



Harold W. Baptiste

April 2, 1938 - May 25, 2019

HAROLD W. BAPTISTE was born on the Isle of Spice (Grenada) to Anthony and Sophia Baptiste. His parents immigrated to Trinidad when he was five years old and there, he obtained his elementary education after which his parents returned to Grenada. However, because of financial limitations Harold was unable to attend secondary school, but he refused to allow this successful. This paved the way for his acceptance at Caribbean Union College (now University of Southern Caribbean) to prepare himself for the gospel ministry. At the age of 14 Harold was baptized and from that time he decided that he wanted to become a preacher of the Word. He graduated in 1958 and began ministry in Guyana, SA.

Harold served in Guyana for four years, and then left for Jamaica to further his studies. He graduated from West Indies College (now Northern Caribbean University) with a Bachelor's in Theology. He obtained an M.A. in Biblical Languages from Andrews University and a Master's in sacred theology from New York Theological Seminary.

In 1967 Harold was called by the Northeastern Conference in New York and pastored the First White Plains SDA Church, The Brooklyn Temple SDA church and the Mount Vernon SDA church. After pastoring for 12 years, in 1979 he was elected Executive Secretary of the Conference and served in that capacity for 11 years. In July 1990, at the General Conference held in Indianapolis Harold was elected to serve as Executive Secretary of the North American Division. This came as a stunning surprise since it was very unusual, if not unprecedented, to be elevated from a local Conference to the Division in the Adventist administrative hierarchy. Harold served in that position with distinction for 12 years, and in 2002 he was elected as a General Vice President at the General Conference. He retired from that position in December 2005.

The notion that Harold holds a place of honor among Seventh-day Adventist Pastors, Administrators and leaders is not likely to be questioned by those who knew him well. In his unbroken eagerness for the steady advancement of the mission of the church, globally and locally, Harold devoted his forty-four years of unstinted, dedicated and self-sacrificing

service. Through his diversity of functions and responsibilities he had the opportunity to guide the Church in the development of policies, strategies and structural reforms that enabled and facilitated its mission to the world. Harold distinguished himself as a thoughtful, creative and balanced administrator, a compassionate and caring pastor and a collaborative leader.

Although Harold attended other Universities in the pursuit of his education and in preparation for his vocation in ministry, none meant as much to him as the little college in the Marcas Valley, the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC). Harold graduated in the class of 1958, and bears testimony to the fact that his scholarship and success were in large part, due to the years he spent there and the mentoring he received. Harold supported his alma mater in many ways over the years. He held the highest ideals of theological education and pastoral skills for the training of young men and women enrolled in the School of Religion and Theology at USC. To honor his 75th birthday, his family, close friends and USC alumni established the Harold Wilson Baptiste Lecture Series in Religion. In addition to the Lecture series annually, two scholarships of \$1,000 USD are given to two deserving students majoring in the Bachelor of Theology at USC-one from Grenada and one from Guyana. His family felt that Harold's legacy of service to God and Church should be enduring so that succeeding generations of pastors and church leaders may profit from it and be influenced by the moral and spiritual leadership of his exemplary life. His willingness "to spend and be spent" in the service of God remains a shining example of dedicated and unselfish labor. He who profits most, serves best, was the goal and ambition of Harold's life.

He leaves to mourn his loss: his loving wife, Shirley; three children, Wilson, Keith and Michelle; his daughter-in-law, Gisela; six grandchildren, Christen, Shara, Michael, Allison, Matthew and Elijah; his sister, Everil; his brother, Orville; sister-in-law, Joyce; and their children, his sister-in-law, Sheila and her children; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Events

JUN **Service** 11:00AM

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Sligo Seventh Day Adventist

7700 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park, MD, US, 20912

Comments



“ Mr. Baptiste was a kind and friendly man. I remember when we brought him Mac & Cheese. He smiled and told us he couldn't wait to dig in. To the rest of the family, please know that we are here for you and that you have our sincerest prayers. Warm regards, your neighbors, Jill & Rosie



Jill Robinson - June 04, 2019 at 12:46 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Harold W. Baptiste.



May 31, 2019 at 09:56 AM



“ My condolences go out to the family on the loss of a very special person to all of you. Death as we know in this world is a part of life that we find hard to accept. As you prepare to lay your loved one to rest, may you can find comfort from your Bibles. Please know that GOD is a stronghold in the time of your distress. Nahum 1:7.

Peggy Land - May 30, 2019 at 10:26 PM



“ To the Family,
At a time like this, reflection on the promises of Almighty God is very comforting. Like the promise at Isaiah 25:8 to swallow up death forever. May these thoughts encourage you during your time of bereavement. Our condolences to you and your family.

The Howard Family - May 30, 2019 at 09:08 AM



“ 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 - May 29, 2019 at 07:30 AM