



Celebration For The Life of
Dontae Deryck Anthony Edwards-Thorney

December 10, 1994 - October 7, 2014

Viewing - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
Saturday, October 18, 2014 - 12:00 Noon

TRUE HOLY CHURCH CITY OF REFUGE

1866 Eastern Parkway • Brooklyn, NY 11233

Pastor Vivian S. Grubb, Officiating

Expedito: Evangelist Deborah Morgan Campbell, Godmother

Tribute

Dontae Deryck Anthony Edwards-Thorney was as precious as he was unique. He did not want an obituary and thought what was known of him by each person is enough for that person to know. Dontae transitioned this life on October 7th, leaving none to mourn, but a host of family and friends whose life will forever be impacted because he existed.

Dontae was a living testimony, and his life a testament to the grace and mercies of God. Dontae had many challenges and a life labeled with limitations, doubts and “will nevers”. However, his zest for life made him an over comer, and enabled him to transcend way beyond everyone's expectations. In spite of the worlds limits for his condition, he set no limits for himself. Most often, as I would have an outburst due to concerns about a task he had decided to undertake, he would simply respond “But God” with his left middle finger pointing towards the sky. Sometimes I would become so frustrated at him, to take chances I considered careless and I would yell at him “why would you want to do that, while you had just been through this, or that.” But always he would interrupt before I could go further and he would respond “that’s it though Bobz, that’s it. I’ve been through it...through itsee that” at other times he would say, “Bobz you heard that,” And we would sit there listening to the silence, even though I knew that was his way of shutting me up. Then he would chuckle and say “I went through it, didn’t get stuck in it,” and with that he would be off to his next challenge.

At birth we were told, the 1st 24 hrs would determine his outcome. But amid the doubts he fought. At 13 days he relapsed. They determined his likelihood of living through his 1st year was grim, but he did. Thanks to a curvature in his spine, he may never walk, well so they said. At 1 year they said three and at three years he was on borrowed time. But through it all he fought, had some setbacks, some delays, some struggles, but he fought. He spent more time being hospitalized, than he spent home. But he never failed to prove them wrong, no mental disability, no dependency on a respirator and he was walking in tall strides.

At 8, he struggled like never before, everything that could possibly go wrong, went wrong. They tried to convince me to sign a DNR, I was accused of causing him unnecessary suffering. Short time later he was running all over the hospital as it became his personal duty to visit with all the children. He had so much empathy for the children who were visibly in pain and those who did not have frequent visitors. Months later all these struggles seemed a distance. He was like a new person, energetic and determined. For the first

time, he had the opportunity to be a child. His allergy list was greatly reduced. He could tolerate some exertion, he was learning how to take care of himself, what his triggers were and what to be mindful of. He had a yearning for life and he was ready to explore. He learned to ride a bike, skates, participated in dance class and martial arts. The more he accomplished, the more he wanted. The next three years were unbelievably perfect. Minor episodes, but all was under control.

Then two days before his 12th birthday, he had a relapse, just like he did on October 7th, he came to my room and said, mommy I can't breathe. My greatest fear was realized, I got to him just in time for him to collapse into my arms. Nothing medically worked, and just like that my baby was gone.... Or so they thought "but God". Hours later he sat up and asked for his God-sister and just like that he was on his way to recovery. But as the list of 'will nevers' grew longer, Dontae's progress defied all medical explanation.

Over the next 6 years he became more vibrant, more resilient, nothing came easy for him, but he was encouraged by the challenge. Traditional learning technique was difficult, but he never gave up, determined to achieve a regents diploma, he repeated the 12th grade and was scheduled to graduate in January 2015, he did it. A self taught musician, Dontae played the drums, the organ, saxophone, the flute, the Cello and was learning the violin at the time of his transition.

Dontae did not accept limitations, he did not want to be told there are things he can't do. When I would become nervous at some of his choices, he would say, "we taking the limits off Bobz, we taking the limits off" very few persons knew the depths of his struggles, he preferred it that way. He did not want to be treated differently.

For the past 4 years he has participated in every cancer and autism walk hosted in NYC. He played basketball, sang on the choir, participated in praise dances, was a member of the step team and an avid photographer and poet. He had a photographic memory, I didn't need my GPS when he was around, he had the unique ability to pull any item apart and put it back together without error or reading the instructions.

Dontae has achieved every goal he has set for himself.....every one, except two, he wanted so badly to play football.... his brother Devon will see him through on that one..... and singing Sam Cooke's "Change is gonna come" hitting every key and note in the right place..... Mrs. Regina Taylor-Tuck will present a rendition on his behalf.

Sleep, sweetly sleep, my son.

Order of Service

Organ Prelude

Processional Ministers and Family Members

Pastoral Remark.....Pastor Vivian S. Grubb

Praise & Worship.....EMO & TH Worship Team

Old Testament Reading Psalm 121
Elder Jamar Lawrance

New Testament Reading.....Matthew 7:7-8
Laverne DeSouza-Edwards (aunt)

Opening Prayer Pastor Leon A. Miller (godfather)

Selection..... Minister Darnell Watts
Choir Academy of Harlem

Tribute

Solo Regina Taylor-Tuck

Presentation John V. Linsay Academy

Selection..... Easter Memorial COGIC Choir

Presentation Meka Steppers

Solo Micheal Perry
New Covenant Christian School Alumni

Selection.....EMO Praise Dancers

Musical Prelude.....The Musician

Prayer of ComfortElder Anderson Goddard (godfather)

Presentation The Siblings

AcknowledgmentSharon Edwards (aunt)

SelectionWinsong Minott & Kadejah Jackson

SelectionTrue Holy Church Choir

Eulogy Pastor Vivian S. Grubb

Benediction

Private Disposition

Woodlawn Cemetery&Crematory
Bronx, New York

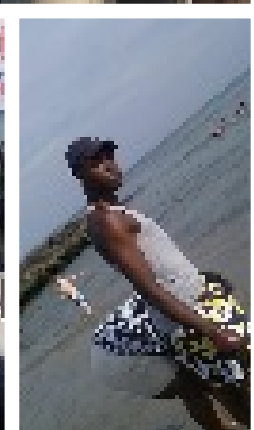
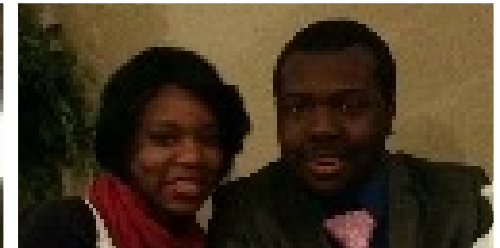
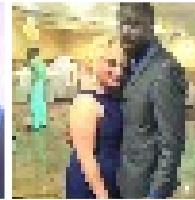
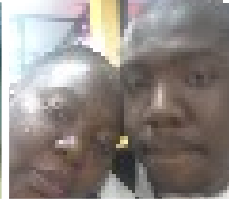
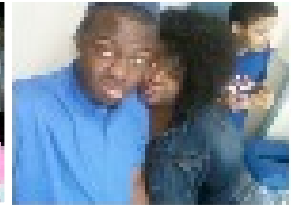
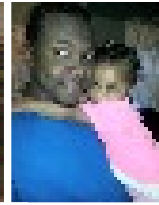
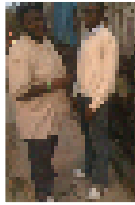
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Compiled By Fred Laforey

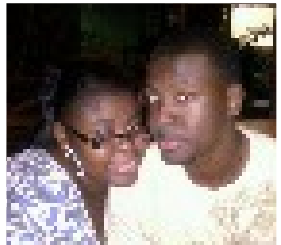
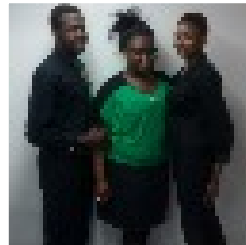
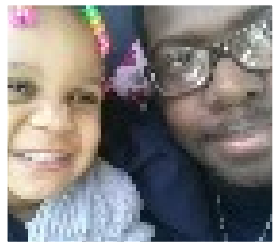
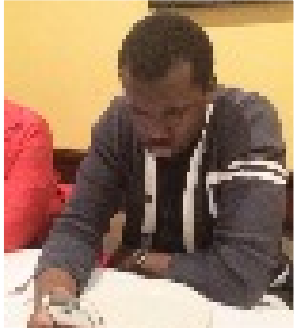
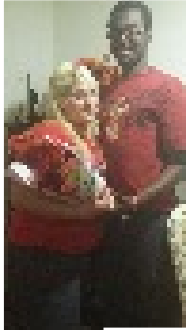
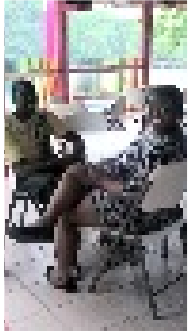
I give a lot of thought to the matter of life. I mean to make mine as good and easy as possible. To stay as close to God and His wisdom as possible. Some people say it takes courage to face the matter of death. Then... we are all courageous. Facing death, inevitable, to the end of our lives. Every day. I believe it takes more courage to face life. To survive the everyday matters of the mind, body and heart. Every minute is of great moment in the matter of life. There may be no small matters. A penny piece of candy can choke you to death, like a penny piece of lover can kill your soul. A person alive at two o'clock may be dead at two ten. accidentally, from a wrong decision. A simple thing like boredom (which is really not simple) can create havoc in a life; it has the power to destroy. All in life there is to decide upon is important to our living, in that it determines the quality, even the length, of our days. We didn't see the seven mountains ahead of us. We didn't see how they are always ahead, always calling us, always reminding us that there are more things to be done, dreams to be realized, joys to be re-discovered, promises made before birth to be fulfilled, beauty to be incarnated, and love embodied. We didn't see the mountains ahead and so we didn't sense the upheavals to come, upheavals that were in fact already in our midst, waiting to burst into flames. We didn't see the chaos growing; and when its advancing waves found us we were unprepared for its feverish narratives and wild manifestations. We were unprepared for an era twisted out of natural proportions, unprepared when our road began to speak in the bizarre languages of violence and transformations. The world broke up into unimaginable forms and only the circling spirits of the age saw what was happening with any clarity. This is the song of a circling spirit. This is the story for all of us who never see the seven mountains of our secret destiny, who never see that beyond the chaos there can always be a new sunlight.

Some people spend their lives in prisons.
Some, in the prison of drugs...or sex...alcohol... loveless unions
... in hate... or greed ... even sell themselves, their lives.
There is loneliness, losing and lack (and more).
There is love, laughter and longevity (and more).
Everyone wants to matter.
Everyone wants to know what the matter is.

NO MATTER WHAT THE MATTER IS ... THE MATTER IS LIFE.

*Cherish the past,
Embrace the present and
welcome the future.
He lives in you.*





Dontae, how could you just leave me like that, didn't even give me a chance to apologize for the distance. Many days and nights pride got in the way of texting and calling you. You weren't only my friend but my brother. Freshman year 2009 in Choir I met a beautiful soul and we stuck to each other like crazy glue. Every moment we spent was memorable and enjoyable. Not only did you bring so much happiness to my life but everyone else you came in contact with. It's hard thinking about life on earth without you. I always hear about people losing their friends but never thought it could be me, well at least not you. You made my saddest moments my happiest, that bright smile and deep dimple. Lol, you absolutely touched my heart. Every moment you picked me up from my house and every day I made you late. You touched my life and for that I will love you forever.

Sleep in Paradise Dontae,
From Shariah Jones.

To get woken up to the devastating news like this, I can't even process anything right now. I can't even process the fact that you are gone. I swear just as easy as life is given to you, it can be taken away. I don't know what to say right now. All I can think about is the moments we shared, the laughs we had and the fact that we won't ever have them anymore. I remember you telling me one time that when you died, you didn't want anyone being sad so I'm going to try not to be. You'll always have a place in my heart and I know you will be watching over everyone because that's your nature.

SIP. Dontae Thorney,
the good dies young.
From Kadajah Bunnie Haynes

This morning with such a heavy heart I say until we meet again to my friend Dontae Thorney. There were so many good times where we shared laughs. I am grateful for the moments bro. Rest easy my friend! My prayers are with your family and my Choir family at this difficult time.

-From Kyle Francis

Wowwww Dontae, why Dontae? Y'all taking away the good people in life.....Smh...Dontae you was my nigga son, especially Choir days boy, you dead use to have me crying my nigga. Now you gone, RIP Dontae Thorney...this really hurts my heart.

-From Kayden A'marie.

U never know wat life brings smh, everything happens for a reason.... Still here in disbelief....such a good young man...ur up above now guess God needed u. U was my sisters love of her life. Dontae RIP, gone but not forgotten.

Memorieslastforever
Christine Chamorro-Bynum

I can't believe you are gone.....RIP Dontae.

-Chasidy Preddiee

Smh, I have a headache, I have a terrible morning...the things I have to deal with. I feel like crying, all I can do is think about you. RIP Dontae Thorney.

-Keyonna Young

Family is people that will check up on your 13 year old sisters Instagram and call all the way from NY to let you know something is off, even though you hadn't spoken in months, thanks for being a big brother, Dontae.

-From Emmanuella Bonga

Woke up angry, frustrated and sad. Good Morning, bro!! I know you earned your wings so it makes me feel a little better Dontae Thorney.

-Celia Williams

My friend, my twin, my brother, the game changer....what will I do now, how do I go on. Seems surreal, I'm numb.....Dontae I am going to miss you, you were and will forever be my heart. Can't get our conversation out of my head as mommy dropped us off at the train that Monday morning, all the things we spoke about on the way to school. Oh my God, Dontae. I wish I knew, wish there was something I could have done.....love you forever.

-Cyrena (Renie)

It really doesn't even seem right to say rest in peace to you man, I don't think it's gonna hit me yet that you really gone, ain't no more contact, no more laughing together, no more pounds, no more Dontae. You really was a good person, I remember I use to laugh at you because you had that goatee, looked like a R&B singer. It's crazy Bro, I love you.

-Guano Lauren.

Wow, that really just hit me kind of hard, just hearing his voice for a split second. Touch my heart. Choir was filled with talent, I'm forever grateful to have known Dontae Thorney.

-Wykeemah Boobee Berkley.

We have lost one of our great alumni Dontae Thorney, was a great young man who touched the life of many youths. RIP till we meet again.

-New Covenant Christian High School.

To my baby boy. You were something special and truly one of a kind. You are missed dearly but, I know you are in a better place. Kisses from me to you, save me a spot and sleep in God's comforting arms.

-From Chenea, your sissy.

Took me a minute to post this because I couldn't believe it and still can't. Bro! we got so Kant memories together, this is crazy, we go all the way back to sandbox days. Bro I'm speechless now, I am numb that you are gone, because I was just talking to you.....don't know what I'm gonna do now, Imma miss you bro.

-Shay Mack

#longlivetae

-Devon.

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done.

I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the way,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve,
to dry before the sun
of happy memories
that I leave when life is done.

Pallbearers

Stanley Edwards Jr. (cousin)
Rowan Edwards (uncle)
Ricardo Edwards (uncle)

Okyefe Green (brother)
William Simmons (brother-in-law)
Devon Edwards-Williams (brother)

Acknowledgement

*The family of **Dontae Deryck Anthony Edwards-Thorney** acknowledges with great appreciation all acts of kindness, sympathy and love extended to us during this time of bereavement.*

Eternity 
Funeral Services

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