

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of the Late Dale L. Lakes extends our sincere gratitude to our friends and our loved ones for their expressions of sympathy. You have shown your love through prayers, calls, visits, preparing food, cards and flowers; and these many acts of kindness have not gone unnoticed and for those deeds we; the Cowans and Lakes Family are forever grateful. A special "Thank You" to Mississippi Baptist Hospital of Jackson, MS and Select Specialty Hospital including their physicians and staff for all services rendered. A greater "Thank You" to Vickey Morton for her unwavering support of our "beloved" brother - the Late Dale L. Lakes. And to our sister, Liz "Ree" Woodall there are no words that can express our thoughts of your daily, hands-on care of our brother - we are uniquely blessed to have you as our "Sister!" We, Thank You All...

The Cowans and Lakes Family

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Eli Cowans | Earnest Woodall, Sr. | Chris Jones

Earnest Woodall, Jr. | Carlos Lakes | Earl Lakes

Stephen Lakes | Steve Lakes, Jr. | Deon Clay

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Elder Charles Cowans | Michael Lakes | Asst. Pastor Jessie Lakes

Charles Douglas | Robert Lakes | Sherman Cowans

Steve Lakes | Sylvester Morton

FLOWER BEARERS

Friends

INTERMENT

*St. Luke Church of God in Christ Church Cemetery
59 St. Luke Church Rd - Benton, MS*

REPAST

St Luke Church of God in Church Fellowship Hall

FUNERAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

SCOTT MEMORIAL
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1401 E. Broadway Street ~ Yazoo City, MS 39194
662.746.0046

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE



Mr. Dale L. Lakes

Sunrise: September 29, 1971 ♦ Sunset: May 29, 2023

"FAT CAT"

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2023 AT 1:00 PM

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

729 CALHOUN AVENUE - YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI 39194

THE OFFICIANTS:

ELDER CHARLES COWANS & ASST. PASTOR JESSIE LAKES

LIFE REFLECTIONS

"I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; and I have kept the faith" ~ II Timothy 4:7

Birth: In the State of Mississippi within the County of Yazoo; on the 29th day during the month of September in the year of Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-One; a baby boy was born to Bessie C. Lakes and Johnny Lakes and this baby was named Dale L. Lakes. Dale was the youngest of twelve siblings. **As an infant:** he was not well; and as the baby of the bunch- Dale gained "Royalty - King" treatment and favor from his older siblings - unknowingly, the siblings created a rambunctious rascal.

Education: Dale was a member of Benton High School Graduating Class of 1990; where he served multiple terms as the President of Future Farmers of America. **Confession of Faith:** As a young child; Dale confessed his faith and love for our Lord; and as an adult "He kept his faith"! Dale was a devoted member of St. Luke Church of God in Christ where he worked diligently in many capacities including serving as the Adult Sunday School Teacher.

Community Involvement: In our Yazoo Community Dale L. Lakes was a past Member of The Yazoo County Laymen Association; The Yazoo Chapter of the NAACP; and The Yazoo County Democratic Committee. Mr. Lakes supported College Scholarship Drives and sponsored annual "Back to School Supply Drives" within various local communities. Dale led the pack for "Santa" support, providing bicycles and skateboards to many underprivileged children. To our Senior Citizens, Dale Lakes was well known for his ham and turkey holiday give aways and during the summer months Watermelons was his favorite treat coupled with cases of water "all for our elderly community!" Dale Lakes had a genuine desire to serve the people of his District as he had multiple unsuccessful bids to gain the Seat of Yazoo County Supervisor. **As A Good Neighbor:** Dale was the epitome of the insurance slogan "Like A Good Neighbor"-as ("Fat Cat") was always there" as the first to offer a helping hand to his neighbors- when disaster struck.

Personality: Dale L. (Fat Cat) Lakes will forever be remembered as "a kind, compassionate spirit with a "heart full of love!" For we know that everyone who encountered him benefitted in some form or fashion. Fat Cat's dedication to his family and friends was priceless! During conversations- Dale would offer sound doctrine, common sense, as he spoke great volumes on "doing the right thing!" While offering support in every aspect of our lives. We will always have laughter in our hearts as we keep in our memories his witty personality; his love for dancing; and his "trash talking - brag on Fat Cat's Smoke House; the big fellow knew he could cook!

Work History: Dale ("Fat Cat") Lakes was a successful Entrepreneur as he formed Dale Lakes Trucking and Construction, LLC; during July of 2009; and maintained a lasting working relationship for many years as a contractor with APAC, MS. **Health Issues:** Dale defeated the grave many times as "He fought a good fight"; when his health started to decline; and forced him into retirement from his trucking business in 2021.

Transition: Dale L. (Fat Cat) Lakes finished his earthly course and departed this life on the 29th day during the month of May in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Three. **Circle of Death:** In his departure Dale joins his parents; and two brothers; Sam Lakes and John Cowans who preceded him in death.

Cherish Memories: In his departure, there are many who will cherish his memories including nine siblings to which -six brothers; Elder Charles (the late Freddie Jean) Cowans of Cordova, TN; Earl (Oneda) Lakes of Yazoo City, MS; Asst Pastor Jessie (Stephanie) Lakes of Jackson, MS; Robert (Keisha) Lakes of Memphis, TN; Steve (Lydia) Lakes of Benton, MS; and Michael (Florenicia) Lakes of Memphis, TN; and three sisters; Bessie Bennett of Memphis, TN; Liz (Earnest) Woodall of Terry, MS; and Brinder Lakes of Benton, MS; in addition to Charles Douglas his "baby brother/nephew", and one sister in law, Nobie (the late John) Cowans of Charleston, MS. Those who will also miss him are - a very loyal and dedicated special friend Vickey Morton and her children; Kanasha and Deon; Goddaughters; Jasmine Cary; and Keirra McRae and two Grand -God Daughters; Khole and Kine McRae; Cynthia J Walker and the Allen Siblings and a legion of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and his trucking family and friends.



TRIBUTES

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:14

First, I acknowledge the church and its officials, most certainly, my deepest condolences to the family, my wife Liz, who I affectionately call Ree, of 42 years and counting, our children, my sisters and brothers-in-laws, nieces, nephews, extended family, friends, and all those who have been blessed to have known my brother-in-law, Dale.

In this moment, I am reminded that death is an inevitable path we all must travel; it is certain to happen. I am blessed to have known Dale for the majority of his life. He was young and mischievous; however, he was a humble and energetic young adolescent.

Dale was more than just my brother-in-law, to me, he was a little brother. I watched him evolve from a young boy to a self-sufficient adult. Dale was a man who kept his promises, he assumed responsibility for his actions, he was punctual, he never used excuses to avoid commitments, and, most of all, Dale was not afraid to show himself as he was.

His character was solid. He was always willing to go an extra mile to help anyone in need, including me. I am reminded of a time, when my eldest son took ill and Ree and I needed to travel over to Georgia to be by his side. Without hesitation, Dale unselfishly dropped what he was doing to drive us over to support our child. This act of kindness showed and taught me about altruism. Altruism is showing an unselfish concern for the welfare of others, even at a risk or cost to ourselves. Being altruistic like Dale is a character trait that propels humanity forward.

Dale, I will miss our talks; the many jokes we shared. During those moments, our rapport strengthened and our bond as brothers grew stronger. I do not want you to worry about Ree; I am devoted to continuing to take great care of her for you and your surviving siblings.

There is a deep pain in my heart now that you are gone. Now it is time for you to rest my brother because I know our God is saying, "Servant Well Done."

As I conclude my thoughts, allow me to end with these words from II Timothy 4:7-8. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Our Beloved Honorable Brother Dale L. Lakes has gained his wings and earned his crown.

Until We Meet Again ~ Earnest Woodall, Sr.

Not Ready to Let You Go

Adapted By: Dr. Earnest Woodall, Jr.

We wish that we could tell you; We are not ready to let you go.

You have already departed this life; Our hearts are feeling very low.

We will miss your laughter; Your laughter would light up our eyes.

We will miss the sound of your voice, your jovial smile and profound sighs.

But most of all we will miss the joy you made us feel,

Like nothing could ever harm us; Your love and protection was genuinely strong and real.

Uncle Dale, your nieces and nephews will miss you, as we are gathered here today.

Your advice influenced us in such an infectious way.

We want you to know we love you, and our hearts are filled with sadness and grief.

None of us really want to say goodbye; Instead, we all wish you eternal peace.

With Eternal Love ~ Your Nieces & Nephews

CELEBRATION SERVICE

Program Guide - Missionary Ozie Greenwood Chesser

Prelude Soft Music
Processional Pastors/Elders/Family

Prayer of Comfort Pastor Samson Greenwood
Philadelphia Church of God in Christ (Canton, MS)

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Old Testament Asst. Pastor Jessie Lakes
New Mount Olive Baptist Church (Jackson, MS)

New Testament Pastor Milton Haymer, Jr.
Life Changing Ministries Church of God In Christ (Pickens, MS)

Music Selection..... "When I See Jesus, Amen" Sis Tina Hollins Ingram

Words of Comfort..... Pastor John Jefferson
St. Luke Church of God in Christ (Benton, MS)

Music Selections "If I Had Wings" Sis. Mary Ann Crump

Obituary Read Silently..... Soft Music

REFLECTIONS:

As A Church Member..... Missionary Dorothy Washington-Jefferson

As A Sunday School Teacher..... Superintendent of Sunday School
Mother Catherine Smith

As A Truck Driver..... Bro. Deon Smith

As Our King on Earth Bro. Charles Douglas

As A Family Member Dr. Earnest Woodall, Jr. (Atlanta, GA)

Music Selections "His Eyes Are on the Sparrow" Sis. Kirstin Lakes

RESOLUTIONS:

St Luke Church of God in Christ Missionary Ozie Greenwood Chesser

Benton High School Class of 1990.....

Acknowledgement Sis Cynthia Johnson Walker

Musical Selection..... "Jesus Cares" Bro. Lorenzo Thomas

Eulogy Elder Charles Cowans and Asst. Pastor Jessie Lakes

Final Viewing Funeral Directors in Charge

Music Selection..... "Take Me to The King" Sis. Sumbae Burns

Recessional Soft Music

TRIBUTES

I recently had a talk with the Lord, last week.
I talked for a good while and he listened, and just let me speak.
I said, "I was growing tired, and my body was feeling weary, too!"
So, I asked "for the Lord to heal me because I have so much more to do!"
Then the Lord spoke to me and let me know
"He will never put more on me than I can bear."
The way you're feeling is because I'm coming to take you away from there.
I have a job that was created and made just with you in mind,
So, you must come unto me where I can put you on eternal time.
Now, I'm calling for you to come and take your well-deserved rest,
So, you can become the Guardian Angel for the family that's going to be in a mess.
Don't worry, it's going to be hard for everyone, but they are all going to be ok.
They love you, care for you and have a lifetime of memories they will think of every day.
Now, come Dale let me lead you on over to the other side.
There's no more hurt, pain, sorrow, or death and only peace love and happiness abide.
They love you; this will hurt and sometimes they might even cry;
But each time this happens you will be there to comfort them as their Guardian Angel in the sky.



They Chose You ... You may wonder why-
Why were your friend chosen to leave earth so soon? When it appeared they still had so much left to do!
So, instead remind yourself that while they were still here, they Chose You!
They Chose You ... To be one of their confidants one of their closest friends
To share in their life memories and when death got close
They Chose You; to be one of the "Keepers" of their dreams for their family!
And when death finally arrived, they Chose You.
AGAIN, to be the last person on this earth that they would call.
So, on today, we celebrate that they Chose You; as one of our "Keepers"!
Because their" plans to send their four girls to college were accomplished just because
They Chose You ~and all of our needs; all of our concerns and all of that fatherly redirection "to follow the rules" and
that constant reminder "to do what Mr. Walker would expect us to do" - our success is founded on that.
"THEY" ~ Mr. Larry D. Walker CHOSE YOU" - as one of our "KEEPERS" ...
We love you - Mr. Lakes
Silver, Samore, Spenser, Sharmaine, Sincere, Fonzo, Forest, and Zakiya



"FAREWELL, My Friend"

"This cemetery is too small for his spirit; But we commit his body to the ground!
This grave is too narrow for his soul; But we commit his body to the ground!
No coffin, no crypt, no stone can hold his love for us;
But we commit his body to the ground! Because our love will never end;
our lives are FOREVER changed; as we commit his body to the ground!
"FAREWELL, My Friend"

Contributor: Cynthia Johnson Walker

TRIBUTES

You are a precious gift from God above. So much patience and so much love. You touch our hearts in so many ways; you smiled so bright, even on bad days. You heard God's whisper calling you home. You didn't want to go and leave us alone. You loved us so much and held on tight, until all the strength was gone and you could no longer fight. God had called your name twice before, you could not make him wait anymore. You gave your hand to God and slowly drifted away, in hopes that we would be together again someday. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone for part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

Kanesha Morton, Jeremy Clay, Vickey Morton



To: Dale

From: Brothers, Sisters, Loved Ones, and Friends

His Spirit is Alive

To all who've been given the precious gift of life,
The day is going to come when you will have to meet Christ!
Get your house in order, so when your time has arrived.
Your body will lay dead, but your spirit will be Alive.
Well, his time has come, and he just can't wait;
His next stop will be the pearly gates.
He's going to walk on the streets that are made of gold.
He won't get sick, and he doesn't have to get old.
That old shell that you all can see, don't worry about it. His soul has been set free.
He's already gone to the other side, his body lays dead, but his Spirit is Alive.
Now, we want to leave a message for all of you.
Let the Lord guide you when you are going through!
Trust and believe in HIM with all of your heart.
And the two of you will never part.
Even on the day when the Death Angel has arrived ~
Your body will lie dead, but your spirit will surely be Alive!



Dale, you have been my Big Baby ever since you were 8 years old. I remember the exact day. Your mom wanted to spank you for something that I knew you did not do. From that day forward, you would cling to me when you saw me. I have watched you grow into one of the hardest working men, that I have ever come across. You were kind, generous, thoughtful, caring, sweet and knew how to care for people in general. That is why you are loved by so many. Even this year, when you were in the hospital, you called me just to let me know that you hadn't forgotten my birthday and I told you not to worry about me, just get well and come home. Zeiglerville will never be the same. Seeing that red truck top the hill always did my heart joy. You would sometimes start blowing your horn as soon as you hit the dirt road. We would say Dale's home!! Big Baby just know I love you and miss you so much!!

Your Godmother ~ Catherine "Baby Sister" Smith



TRIBUTE... No words can't describe the loss we feel- you see; you were more than our Uncle Dale, you were our granddad who said 'yes' to every 'no'! Ya'll, we are not confused because Uncle Dale thought he was our brother Steve (our dad's) daddy! So, we could just walk out the door, cross over the yard, and get the 'yes' for whatever there was that we asked of him! Thank you for loving us and our lives were richly blessed because we had you. **Asia and Bank**