family

Pastor Mable Price Hall - January 05, 2018 at 02:38 PM