

Lincoln Park Holiness Church

13 Heath Street
Post Office Box 14467
Raleigh, North Carolina 27610

Pastor
Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr.
3609 Arrowwood Dr.
919-749-2570

Founder
Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Sr.

March 16, 2015

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR BISHOP ELI RATCLIFF

Deacon Chairman
Harvey Horton
919-625-8653

Church Secretary
Sarah Yarborough
919-834-8579

To our First Lady, Margaret Ratcliff and the first family, we offer our deepest and heartfelt sympathy due to the loss of your loved one, Senior Bishop Eli Ratcliff.

We share in your grief for we too have lost our Pastor, Bishop and father. He truly was all that to us. Please feel our prayers embracing you as you go through this time of grief. We pray that you will allow the precious memories that you have of your time with Bishop Ratcliff to comfort you. Let the joy and laughter that you shared with him calm your fears and rely on the wisdom that he imparted into you guide you.

Bishop Ratcliff was the GREATEST Pastor, Bishop and father that anyone could ask for. There is no one else like him. His main objective was winning souls. He looked for and found good in everyone, looking beyond imperfection and seeing a soul in need of saving or a need needing to be met. He was the most humble, compassionate, and loving person there could ever be. He lived the life that he preached and stood fast on the word of God as he gently lead and taught us, loving us unconditionally. Yet encouraging us to be and do all that God would have us to be and do.

Now Bishop Ratcliff loved to sing and he told us that he sang because he was happy, and because he was free and he knew that God was watching over him. And yes he was happy. He often told us that.

One day he sat down and wrote a song that goes like this: I found a Savior, found joy in His favor. He's a friend of mine. Now when I was lost in a world of sin, He saved my soul and He took me in.. I found a Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

He also sang a song saying I started to walk in the light that shines all around me by day and by night. I'll take the way of the Lord's despised few. I started with Jesus and I'm going through. Surely he has made it through, and for that reason we can tell the angels that he is on his way, that he will be home soon and he will be up there to stay.

Our Pastor, Bishop and father was robed and ready, and has left us a legacy of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. The most loving, kindest, selfless, giving person that we know has fought a good fight, finished his course, and kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge, shall give him at that day.

We say to the family to keep praying about it and keep holding on because God still answers prayer.

Lovingly submitted by,

your Lincoln Park Church Family and True Vine Assembly of Pentecostal Churches, Inc.



City Of Raleigh
North Carolina

March 12, 2015

TO: TO THE FAMILY OF BISHOP ELI RATCLIFF

On behalf of the Raleigh City Council, we would like to express sympathy to your family for the loss of Bishop Ratcliff. We know how difficult these losses are and wanted you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Bishop Ratcliff was Pastor of Lincoln Park Holiness Church for 55 years and worked tirelessly to assure that all citizens in Southeast Raleigh lived in a safe and secure environment and assisted in the redevelopment of the area around the church. He was known far and wide for his Christian demeanor and friendly spirit.

Again, we are sorry for your loss and hope that you find consolation in knowing all the good that he did for our City and its citizens. It is citizens like him that make Raleigh such a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Nancy McFarlane
Mayor

Eugene Weeks
City Council – District C



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DAVID PRICE
FOURTH DISTRICT
NORTH CAROLINA

March 16, 2015

Mrs. Margaret Ratcliff and Family
c/o Lincoln Park Holiness Church
13 Heath Street
Raleigh, NC 27610

Dear Mrs. Ratcliff and Family:

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr. Bishop Ratcliff lived his life as a pillar of the Raleigh community, a great minister to his many congregants, and a loyal servant of God.

Over more than 55 years of service to Lincoln Park Holiness Church, Bishop Ratcliff touched the lives of thousands of congregants and fellow citizens and served as an unwavering force for good in his community. He served us well and will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of his family and friends.

You and your entire family are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May God continue to richly bless your lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Price".

David Price
Member of Congress

Victory Tabernacle Church ...

Elder James P. Perkins, Pastor

328 West South Street
Post Office Box 27501
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

... of Raleigh

919. 833.0500 (V)
919. 833.0517 (F)

Resolution of Respect *March 16, 2015*



Revelation 21:4 reads...And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

*To the Ratcliff Family: The Pastor and members of Victory Tabernacle Church of Raleigh, Inc. extend our condolences to you during the passing of **Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr.**; who was a great man of faith and power. To many of us, he is known as a pioneer, innovator and a great warrior in the kingdom of God,*

*WHEREAS, our Heavenly Father, in His infinite wisdom and power, called **Bishop Ratcliff** home on March 10, 2015;*

RESOLVED, that though Bishop Ratcliff will be greatly missed by his loved ones and all who knew him, take comfort in knowing that he is resting in the presence of the Lord. There is no bond as strong as that of loved ones, and when it is broken, it carries with it a hurt and grief that only time and the Holy Spirit can heal. Be it further

RESOLVED, that though we cannot fully understand what you are experiencing, be assured that you are in our prayers, and that God will be with you. We do know that the Holy Spirit is the divine comforter, and as long as you have Him, He will comfort, strengthen and keep you.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be given to the family and a copy kept in the church archives.

Respectfully Submitted,

James P. Perkins
James P. Perkins, Pastor
Virginia B. McGill, Church Administrator

"Christ-centered, Divinely-driven, People-touched"



Bright Hope Divine Holy Church of God, Inc.

16 Bragg Street / Post Office Box 27304

Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7304

Church: 919-834-4785

Email: brighthopedhcog@earthlink.net

Web-site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~brighthopedhcog>

Bishop Verna L. Peterkin, Pastor

Monday, March 16, 2015

To the Family of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr.,

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me”. It is with deep sympathy that we offer these sincere words of comfort in the passing of your beloved Father and Grandfather, Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr.

Down through the years, Bishop Ratcliff has been a compassionate Man of God, willing to help everyone he could. He has been a blessing to Bright Hope and his loving kindness will never be forgotten. His life will live on in the hearts and memories of all those who knew and loved him.

We bid the family hope, through the Master of all life, for “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; and whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s”.

Family, we commend you to God who will sustain and strengthen you in your great loss. We assure you that you have our prayers and lasting heartfelt sympathy.

Humbly Submitted,

Bishop Verna L. Peterkin

Bishop Verna L. Peterkin, Pastor

Bright Hope Divine Holy Church of God, Inc.

“We are a GROWING church doing GREAT things for the Lord!”



James West
Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 550 Raleigh, NC 27602

Tel 919 856 5573
Fax 919 856 5699

March 13, 2015

To The Family of the Late Bishop Eli Ratcliff Jr.,

On behalf of the Wake County Board of Commissioners, we are truly sorry to hear of the loss of Bishop Eli Ratcliff Jr. The Board extends their deepest sympathies to you and your family as you struggle through this period of sorrow and grief.

Bishop Ratcliff, who was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and spiritual leader to many, was a valuable asset to this community and we mourn the loss along with you.

We know that for over 50 years, Bishop Ratcliff dedicated his life to serving God and his flock, serving as Pastor of Lincoln Park Holiness Church. Bishop Ratcliff was a person known far and wide for this humble Christian demeanor and friendly spirit. Bishop not only loved his family but he loved his church family.

Wake County was also a beneficiary of his dedication and love for community. Bishop Ratcliff worked hard in not only bringing souls to Christ, but he assisted in the redevelopment of the community surrounding the church.

To his wife, Margaret Nichols Ratcliff, please know that we will continue to keep you in our thoughts as you cope with the loss of your husband. To his children: William, Clarence and Patty and daughters-in-law, Chandullal and Christine, and family, while your hearts may be heavy, we come together today to celebrate Bishop Ratcliff's life, while cherishing the legacy of faith and love he's left for you to carry on.

May the love of our Father God embrace you during this hour of sorrow.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James West".

James West, Chairman
Wake County Board of Commissioners



On behalf of the Passage Home Board of Directors and Employees we offer the following thoughts and condolences:

We are here today to honor the life and legacy of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr. As each of us share our love and memory of this man who has been to us a father, a son, a brother, a friend and a pastor, we know his life has been well lived. It is in this spirit that I share how we, from St. Francis and Passage Home came to know Bishop and his Lincoln Park family. Bishop reached out to us 24 years ago when a small group of church folks from a north Raleigh Catholic community showed up across the street from Lincoln Park to begin to fix up a small house with the hopes of helping some families. He invited us in to meet with him and others from Lincoln Park. With some curiosity he wondered what we were doing and why we were doing it. We told him we were new to Raleigh and simply wanted to reach out to help others in our community. He thought about it and then invited us to share our hopes with the Lincoln Park Church. There began a yearlong series of meetings between our faith communities to vision, plan and begin what has become Passage Home. We give honor today to Bishop Ratcliff, a Co-Founder of Passage Home, for his early vision to support and hold up people from different racial, economic and religious backgrounds working together. That many years ago there were few black and white churches working together sharing their faith and growing their ministries. In his later years and in recent months, he shared that he was well pleased with the work of Passage Home. Because of his early support and continued encouragement and blessing, we were able to grow. Bishop embraced and worked with those seeking to help others in his community. For me personally, he was a friend, a confidant, a faith sharing mentor and a guide. He was a quiet, gentle and courageous leader who knew how to bring his people together. Let us go from here living our lives in ways that continue to give honor to his legacy.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Canina Fedrow
CEO/Co-Founder
Passage Home Raleigh

3-16-15

PO Box 10347, Raleigh, NC 27605
phone 919.834.0666
fax 919.834.0663
www.passagehome.org

***FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
101 South Wilmington Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601
Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Pastor***

The First Baptist Church Family
Extends Its Deepest Sympathy To

The Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr. Family

God in His infinite goodness and wisdom, has removed from our midst Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr. Although his spirit has gone to heaven, his memory will live on in the hearts and minds of all who knew him.

The members of First Baptist Church wish to pay a tribute of love and support to the Ratcliff Family. We pause to thank God for the life of Bishop Ratcliff and for the place he filled in our midst. We are saddened by his passing; however, we take comfort in reflecting on a life well spent.

We bow in humble submission to the Heavenly Father's will and extend to the Ratcliff Family our heartfelt sympathy. We also invoke the companionship and guidance of the Divine power of God upon the members of this family. Bishop Ratcliff has gone from labor to reward, and will be sadly missed. But it is God's way, His will be done.

May you rely on Him who can and will heal all sorrow, and may the comforting influences of the Holy Spirit rest with each of you.

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled
And do not be afraid.
John 14:27*

Respectfully submitted,

This 16th day of March 2015

Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr., Pastor

First Baptist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina



1705 Curtis Drive • P.O. Box 26285 • Raleigh, NC 27611 • (919) 834-6012

Resolution of Respect For Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death,
neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain;
for the former things are passed away”.

Revelations 21:4

We were saddened to hear of the loss of your loved one, and we pray that God will give you added strength during these hours.

Whereas, in the providence of God and in His infinite wisdom; He has brought to a close the life of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr. The Pastor, Officers, and the entire church express their deepest sympathy to the family in the passing of your loved one.

Be it Resolved, that we bow in humble submission and commend you to Him who knoweth best and never makes a mistake. You have our sincere prayers.

This day of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

March 16, 2015

Bishop M.S. Nesbitt, Presiding Prelate
Deliverance Cathedral of Love Church, Inc.

Bishop M.S. Nesbitt, Pastor

**Good Hope Baptist Church
1209 Smithfield Road
P.O.Box 441
Knightdale, North Carolina 27545
March 16, 2015**

TO: Family, Friends, and Loved Ones of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr.

"Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth forever."
Psalms 146:5-6

On behalf of the community of believers here at Good Hope Baptist Church, we want to send our deepest condolences and assurance of prayers during this very difficult time.

We were shocked and saddened upon hearing of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr's death, and once again, we are mindful of the longevity of his life, even those who have served with such distinction and honor as Bishop Ratcliff, Jr.

We have heard and seen many times over the profound impact he had on so many families and individuals, and these stories serve to be an inspiration to all of us as we endeavor to minister with compassion and kindness.


Upon the completion of washing the feet of His disciples, Jesus said these profound words in John 13: "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord, neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

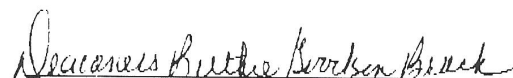
Bishop Ratcliff, Jr. lived, and followed the example of Christ, and in turn became a powerful example of what God can do through a life yield to Him.

We know if he were able to speak to us once again, he would share with us the wonderful Gospel of Christ, and perhaps even remind us "only one life, so soon it will pass, and only what's done for Christ will last."

We continue to pray for your family and congregation.

Blessing in Christ,


John L Thatch, Pastor


Deaconess Ruthie Goodson Brock
Church Clerk

HARRISON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

555 CREECH ROAD

GARNER, N.C. 27529

(919) 773 - 1300

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 14:13

To: The Ratcliff Family

We are truly saddened by the passing of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr. He was a man of strong faith, a man of dignity, a man of patience, a man of strong leadership, encouragement and a man of much wisdom. His life truly served as an example of what God would have us to be. He will be greatly missed, and please know that he will forever be loved.

We stand ready to help and to serve in any capacity that we are needed.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Continuous prayers for your family and your congregation.

Rev. Dr. C.A. Chappell

Rev. Dr. C.A. Chappell, Pastor and the entire Harrison Chapel C.O.G. Church Family.

Deacon *Wise Evans*

Church Secretary *Audrey Evans*



Malaby's Crossroads Baptist Church

911 Old Knight Road
Knightdale, NC 27545
(919) 266-1071

March 12, 2015

If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you with me that you may be where I am. John 4:3

TO: The Ratcliff Family

We at Malaby's Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church family, extend our deepest sympathy in the passing of your loved one, BISHOP ELI RATCLIFF, JR.

Although no words of sympathy can ease your loss, we pray that you find comfort in knowing that we are praying that God's Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you and your family in this time of bereavement.

Keep the faith; God will take care of you during these difficult days. He is always by our side.

"May God Continue To Bless and Strengthen You"

DONE BY THE ORDER OF MALABY'S CROSSROADS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. James S. Utley

Pastor

Ms. Felicia Williams-McKinnon

Church Clerk

Deacon Ruffin O'Neal

Chair - Deacon Ministry

MOUNT MORIAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
3331 Highway 39, South
Louisburg, North Carolina 27549
Telephone: {919} 496-6644

Reverend William E. Ratcliff, Pastor

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 549
Bunn, North Carolina 27508

March 16, 2015

RESOLUTION

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

It is during times of great loss that we realize how limiting words can be and how special our friends truly are. We hope you hear the words we cannot speak; for words can do no justice to the heartache you and your family has suffered. We ask that you don't mourn the loss of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr. alone and that you share your memories of him with us.

Our hearts and thoughts are with you during this time of grieving. Please know that you are not alone in remembering a truly wonderful person that meant so much too so many.

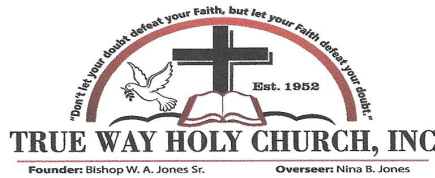
The Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church Family extend our sincerely sympathy to The Ratcliff Family.

We are


Reverend William E. Ratcliff, Pastor

Deacon Joseph E. Davis, Chairman Of Deacons

Sister Susie B. Davis, Clerk



March 23, 2015

To: The Ratcliff Family & Lincoln Park Holy Church, Raleigh, NC


From: The Desk of Overseer Nina M. Jones, Senior Elder & Pastor

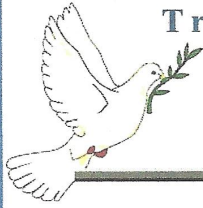
*It is with deepest sympathy we submit this letter on behalf of our "Spiritual Father" **BISHOP ELI RATCLIFF, JR.** We share our deepest condolences to the family and church family of our dear friend and express our sincere sorrow. Our church family has been a part of the Lincoln Park Holy Church family since the Pastoral-ship of Bishop Eli Ratcliff Sr. We have had a committed relationship and fellowship over these many years. There is a special place in our hearts for you all and we do feel very sadden by the loss of your husband, father, grandfather and Church Pastor.*

*A gift as precious as **Bishop Eli Ratcliff Jr.**, to remember him, we are reminded of special times we spent together. These times he would often reference when we would come together for church services. During the 1970's our youth would meet every year with Lincoln Park's youth department at Pullen Park for our Annual Church picnic softball game. Bishop unlike the other saints never thought that he was too old, but joined us on the field and played in the game. Often times he made rule changes so that his team won. These are our precious memories which we will hold dear in our hearts. These memories leads us to this special moment of comfort. Just for a moment use your imaginations as we describe **Bishop Eli Ratcliff Jr.'s** life. There was a softball team selected whose name was Heaven's Hitters. The owner of the team is God the Father, the humpier is Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost is the Coach and **Bishop Eli Ratcliff Jr.** is at bat. The world series was on the line, God the owner, called the team His sons and daughters. Jesus calls out to Satan strike 1, 2. Satan begins to smile because he now thinks he's winning. I'll bring sickness, hurt and pain. God he won't keep playing. But the Holy Ghost was on the side line coaching, Eli you can do it, keep fighting, you can hit a home-run. Bishop stepped back on Tuesday morning, took out his bat, drew back, swung and hit. Crossed 1st base, waved at Margaret, crossed 2nd base waved at the family, crossed 3rd base bid Lincoln Park a farewell. Bishop had hit a home-run, he was headed for home plate, the game was won. Satan looking on walked away frustrated and mad, because he missed again. **Bishop Eli Ratcliff Jr.**, finished his course, kept the faith, crossed home plate and went to sleep to rest from his labor. We won't ever forget you **Bishop**. Rest on, you've earned your place on the team. We love you and will miss you very much.*

As we close this letter, we share these words with the family, "The Lord is perfect strength in the time of weakness. A very present help in the time of troubles." Earth has no sorrows that heaven can not heal. And we pray God's continual grace, peace and mercy upon you and your family. Please know that we love you all and God Bless is our prayers!

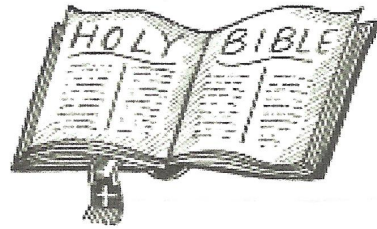
Prayerfully submitted,


Overseer Nina M. Jones, Senior Elder & Pastor
Officials and Members of True-Way Holy Church
4124 Fayetteville Street, Durham, North Carolina 27713



**True-Way Resurrection Pentecostal Holiness
Church of God In Christ, Inc.**

*Post Office Box 25334, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611
Telephone: (919) 779-0797 – Prayer Line (919) 772-2324*



RESOLUTION



THE FAMILY OF BISHOP ELI RATCLIFF, JR.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, or crying, neither shall there be no more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4

On behalf of The Bailey Family, Interim Pastor Johnathan Thomas and the members of the True Way Holiness Church Ministry, we offer our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the loss of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr.

We will always be reminded of his support to the late Bishops Eddie and Geraldine Newton Bailey and this ministry. We thank God for the opportunity to have known and worshipped with him during our Annual Holy Convocation services where he ministered the unadulterated truth. It has now pleased God to call him home and reward him for his abiding faith and untiring devotion to the body of Christ.

To the Ratcliff family and the members of the Lincoln Park Holiness Church, our thoughts and prayers are with you and we share your burden of grief. Continue to trust in the Lord and He will uphold you in His strength.

Prayerfully submitted on this 16th Day of March 2015,
The Officers and Members of the True Way Holiness Church Ministry, Raleigh, NC
Eastern-State of North Carolina-Wake County

**“The Temple of Praise”
Bishop Geraldine Newton Bailey - Founder**



**CHURCH RESOLUTION OF RESPECT
FOR
BISHOP ELI RATCLIFF, JR.**

Do not grieve for me; for now I am free, I am following the path God laid for me.

I took his hand when I heard his call; I looked towards heaven and left it all.

I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work, to play.

No tasks I left undone I must say, because my Lord and Savior said, "Well done my good and faithful servant" at the end of the day.

WHEREAS, in the providence of God. He has brought to a close the life of Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr., the officers and members of **Spiritual Rock Holiness Church**, in **Wendell, North Carolina** feel that it is befitting to express their sympathy to the family of during the passing of *Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr.* We commend you to our Lord and Savior who knoweth best and will always do right. You have our sincere prayers.

WHEREAS, Bishop Eli Ratcliff, Jr., was a man characterized by reverence who loved the Lord. A well-respected and admiring man of God, who pursued the Spiritual Fruit that God requires. He loved his family and congregation with a gentle, yet stern combination that only a man of God possesses. Pressing for the "crown" that is incorruptible in heaven.

BE IT RESOLVED, that we bow in humble submission to our Lord and Savior who never makes a mistake and remind the family to be encouraged by remembering this poem.

*When I must leave you for a little while Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years.*

*But start out bravely with a gallant smile; And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same, Feed not your loneliness on empty days, But fill each waking
hour in useful ways,*

*Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer And I in turn will comfort you And hold you near,
And never, never be afraid to die, For I am waiting for you in the sky!*



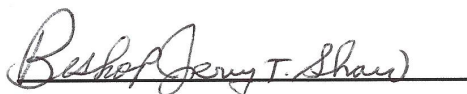
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be given to the family and a copy kept in the church archives.

To the family, we know your loss is deep, and your sorrow is great, but we want you to know that we share in your sorrow, but more importantly, we recognize that this loss is Heaven's Gain.

Humbly submitted on this 16th day of March and 2015,

The Officers and Members of the Spiritual Rock Holiness Church, Wendell, North Carolina

Bishop Jerry T. Shaw, Senior Pastor



Official Signature/Date