

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF



L A D Y

MALAIKA *Shani*  
HOWARD

NOVEMBER 29, 1977 - AUGUST 17, 2023

LADY

MALAIKA *Shani*  
HOWARD

*The Journey*

**Malaika Shani Howard**, a native of Chicago, Illinois, lived most of her life in Clarksdale, Mississippi. On August 17, 2023, surrounded by her loving husband, John, and their three children, Japhia, Jordan, and Judah, Malaika transitioned from one life to another.

Malaika was born on November 29, 1977, to her parents, the late Rita Virginia Teague and James Alphonso Teague. During her adolescence, Malaika lost her loving mother to cancer and grew up under the care of her aunt, Henri Carol Lucas, who accepted her mother's role.

After graduating from Frederick Douglas High School in Atlanta, Georgia, Malaika went on to Jackson State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in 1999, and later graduated Summa Cum Laude from Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, with a Master of Arts In Teaching Degree in 2007.

A gifted poet and songstress, Malaika, in her high school years, was inspired and recognized by Dr. Maya Angelou for her talent. At JSU, she sang in the Jackson Interfaith Choir and with the gospel group BLESSED. During this time, Malaika became passionate about her Christian faith and devotion to her Lord and Savior, Jesus.

In her junior year at JSU, Malaika met her devoted husband, John. They were united in holy matrimony in an overflow of love on December 16, 2000. When John began pastoring St. Mark Church of God in Christ in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, First Lady Malaika served faithfully as a bible teacher, intercessor, member of the leadership and worship teams, soloist, and lover of God's people.

Malaika served as a licensed educator for more than 20 years. In 2008 she earned the distinction of Clarksdale Municipal School District Teacher of the Year. Her former W. A. Higgins Junior High School students remember her intelligence, and empathy; a feisty teacher who loved students as if they were her own. After retiring from teaching, she founded a business consulting firm, Better Than Beautiful Academy, dedicated to helping organizations and individuals develop and formalize their entrepreneurial endeavors. She was a relentless woman of faith with souls in her eyesight and a pure passion in her heart for God.

To say that her family and friends will miss her dramatically is an understatement. Her friends describe her as relatable, open, honest, and unselfish. She often neglected the needs of herself for the needs and well-being of her many friends and family.

Her mother, Rita Virginia Teague, and maternal grandmother, Esther Cannon, preceded Malaika in death.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her devoted husband, Pastor John M. Howard; her children: Japhia (daughter), Jordan (son), and Judah (daughter); her siblings: Kenya Williams (sister), Folami Bahati Teague (sister), Gyasi Kaba Gillespie (brother), Brandon Wilmot Reames (brother); her aunts: Henri Carol Lucas, and Sarah Berry-Rabun; a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; and the St. Luke and St. Mark Church of God in Christ families. Her short journey on earth touched countless numbers of lives.

*A scholarship is being established in honor of Lady Malaika Howard. In lieu of flowers, the family requests monetary contributions to the scholarship fund via Cashapp at \$johnzkidz.*

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2023  
12:00 NOON

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST STATE HEADQUARTERS  
376 SUNFLOWER AVENUE  
CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI 38614

BISHOP WILLIAM DEAN, JR.  
PRELATE, MISSISSIPPI NORTHERN ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

PASTOR EZRA HOWARD

OFFICIANT  
ST. LUKE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
MOORHEAD, MS

PASTOR ALBERT TATE

EULOGIST  
FELLOWSHIP MONROVIA  
MONROVIA, CALIFORNIA

# ORDER OF SERVICE

Pastor Craig & Lady Sherry Johnson, Expeditors

Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor Jeremiah Penro

Old Testament Scripture.....Missionary Mary Sutton

New Testament Scripture.....Elder Rayenardo Black

Words of Comfort.....**Bishop William Dean, Jr.**  
*Prelate, Mississippi Northern Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*

*Lord Do It*.....Malaika Howard Celebration Choir  
Lead by Grace Royal

Remembering Malaika

College Years to Now.....(Lamar & Mae Mae) Lamar & Chrishanna Cherry  
(Zuri & Meek) Zuri Williams & Tomeka Graves

*I've Got A Reason*.....Malaika Howard Celebration Choir  
Lead by Marian Hickmon-Smith

Remembering Malaika

Family (Siblings).....Folami, Kenya, Brandon, Gyasi  
Family (Cousin).....Jhmeid Billingslea

*New Life* .....Malaika Howard Celebration Choir  
Lead by Evangelist Carlos Johnson

Remembering Malaika

Work & Church .....Carmelle Ellis  
Miram Holmes  
Shanta Stewart

Acknowledgments & Resolutions.....Cheryl Green

Reflections.....Judah (Malaika's Mini Me)

*Feels Like Heaven*.....Choir & Congregation

Eulogy.....**Pastor Albert Tate**  
*Fellowship Monrovia*  
*Monrovia, California*



“**Malaika** taught me how to love people, she made me a better man. God sent her to me, my life will never be the same. I am thankful that she allowed me to be her Plus One, because without question, wherever we went, she was always the star!

- *John*



Dear Malaika

My sister, my friend, you were an inspiration to many; your selflessness, unconditional love, and wisdom will remain with us always. Mere words cannot adequately summarize or describe a friendship of almost thirty years, nor the void that your sudden transition has left in my heart. I will keep your memory alive by cherishing every moment we spent together and honoring your legacy through your children, always. I find solitude in knowing that we both understood our love for each other, and we will one day be together again for eternity.

- Kila



Feels Like Heaven

(Chorus)  
Feels Like Heaven in the room,  
For your grace has brought us through  
Now that we have overcome  
We're waiting on you (2x)  
When we all get together







## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Luke Howard  
Joshua Howard  
James Howard  
Zion Turner  
Caleb Stewart  
Leon Walker

## ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Jhmeid Billingslea  
Gyasi Gillespi  
Jarrell Jordan  
Dereck Rabun  
Brandon Reames

## FLOWER BEARERS

Ministers Wives  
Women of St. Luke and  
St. Mark Church of God in Christ

## INTERMENT

Heavenly Rest Cemetery  
Clarksdale, Mississippi

## REPAST

Bishop T. T. Scott Fellowship Center

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

Scott Memorial Funeral Home  
1401 E. Broadway Street  
Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*During the hardest time of our lives, your phone calls, text messages, visits and gifts served as the hands and feet of God. God used you to prove that He is a very present help in the time of trouble. Please accept what we know is not nearly enough, but it is all we have. **THANK YOU.***

*Japhia, Jordan, Judah, and John*



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*Servant, Well Done*