



**A Reflection on Unconditional Love**

It's easy to get caught up in the cycle of striving, achieving, and trying to prove our worth. But what if true peace comes not from what we *do*, but from accepting God's unconditional love and grace? Romans 12:2 encourages us to renew our minds, to transform our thinking so that we can discern and live according to God's will. That's a daily practice, a conscious effort to align our hearts and minds with His truth.

~Eric Israel Stukes  
Dec. 30, 2024



This picture was taken just after Eric was baptized at Victory Church Midtown on Oct. 27, 2024

**Pallbearers**  
Clemson Alumni & Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

**Floral Bearers**  
Nieces

**Interment**  
Evergreen Memorial Park  
802 North Guignard Drive  
Sumter South Carolina 29150

*Acknowledgements*

With deepest gratitude and appreciation, the family acknowledges the many expressions of love through your prayers, flowers, cards, calls, and visits during this Celebration of Life for our loved one. Special thanks to Eric's neighbors Terra and Pierre Jean-Louis and April and Edgar Froe. May God pour out many blessings upon each of you.

*The Family*



"Home of Distinctively Finer Funeral Service"

*Job's Mortuary, Inc.*  
Dr. Ralph W. Canty, Sr.  
President/Founder  
312 South Main Street  
Sumter, South Carolina 29150  
803-4773-3323



# Reflections



Our beloved **Eric Israel Stukes** passed away peacefully following a series of health issues on Sunday, April 12, 2026 at Piedmont Hospital Atlanta.

He was born Jan. 11, 1982, in Columbia, South Carolina to Debra Stukes Lesane. He was raised by his aunt, the late Rosemary Stukes-Jones of Sumter, South Carolina.

In his early years, he endeared an additional family, The Griffith's, around 1992. Known to them and most others in Sumter as, "Israel,"

he and Allison developed a close friendship in 3rd grade at Millwood Elementary School, and soon he began to spend lots of time with the Griffith's and became a part of their family.

Mr. Stukes received his education in the public schools of Sumter County, graduating Sumter High School as a member of the class of 2000. He later received the James E. and Edie H. Bostic Presidential Scholarship and graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering.

In 2014 he completed a Master of Business Administration degree from Webster Univeristy and a second Masters Degree in Healthcare Services Administration through Strayer University. Since 2022, Eric was employed by Google as a Program Manager.

Eric thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, workouts at the gym, traveling internationally, playing tennis, Clemson Football, and studying the Word of God alone and with his Church Family at Victory Church -Midtown.

He was preceded in death by his twin brother Shawn Stukes and his aunt Rosemary Stukes-Jones.

He is survived by his mother, Debra Stukes Lesane of Sumter, SC; his sisters, Tajuana Stukes Holloway of Sumter, SC and Kimberly (Sean) Irving of Atlanta, Ga; his uncle, Larry Stukes of Virginia. He will also be survived and missed by his embraced parents, Ben and Deloris Griffith; sisters, Kimberly Massey (Troy), Erin Glover (Keyvin), and Allison Sims; nieces, Giselle Webb, Morgan Glover, Madison Glover, Jordyn Sims, and Zoey Sims; nephews, Zachary Anderson, Nicholas Anderson, Micah Glover, and Myles Glover. Additionally, he is survived by his stepfather, Larry Jones; grandmother, Earline Jones; and many other relatives, friends, caring and compassionate neighbors, and the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

*"This life, endless in nature, has now become as indeed it should be, freed from the trammels of a mortal body, subject to sickness, pain, infirmity, and every human limitation – set free to live out its endlessness, its deathlessness, in the joyous felicity of eternal joy. Why weep over such a change of sphere such a blessed promotion."*

# Order of Service

**Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 11:00am**  
Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church - Sumter, South Carolina

**Pastor Marion H. Newton**  
Officiant

**Musical Prelude**  
Christian Walker, Senior Performing Arts Student, Clemson University

**Processional** - Clergy and Family

**Opening Hymn** - Have Thine Own Way

**Scripture Readings**  
Psalm 23 - Pastor Ricky Simmons  
John 14:1-6 - Deaconess Louise Hutchinson

**Prayer** - Deacon Henry Hutchinson

**Reflections**  
(Please limit to 3 min.)  
Dr. Leroy Cooper, Asst. Professor Vassar College  
*Poughkeepsie, NY, Friend*  
Terra Walker Jean-Louis and April Dabney Froe, *Neighbors*  
Larry Stukes, *Uncle/Allison Griffith Sims, Sister*

**Presentation** - Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

**Selection** - *God Is / JMBC Combined Choir*

**Words of Comfort**  
Pastor Nate Brock

**Call to Discipleship**

**Closing Prayer** - Pastor Nate Brock

**Clemson University Alma Mater**  
(All Please Stand)  
Led by, Kimberly Griffith-Massey

**Recessional** - Medley of Songs

