

"I FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, AND I HAVE KEPT MY FAITH."

2 Timothy 4:7

Celebrating Life and Legacy of



Heaven Sent
SEPTEMBER 20, 1946

Heaven Bound
MARCH 12, 2026

DEACON

CHARLES EDWARD THOMAS

PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
950 E 45TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90011

Pastor Dr. Albert Nicholas

Order of Celebration

Officiant:

PASTOR REV. DR. ALBERT NICHOLAS
Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church

Processional Entrance of Family

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Rev. Thomas Owens

New Testament Rev. Dr. Marzette McGary -Hawkins

Prayer Minister Bobby Johnson

Musical Selection Bro. Michael Canier

Special Tribute Pastor Joyce Williams

Resolutions & Acknowledgments Sis. LaDeane Simmons

Reading of Obituary Orlando Jackson

Remarks (2 minutes, please)

Musical Selection Bro. Michael Canier

Eulogy Pastor Elton Johnson

Metropolitan Baptist Church

Recessional



Obituary

On September 20, 1946, Charles Edward Thomas was born to Beatrice McClain and later adopted and raised by Alice McClain and J.C. Thomas in Shreveport, Louisiana. Charles is the third born of twelve siblings.

Charles came to California in 1956. He attended Ralph Bunche Middle School and graduated from Compton High School.

Charles joined the United States Army from 1967-1969. Short afterwards, he met and married Bertha Lee, and to this union was born an amazing, beautiful baby girl, who they affectionately named, "Carla Edwina" (his one and only child).

Charles was baptized and received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Personal Savior. As an adult, he attended Unity of Christ Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor L.B. Haynes, where he first was ordained and served as Deacon. He later joined Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Dr. Reverend Albert Nicholas, where he served as Deacon and Pastor Armor Bearer for several years.

In 2009, Charles met his better half, "Queen Mercedes". One year later, on April 29, 2010, they were joined in Holy Matrimony by Pastor Nicholas.

In 2018, Deacon Charles moved his membership to the Metropolitan Baptist Church, under the leadership of Pastor Elton Johnson, where he served as a faithful member and Deacon until his illness began to fail.

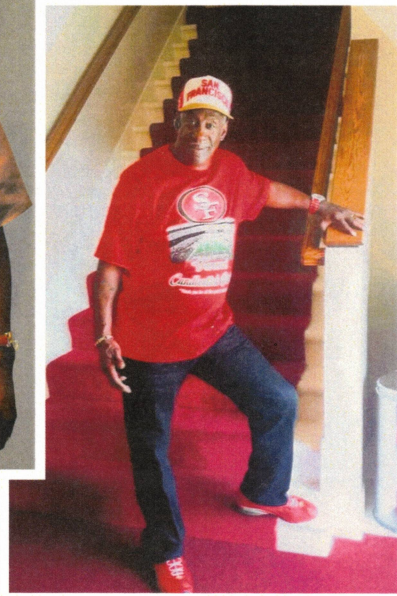
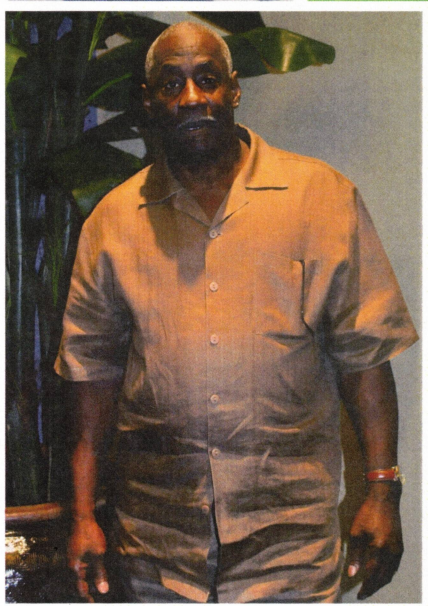
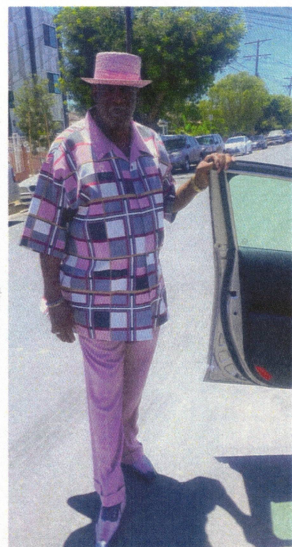
During Charles lifetime he worked a variety of jobs,

His main was being a sharp dresser with a smooth walk and a lot of swag!

On March 12, 2016, Deacon Charles Edward Thomas received his wings after a long fight. He did not go easy. He fought like a soldier until the end.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, 2 brothers James and Jerome, one sister - Juanita ("Cuppy") and one granddaughter, Terrianna.

Charles leaves to cherish in his memory: his loving wife, Mercedes; his seven sisters, Shirley, Alice, Elaine, Joyce, Mary, Denise and Bonnie; and one brother, Ronnie; one daughter, Carla; two bonus daughters, Dianne and Cindy (Cedric); two bonus sons, Juwayne and Jemal; three grandchildren, Keiara, Erica and Taylor; three great-grandchildren, Ryel, Emery and Scarlette; And a host of Bonus grand and great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, Church family and friends.

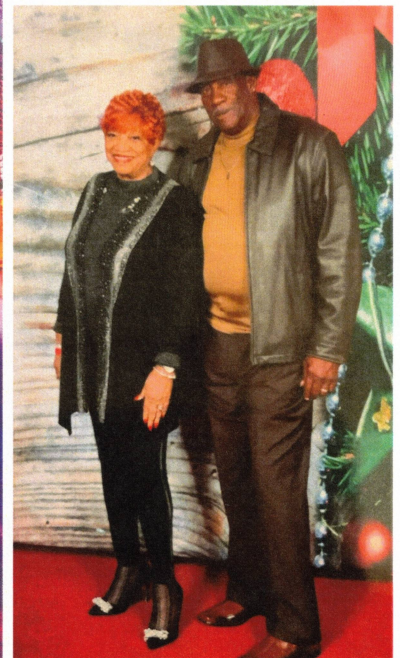
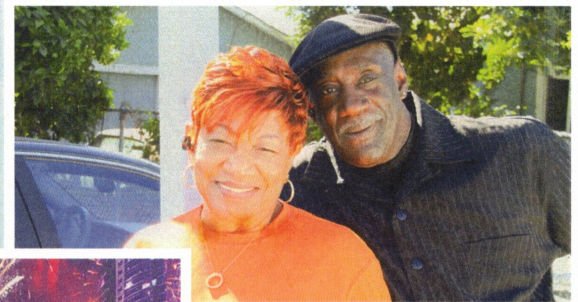


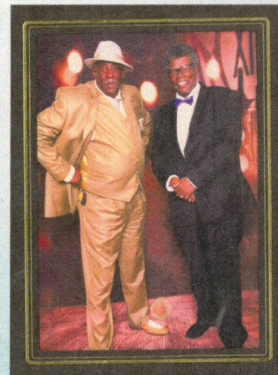
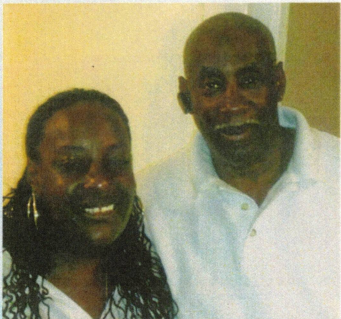
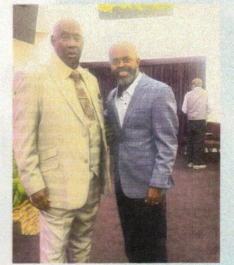
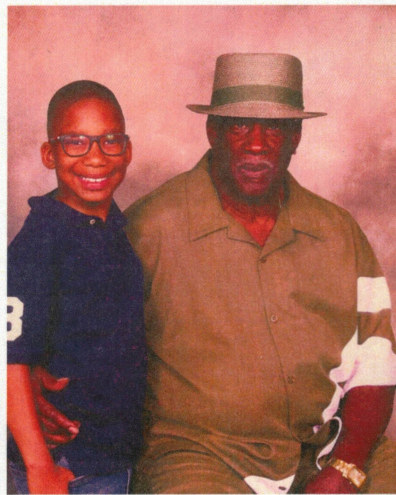
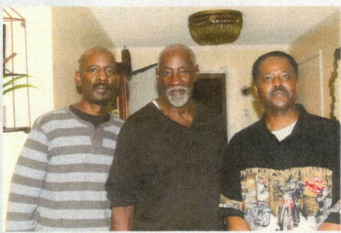
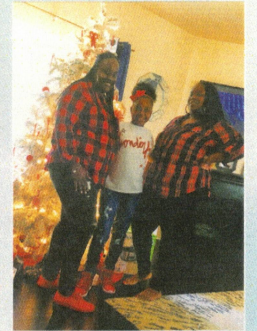
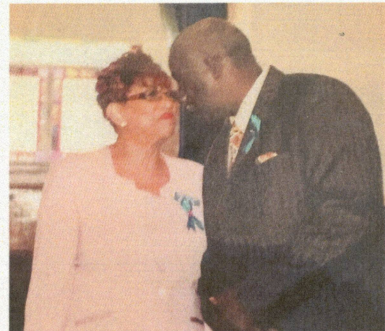
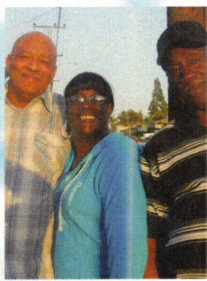
*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took His hand when I heard His call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work, to play
tasks left undone must stay that way
I've found peace at the end of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss
Ah, yes these things I will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times,
A loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

Missing My Husband

*I thought of him with love today,
But that is nothing new.
I thought about him yesterday,
And days before that, too.*

*I think of him in silence.
I often speak his name.
All I have are memories,
And his picture in a frame.*

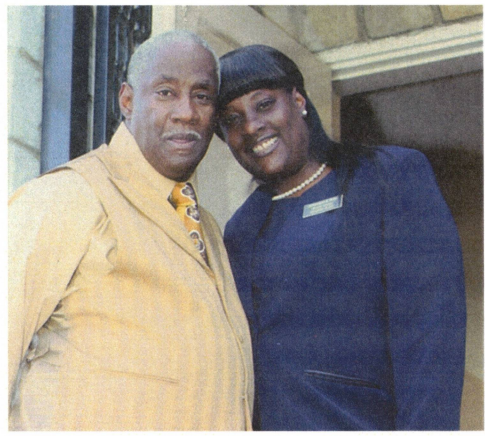




My Daddy,

I just want you to know you meant the world to me. Only a heart as dear as yours would have given so unselfishly. The many things you've done. All the times that you were there helped me know how deep down inside how much you really did care. Even though I never did tell you how I appreciated all you have done. Richly blessed is how I feel to have a Dad just like you.

Love,
Your daughter
Carla



Charles,

Now you rest where stars shine through,
In peaceful realms beyond our view.
I'll miss your voice, your warmth, your cheer,
I will keep you in my heart, so near.

Love,
Dianne

Dear Grandfather,

We may not have been blood, but you were my grandpa, in every way that truly matters since I was in the fifth grade! I will never forget those Normandie Christian School and Frederick Douglas school pick up days. Those rides in the van meant more to me than you probably ever realized. Every Friday when you would let me choose where we went to eat, whether it was Wingstop, McDonalds, or anywhere else my heart and stomach desired. I FELT SO SPECIAL. You will forever be the \$20 man to me.

I think about those days all the time and I really believe I am as silly as I am today because of us bagging on each other and us in the car cracking jokes. I still remember whenever we would see someone walking down the street pushing baskets and you'd jokingly say "That's me" and we would just laugh. Those were such simpler times, and they were some of the happiest moments of my life. I would trade anything to go back to just one more ride like that.

I would do anything to hear your voice call me on the phone and we make our inside jokes about Snoopy. She would get mad at us for keeping secrets from her. I will miss you calling just to say you love me and to see when I am coming back to Los Angeles. I also appreciate the way you always pushed me to be different and to go to a four-year college. You would say don't be like the rest of the family, go off and stay on campus and experience real college life. You believed in me and saw something in me before I even saw it in myself. Because of you, I learned what it feels like to be supported, guided and truly cared for by a father figure.

Thank you for the rides, the food, the jokes for being there for me like your own, and for giving me memories that I will carry with me forever. I am sad, but I also have peace knowing this is not goodbye forever. I know I will see you again. So, for now I will just say ... tell your people to call my people. I love you always.

Maya

Papa Charles,

As a Stepdad, you did not have to choose me but you did, and you loved me and my Kids and grandkids as your own. That choice meant everything and I will carry it with me for the rest of my life. Thank you for the laughter and steady presence you gave our family. You showed me that family isn't just about blood - it's about love, commitment and showing up every time. Your kindness, your strength and your love will live on through all of us. We will keep your spirit alive. You will be truly missed. Especially when you were mad at me and say, "I'm Straight."

Love,
Your Bonus Daughter
Cindy Lou (I'm Straight)

To My Little Brother Charles,

As we spoke recently on the phone before God called you Home to be present with Him, we spoke and reminded each other of our younger days and as siblings our most memorable times. We spoke about God and how good God has been. We spoke honor to our Aunt Alivec and our Uncle JC who adopted you with love as their son in addition to myself as their daughter. They were God sent angels. We remembered with great joy in our hearts.

How we loved helping Aunt Alice pick juju berries and pecans. We shared memories of how much fun we had helping Uncle JC with the chickens. We laughed as we shared memories of our school days. You would eat your lunch and mine too. I love you Little Brother Charles and may your presence with God be loving peaceful, joyful.

Love,
Your Big Sister
Shirley

Pallbearers

Orlando Johnson Deacon Michael Gray Deacon Terry Wright Leroy Wise
Marcells Moore, Sr. Deacon Anthony Graves Deacon Adwin Mitchell Irving Moreno

Honorary Pallbearers

Deacon Cedric Edwards Jarreau Rice Michael Moore
Min. Bobby Johnson Jorrie Estrada Kenneth Moore
Clifton Dunn

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, flowers or sat quietly in a chair.
If so, we saw you there.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as everyone can say.
Perhaps you were not here at all, just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much for
whatever part you played.

The Family

~ NO REPAST ~

Interment

Inglewood Park Cemetery
720 E. Florence Ave. Inglewood, CA 90301

Special Thanks

Pastor Elton Johnson - Metropolitan Baptist Church
Pastor Dr. Albert Nicholas - Pilgrim Baptist Church
Pastor D. Keith Green, Sr. - The Living Gospel Church
Deacon and Deaconess of The Metropolitan Baptist Church

OBITUARY DESIGNED BY:
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