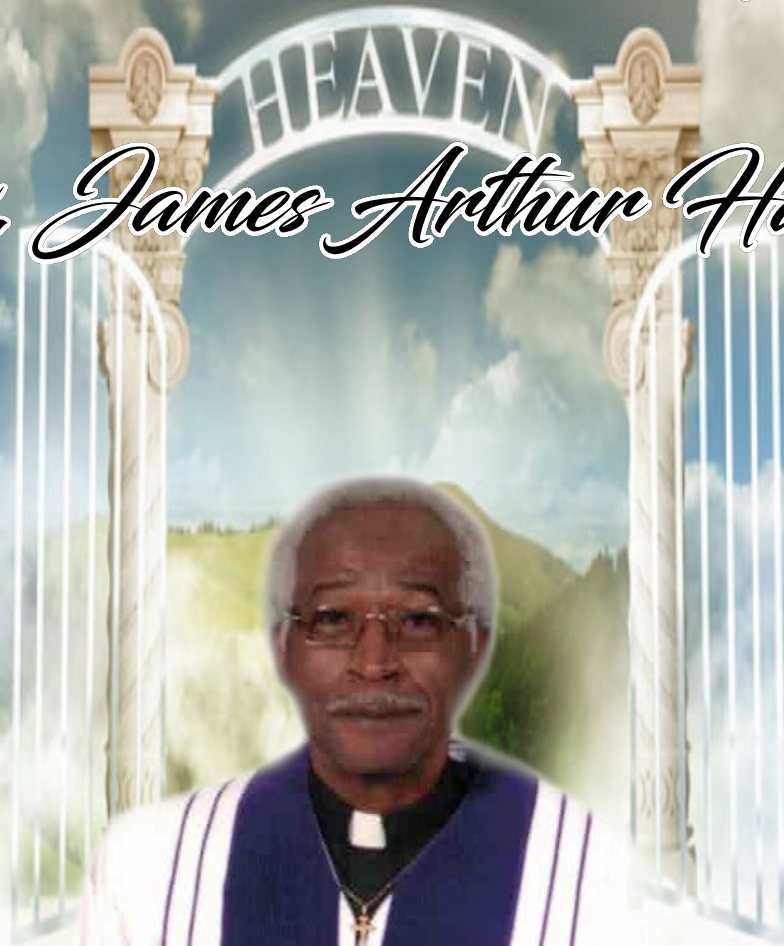


In Loving Memory of
Rev. James Arthur Harris



Sunrise
April 11, 1941

Sunset
November 2, 2020

Saturday, November 14, 2020 - 10:00 a.m.

Southern Baptist Church

97-09 Astoria Blvd.
East Elmhurst, New York

"If I can help somebody along the way, then my living will not be in vain"

Obituary

**Mentor – Spiritual Advisor – Friend
Husband – Father – Grandfather**

James Arthur Harris was born in Johnston, SC (Edgefield County) on April 11, 1941 to the late Joseph Miles and Rosa Bell Harris. He was raised by his paternal grandparents, Hubert and Mary Ryans Harris. He referred to them as “Maw” and “Daddy.” During his early years, he worked the farm with his mother and grandfather where his role included picking cotton, plowing and working the farmland, feeding the hogs, tending cows, and any other farm work that he was assigned and needed to do. When he was asked, he did it!

He committed his life to Christ at an early age under the leadership of Reverend W. C. Sanders at the Pine Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Johnston, SC. He was baptized in August 1949. He was a member of the Pine Hill Usher Board, and as a youth served in several roles for the church.

He attended the public schools of Edgefield County. In 1960, he graduated from Edgefield County Colored High School, renamed W. E. Parker High School located in Edgefield, South Carolina. He continued his musical talents playing the guitar, and singing with several gospel groups, including the Spiritual Echoes. He later joined and sang with the Gospel Brewster Aires before moving to New York.

In 1962, due to the lack of career opportunities in the South for blacks, his mother drove him to “town” (in Johnston, SC) to catch the Greyhound bus for New York. The move to New York gave him a fresh view of the world.

He sang with the Gospel Specials from 1965 to 1968. While traveling and singing at various programs, he met Robert Thomas a member of the Original Wearyland Gospel Singers of Corona, NY. Through this relationship, he met his longtime spiritual partner, in the name of Sister Annie L. Thomas while attending a gospel program at the Little Bibleway Church in Corona, NY. They were later joined at the church where they met in holy matrimony under the leadership of the late Elder Frank Pitt.

He worked for Canover Industries of Maspeth for many years until the late 1990s. He then joined the MTA Bus Company from 1990 to his retirement in 2007. Everyone who knows him, knew that this was the perfect job for him. This was his opportunity to drive and talk all day long. He constantly connected with his passengers, using his “gift to gab.” Several of whom later came to serve and support his ministry at Farmingdale First Baptist Church in Long Island, NY.

Rev. Harris joined the Little Missionary Baptist Church in Manhattan under the leadership of the late Rev. Jimmie W. Singletary, Sr. He worked diligently under Rev. Singletary’s leadership, and was called to continue serving in the Deacon’s ministry. He heard and received his call to become a minister of the gospel under Rev. Singletary. He continued his spiritual education at the New York Theological Seminary and graduated in 1980.

He was ordained March 15, 1981 under the leadership of the late Pastor Rev. George Williams of Little Missionary Baptist Church in Corona, NY.

Rev. Harris, Rev. Robert Thomas (his brother-in-law), Deacon Bobby Williams, Deacon Eddy, Evangelist Mattie Wilson and Mr. Wilson, were instrumental in helping Pastor Singletary move Little Missionary Baptist Church from Manhattan to Corona, NY to its current location in March 1975.

He later joined Southern Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Henry Ingram, and served as an Associate Minister under him, as well as under the leadership of the late Pastor Walter Hutton.

In 1998, Rev. Carter introduced Rev. Harris to Farmingdale First Baptist Church; he was then installed as Pastor of the Farmingdale First Baptist Church on Sunday, Nov. 1, 1999. Rev. Harris made a mission to have Farmingdale First Baptist Church ("FFBC") rebuild on the church property. With a vision from God, hard work and dedication, Rev. Harris and the FFBC held the ground breaking ceremony on Nov. 3, 2002, and rebuilt the church, then in 2005 moved into their new edifice at 51 East Street, Farmingdale, NY. Not only was he the church's pastor, he was a pillar, a role model, a mentor in the community, and oftentimes serving the community by distributing foods to the less fortunate and providing school supplies to the youth.

After 16 years of Pastoring, Rev. Harris began a new journey and began traveling more, attending Broadway shows with his wife Evangelist Harris and spending time with love ones, fellowshiping with other congregations, and at Buccaneer Diner. He frequently fellowshiped with Good News Baptist Church under the leadership of his longtime friend, Reverend Dr. Isaiah Holland.

Rev. Harris was preceded in death by his mother and her husband, Rosa Bell Harris-Coleman and Willie L. Coleman, Sr.; his father, Joseph Miles; two brothers, Jacob Sanders Coleman and Willie Lee Coleman, Jr.; his grandparents, Deacon Hubert and Mary Ryans Harris; many beloved family members that included not only his aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He leaves to cherish his memories his wife, Annie L. Harris of the home; two daughters, Shelia (Raymond) Harris of Elmont, NY, and Leatrice Harris of Jackson Heights, NY; his four grandchildren, Sequa (Daniel) Hamilton, Justine Reid, Robert Reid of Elmont, NY, and Casey Banks of Jackson Heights, NY; two godsons, Fredrick Muldrow (Virginia), James Crumity (Miami, FL) and goddaughter, Cherise Scholes (Jamaica, NY); Sisters, Jannie (Kenny) Molyneaux, Columbia, SC, Nylor P. Coleman, Austell, GA, Catherine (Norman) Butler, Aiken, SC, Doris (Allen) Johnson, North Augusta, SC, and Corine (Lesley) Simpkins, Helen Taylor, Dorothy Tolen, Emma Forman, Betty Starr, Margaret Nickerson, Janie Mills, Shirley Jacks; Brothers, Rev. Jerome (Frances) Coleman, Johnston, SC, Clyde Thomas Coleman, Virginia Beach, VA, and Odell (Yvonne) Coleman, Blythewood, SC, Bernard Miles, Joe Miles, Jr.; Five brothers-in-law and four sisters-in-law that he loved as his own siblings; Uncles, Otis Miles of Ridge Spring, SC and M.C. (Phoebe) Harris of Jamaica, NY; Aunts, Olivia Miles of Stone Mountain, GA and Mrs. Lucille Miles Brunson of Stone Mountain, GA. Carrie (Frank) Daniels of Ward, SC, and Geneva Roper of Batesburg, SC, Keisha Harris, Colorado Springs, CO, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends that he loved dearly. He was a member of the following organizations: Long Island Progressive Association; Brooklyn Baptist Evangelical Union – Rev. LeRoy Belle, President; Eastern Baptist Association, Moderator, Rev. Gilbert Pickett.

Order of Service

Music Prelude

Officiant

Pastor Elect Minister Johnson
Southern Baptist Church
East Elmhurst, NY

Processional

Church Officials and Family

Prayer

Rev. Larry Shells
New Hope Baptist Church
Rockaway Beach, NY

Scriptures

Old Testament - Psalm 121

Moderator, Rev Gilbert Pickett (Pastor, Mt. Horeb Baptist Church)

New Testament - Revelation 21:1-6

Pastor Isaiah Holland (Good News Baptist Church)

Prayer of Comfort

Rev Karl Delk
(Bethelite Institutional Baptist Church)

Selection

The Original Northernaires

Acknowledgement and Reflections

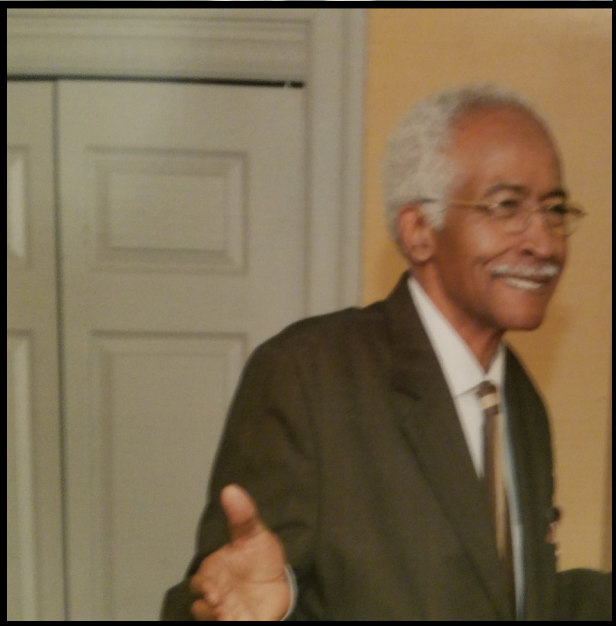
Words of Comfort

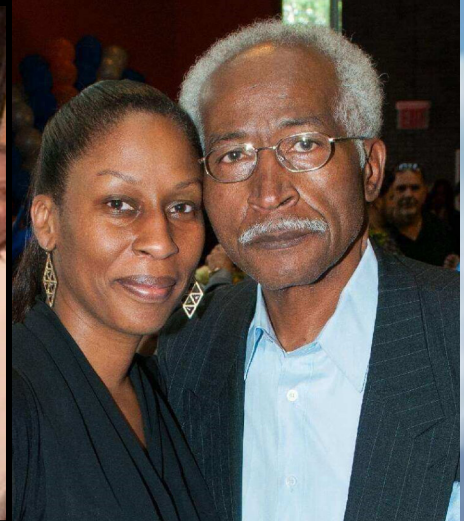
Rev. Jerome Coleman (Brother)
Olive Branch Baptist Church
Batesburg, SC

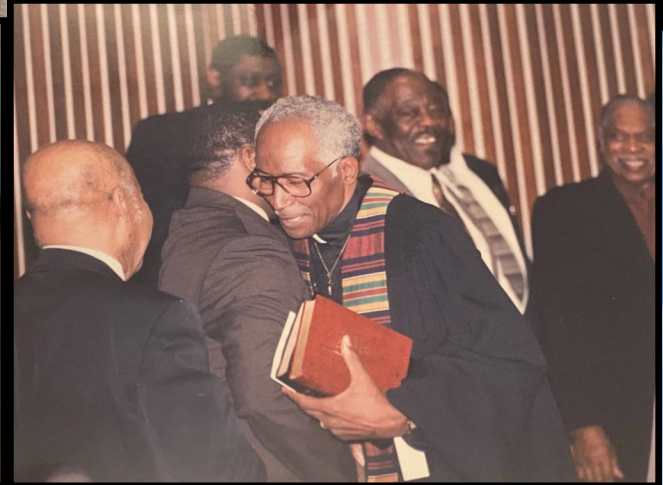
Recessional

Interment

Pinelawn Memorial Park & Cemetery
Farmingdale, New York







The Master Called

*I'm sorry I had to leave you.
My loved ones, oh so dear.
But you see, the Master called me,
His voice was very clear!
I had made my reservation
A heaven bound ticket for one,
And I knew that He would call me
When He felt my work was done.
I know that your hearts are heavy
Because I have gone away,
But when the Master called me,
I knew that I could not stay.
Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you
My loved ones, oh so dear,
But, you see, the Master called me
And, now I'm resting here.
Yes, I've crossed on over to glory
And to you all I say
Just stay in the hands of Jesus
And we'll meet again someday.
-Author unknown*

Acknowledgment

The family of the late **Rev. James Arthur Harris** wishes to thank all of you for your prayers, messages of comfort and the many other acts of kindness shown during our hour of bereavement.

May God continue to bless you in a very special way.

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