

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND SINCERE THANKS

We, the family of Elder John Jefferson, are most grateful for all expressions of sympathy, condolences and love that have been shown to us during this time of bereavement. We sincerely thank each of you for your prayers, cards of comfort and encouragement, visits, phone calls, texts, monetary donations, food contributions and whatever your act of kindness was in showing your love to us. We indeed express our sincere thanks to the Baptist Hospital Critical Care-ICU Team for their professional and compassionate care of Elder Jefferson. Special Thanks to the St. Luke Church of God in Christ, the churches of the Yazoo District #9 and the entire Mississippi Northern Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the COGIC.

With much love,

*Missionary Dorothy Washington-Jefferson, Miriam
and the entire Jefferson families*

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

*Jurisdictional Board of Elders
of the MS Northern Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of COGIC*

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

*Rickey Anderson | Jessie Lakes | Michael Lakes
Robert Lakes | Steve Lakes | Brady Mayberry*

FLOWER BEARERS

Minister's Wives and Missionaries

INTERMENT

*St. Luke COGIC Cemetery
Benton, MS 39039*

REPAST

*St. Luke Church of God in Christ
59 St. Luke Church Road
Benton, MS 39039*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:



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REMEMBERING THE LIFE & LEGACY OF

PASTOR John Wesley JEFFERSON

ALPHA:

April 18, 1953



SUNSET:

January 15, 2025

*"Resting in the
Loving Arms of the Lord."*

Friday, January 24, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

729 Calhoun Avenue - Yazoo City, MS 39194

BISHOP WILLIAM DEAN, JR.

Prelate of MS Northern Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT JOHN HENRY SCOTT, SR.

Host Pastor, Officiant and District #9 Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT CLARENCE BENSON

Jurisdictional Sunday School Superintendent MS Northern Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

LEGACY OF A SERVANT

ELDER JOHN WESLEY JEFFERSON

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. ~ (II Timothy 4:7-8 KJV)

John Welsey Jefferson was born April 18, 1953, in Holmes County, Mississippi to the late Beatrice Jefferson and O. Z. Meeks. His parents, stepmother – O'Dean Hoover, his first wife – Amy Jean Jefferson and five siblings – Charles Jefferson, Mary Boston, Britton Hoover, Belinda Johnson and Michael Johnson preceded him in death.

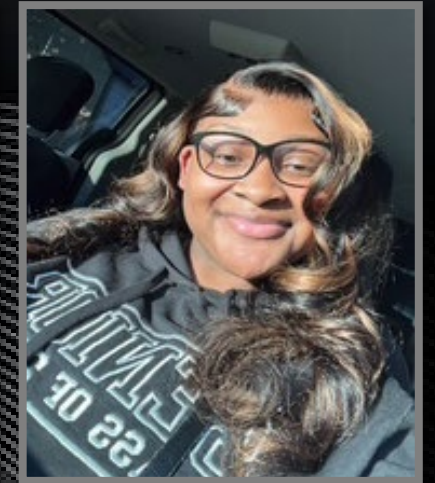
John received his formal education through the Yazoo City School District and graduated from High School in Compton, California. As a professional, he was an over-the-road Truck Driver and Tour Bus Driver for more than 40 years.

On December 20, 2003, **John** united in holy matrimony with Missionary Dorothy Washington. To this union one daughter was born. **John** still held a sparkle and a glow in his eyes for his wife, Dorothy as he did whatever he could to provide and care for she and their daughter. Dorothy was the sunshine of his life.

John's testimony was that he was moved by the word of God during a revival in Compton, California and he gave his life to the Lord, with a commitment to work for the Lord until his day was done. After accepting the Lord as his personal Savior in California, **John** later moved back to Yazoo City, Mississippi where he joined the St. Matthew Church of God In Christ (COGIC), under the pastorage of the late Elder Percy Dean. After the demised of Elder Dean, **John** remained a member at St. Matthew under the leadership of Superintendent John H. Scott. At the St. Matthew, **Minister Jefferson** served faithfully in his support of his Pastor – Superintendent Scott and to the church, always availing himself to do and carry out the work of the ministry. In 2007, after completing his theological studies in the C. H. Mason Seminary School of the COGIC Northern MS Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, **Minister John Jefferson**, was ordained as an Elder in the COGIC. After seeking the Lord for directions on his next move, **Elder Jefferson** was led to move his membership to the St. James COGIC in Vaughan, Mississippi, under the leadership of Pastor Samuel L. Anderson. **Elder Jefferson** was a faithful servant in supporting the vision of Pastor Anderson and worked diligently in all areas of the Church from being an associate elder to availing himself to do whatever was asked of him to do.

On December 14, 2014, **Elder John Jefferson** was appointed Pastor of the St. Luke COGIC in Benton, Mississippi, by the late Bishop Timothy Titus Scott. Upon receiving this appointment, **Elder Jefferson** immediately began to seek the Lord for direction and guidance in being a good shepherd of the flock that God had placed in his hands. **Elder Jefferson** was not only a shepherd that fed the flock with the word, but he was a builder of the temple of God in that he worked day and night in restoring and renovating the church, he instituted ministries of outreach to feed the community through the giving out of food boxes to the members and other in need, he was a man of prayer and fasting continually seeking the Lord on how to do and what to do to meet the needs of the members. **Elder John Jefferson** took to heart being the shepherd of the St. Luke COGIC and even in his sickness, he rarely missed a service and was always available to talk with and encourage the people of God. **Elder Jefferson** was most attentive to listening and being obedient to the voice of the Lord; if the Lord said, do it, it was indeed his commitment to do the work. Additionally, **Elder Jefferson** was faithful to his local church, supportive in serving the District, in which he held the position of District #9 Sunday School Superintendent, and he was a loyal and financial supporter of the MS Northern Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, Inc.

On the early morning of Wednesday, January 15, 2025, John's heavenly Father saw that his servant had fought a good fight, kept the faith, and had finished his course and it was time for him to take his rest. At 7:20 a.m. at the Baptist Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi **Elder John Wesley Jefferson** transitioned from labor to reward. **Elder Jefferson** leaves to cherish his precious memories of love and legacy, his devoted and loving wife – Evangelist Missionary Dorothy Washington-Jefferson; one daughter – Miriam Johnae Jefferson of Benton, MS; one stepdaughter – Yolanda Johnson of Yazoo City, MS; one bonus goddaughter – Jeannette Boddy of Yazoo City, MS; three sisters – Ethel (Samuel) Clark of Orlando, FL; Yolando (Geoffrey) Mack of Atlanta, GA and Felicia (Virgil) Alexander of Saginaw, MI; five sisters-in-love – Maxine (Britton (D) Hoover of Jackson, MS; Dinne (Donald (D) Washington- Ensley of Jackson, MS; Zerita (Michael (D) Johnson of Saginaw, MI; Fannie (Alvin) Washington-Martin of Benton, MS; Joann (Joseph) Washington-Walker of Yazoo City, MS; one brother-in-love – Macarthur (Paula) Washington of Jackson, MS; one nephew/brother – Eddie (Bobbie Jean) Boston of Yazoo City, MS; one goddaughter – Jamiah Anderson of Ridgeland, MS; five step grandchildren, one step great-grandchild; and a host of aunts, uncles, godchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins, his District #9 church family and his beloved church family – the St. Luke Church Of God In Christ; the church that he loved and would often say at the close of service . . . "I love you all with the love of God and there's not a thing you can do about it."





ORDER OF SERVICE



(*Please stand where indicated)

The Call to Worship Superintendent Clarence Benson

*“The hour of Homegoing Celebration has come,
O Lord, hear our Prayers and accept our meditations, as we glorify thy name. Amen”*

*The Processional Bishop, Superintendents, State Officials, Pastors, Elder and the Family

*The Prayer of Comfort Pastor Samson Greenwood

*The Reading of the Scriptures
 Old Testament Scripture Elder Holsey Nelson
 New Testament Scripture Elder Milton Haymer

Musical Selection District #9 Choir

Church Family Tributes Three Minutes Please
 St. Luke COGIC – Benton, MS Missionary Mery Swan, Church Mother
 St. Luke COGIC – Benton, MS Elder Jessie Lakes, Associate Elder
 District #9 Missionary Margarite Owens, District Missionary

Ministerial Tributes Three Minutes Please
 As a Fellow Minister Dr. Johnny L. Anderson, District #9 Secretary
 As a Brother/Friend Supt. Willie A. Hodges, Superintendent District #6

Musical Selection District #9 Choir

Jurisdictional Tributes Three Minutes Please
 Jurisdictional Women’s Department Mother Mary Scott, Jurisdictional Supervisor
 Jurisdictional World Missions President (Father in the Gospel) President Samuel Anderson
 Jurisdictional Board of Elders Superintendent Andrew McClellon, Chairman
 Jurisdictional AIM Chairman Henry L. Walker, Chairman

Resolutions Elder Craig Johnson, Jurisdictional Secretary

Family Tributes Missionary Dinne Washington-Ensley

Acknowledgements Missionary Renee Virgil, Jurisdictional Sunday School Field Representative

The Obituary Read Silently Soft Music

Words of Encouragement Bishop William Dean, Jr., Jurisdictional Prelate

Sermonic Selection District #9 Choir

The Eulogy Superintendent John Henry Scott, Sr.
 Administrative Assistant and District #9 Superintendent

TRIBUTES

John, from the moment we said "I do" on December 20, 2003, you changed my life for the better, with so much sunshine and laughter. You became my strong pillar, my provider, my leader, my adviser, my confidant, my dearest friend, my companion, and my lover. We shared so many moments of love, fun and happiness. Then in November 2005, we were blessed with our most beautiful daughter, Miriam. You then had two – me as your wife and Miriam as your daughter that you spoiled and made sure that we were well taken care of, and all our needs were met. There was never a moment that you would not remember those special days (holidays, birthdays, etc.) and those special days that you just chose to let us know how much you loved us with the "Just Because" gifts, dinners, and outings. John, you were my spiritual leader as my Pastor and my counselor. You were there for me no matter what was going on. You always held my hand and heart. On the day that the Lord called you home, I held your hand as you said good-bye for now. You are now in the eternal care of our Father, and I say my "see you later, Dear" knowing that you are so much better, and we will meet again on that other shore.

Your Loving Wife, Dot-Dot

January 15, 2025 @ 7:05 a.m. my world was turned upside down. My hero, my heart, my person, my protector but most importantly my dad took his last breath. You and mom are my whole heart and now that you are gone half of my heart is gone. You meant the world to me dad. I'm so thankful for the 19 years God blessed me with you. Dad thank you all the hugs, kisses, talks of encouraging me, life lessons and always teaching me the importance of having a relationship with God. I will forever remember our daddy daughter dates; my favorite one was when we went to the movies, went to dinner and the whole dinner you were just telling me how proud you are of me. Ever since you have been gone dad, I just feel so empty and lost. You have always been here dad and now that you are gone, I just feel so numb and hurt. I miss you so much dad. I wish you were here just not in pain. It gives me some comfort in knowing that you are with God and not in pain. You don't have to worry about mom because I got mom. I love you so much dad and I'm going to miss you, but I know you are forever in my heart.

Love Your Baby Girl, Miriam

To my Loving Brother John,

Now that you are gone and no longer physically here with me, the bond we shared between the two of us will never be broken. I find comfort in knowing you are finally at peace and free of pain and the memories of you will remain forever in my heart and I love you more than anyone knows. I will miss you forever.

"For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.

So then whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." ~ Romans 14:8

Love Your Baby Sister, Ethel

Tribute to My Godfather,

As I look up to the skies above another day has come again, as time moves surely on –

But nothing now seems quite the same, to know that my dear Godfather is gone.

The days, weeks, and months ahead will never be the same.

Because a treasure beyond words can never be replaced.

The loss cannot be measured now, the void cannot be filled-

And though someday the grief may fade, your mark will live on still.

For even with my heavy heart, I know that I've been blessed.

To have been one whose life you touched with warmth that will last through infinity.

Love Always and Forever, Jeanette Boddy (Goddughter)

To My Godfather

I hope you knew just how lucky I felt to have had you as my godfather. You loved me unconditionally.

When I think of you, I count my blessings and thank the Lord above I had you as my godfather

because godfathers are chosen with love. The impact you had on my life I will cherish forever.

Love Your Goddaughter, Jamiah

TRIBUTES

To My Big Brother "Darren"

My heart is full of so many memories of my big brother that stand above the rest and every single one of them is filled with happiness. Whether it was when you would come to visit in Michigan, Chicago, Mississippi, Wisconsin or Atlanta, the walks, the talks, the prayers and the laughter we shared, I always hated to see you go. GOD saw you getting tired, a cure was not to be. So, He put His Arms around you and whispered, "Come with Me" That's why this special message is sent to Heaven above for the Angels to take care of you, to say hello to our family and to give you all my Love. With tearful eyes I watched you and saw you fade away, although I loved you dearly, I could not make you stay. For you were someone special, always so loving, kind and such a joy to know, that is why there was so much pain for me when it was time to let you go. A golden heart stopped beating, your tender hands at rest. GOD took you home to prove to us He only takes the Best. I will never forget you, and I hope you knew I Loved You.

I know that I have been blessed to have you for my brother, you were a step above the rest.

In Loving Memory of My Big Brother John "Darren" Jefferson

To My Bonus Brother,

Though our relationship was only for a short time it was an impact of a lifetime. Darius was my mom's bonus son my bonus brother. I came to know him later in my life yet no one would have ever known. He was such a kindhearted soul who loved his family and was so proud of his daughter. While his physical presence will be missed, know that our love is eternal. It will carry us through until we meet again.

Love Always Fee-Fee ❤️

For my Uncle John,

You were more like my brother, my heart is aching because you are no longer here with me, but the memories are flooding my mind with all the times we spent together helping you bring out all the visions you had for everybody to see. You will always be in my heart and with me. Rest in peace Unk.

Love, Eddie B.

To our Dear Brother-in-Love,

We became family from the start, and you remained so dear in our hearts. You loved and cared for our dear sister and niece with a love that could be seen by all, to be genuine and real. You were never hesitant in opening the doors of your home for holiday dinners and each time we gathered we felt the warmth of family and never as an in-law. We thank you for being a brother of strength, encouragement, wisdom, and a living example of a true man of God.

You are gone but shall never be forgotten.

**Love your Sisters & Brother-in-love,
Macarthur, Dinne, Fannie and Joann**

To our Uncle J,

The picture of our memories and moments with you could truly paint a work of art. Words will never express the hole you have left in our hearts. Your gracefulness was abundant and will never be replaced. You taught us to keep God first and that the rest would fall in place. We'll miss the Christmas Dinners, rides to church, the talks and especially the baked chicken. We will miss having that everlasting wisdom, and the way you were there to always listen. The void that you have left will never be replaced. Thank you for always being there. We love you and miss you. You always told us to "Don't say bye", so see you later Uncle J.

Love your nieces and nephews,

Adrianna, Cordarious, Jarius, Alvenia & Edward, Jr.

To my Dear Stepdad,

Before I could remember or know you or what a stepdad was you were there. It was because of my mother, Amy Jean Jefferson, that you were introduced and became a part of my life when I was around nine (9) months old. As much as I can remember you were always there. You were "Big John" to my children. Even after the death of my mother, you were there. John, you were and took the role of being my dad and granddad to my children. Thank you for always being there for us. You will forever be there in our hearts.

Love you Big John, Lon-Lon