



Pastor Ezra Eugene Russ

October 5, 1940 - May 4, 2024

Ezra Eugene Russ, affectionately known as “Bell” and “Bae Brother” was born October 5, 1940 the son of Mr. Ezra Russ

and Mrs. Erma Hall-Russ in Monticello Arkansas. Ezra Eugene

Russ attended Drew County Elementary, Drew County High

School, Arkansas Baptist College for his BS, MS and also ORU where he received his ThD.

Ezra Eugene Russ professed a hope in Christ at an early age at Morning Star Missionary Baptist

Church. Pastor Russ began pastoring in his early twenties in Carthage Ark. He later

was called to Warren Ark. then Shiloh Missionary Baptist in Little Rock, Ark. In 1974 Pastor Russ was called

to Greater Saint James MBC as Senior Pastor until his retirement in 2018 after 44 years of faithful service. Pastor Russ throughout his life.

He was employed by IPS as a science teacher for school #112. He worked for the Job Corps as an instructor at

Camp Atterbury in 1984. He worked with the Indianapolis Education Association receiving a Human Rights

award. He was employed by the Center Township Trustee for years as a Mental Health Caseworker. He worked for Westside Economic Social Service Corp in 1977. Pastor Russ was very active with the Baptist Ministers Alliance and Union District receiving an award of appreciation March 24, 2012 from Sr. Moderator Rev. Ronald Covington Sr. Pastor Russ served on the advisory board for Barrington Health Center in 2009. January 1996, he received a certificate of Appreciation for his support with Boy Scouts of America. Pastor Emeritus Ezra Eugene Russ was a member of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association Clergy. 1976 Pastor Russ received recognition as USCO Commissioner.

February 23rd, 1989 Pastor E.E. Russ received a

Congressional Record for being outstanding as a Hoosier hero after saving the lives of 3 of his next-door

neighbors in a house fire presented by Senator Richard G. Lugar. These accomplishments are just a few among the many throughout his lifetime.

Pastor Emeritus E. E. Russ greatest accomplishment of all was being an Ambassador for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He was a great Husband, Father, Grandfather,

Pastor and Friend.

On Saturday May 4, 2024, at the age of 83 years, 7 months, and 1 day, Pastor Emeritus Ezra Eugene Russ made his transition from Earth to Glory.

His Father Ezra Russ, Mother Erma Hall-Russ, Brothers Joseph Daughtery, Riley Haynes, Hosea Russ, Sterling Russ, Grandson Anthony Eugene Russ II,

Mother-in-law Larnie Mae Ferrell (Jesse), Brother-in-laws Adolphus Daniels, John Lee White, Sister-in-law

Dorothy Daniels, preceded him in death.

Pastor Emeritus Ezra Eugene Russ leaves to cherish his memory His loving Wife Darnell Russ, children

Anthony Russ (Angela), Angelia Russ, Kasandra Franklin (Darryl), Shaun Russ (Saba) grandchildren Justin

Staten, Robert C. Rayner Jr., Darian Franklin, Kristopher Franklin, Austin Russ, Melodee Jones, Matios Russ, Elias

Russ, Laila Russ, great-grandchildren Olivia Ross, DeV-
on Russ, sibling Erma Jean White, sister-in-law, Doro-
thy Daniels. Host of nieces, nephews and cousins. We

will miss his presence, but remain grateful for the
memories we shared.

Cemetery Details

New Crown Cemetery

2101 Churchman Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 17. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Greater Saint James Missionary Baptist Church
3101 East Raymond
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Visitation

MAY 18. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Greater Saint James Missionary Baptist Church
3101 East Raymond
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Service

MAY 18. 12:00 PM (ET)

Greater Saint James Missionary Baptist Church
3101 East Raymond
Indianapolis, IN 46203

Tribute Wall

KC

“ Prayers and Condolences to the Russ Family. I grew up in the church under his leadership along with my parents. He encouraged me through times of difficulty with the Word of God. My tenure as Minister of Music at Greater St. James was indeed a growing experience. We could all learn a monumental lesson from his Christ-like Humility!!! He will be greatly missed by all.
Sincerely,
Kevin Clark

Kevin L. Clark - January 23 at 05:28 PM

EB

“ To the Rev. EE Russ Family and GSJB Church Family, earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal. I was heartbroken to hear this news, but we know that God makes no mistakes and our dear brother is in the arms of Jesus! I will never forget Pastor Russ and all the great memories growing up at GSJBC! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all and we love you ❤️🙏



Elaine Brock - May 21, 2024 at 04:14 PM

ST

“ To my beloved Russ family, my heartfelt prayers go out to each one of you whom I love. Pastor Russ has been a beacon in my life since 1974. He baptized me in 1975 and remained a constant father figure throughout my life. He was my Pastor for over 40 years and I loved him dearly. He was my Grandmother's Pastor for 35years and my Mother's Pastor for 37years and my entire family loved him and the Russ family dearly. RIP Pastor!

Shar'ron Tapps - May 18, 2024 at 02:28 AM

ST

There is no need to say that Pastor Russ was a great man of God. This world was blessed to have him and especially the Greater St James church family throughout his over 40 years of leadership. He did great things at our church and will never be forgotten!

Shar'ron Tapps - May 18, 2024 at 02:41 AM

EC

“ *Praying that God will wrap the family of Pastor Eugene Russ in his all powerful arms of love, grace, peace and strength. Love, Cousin Evangeline Parker-Guest.*

Evangeline Parker-Guest, Cousin - May 17, 2024 at 05:46 PM

JM

“ *Rev. Russ was a true Man of God. Intelligent, caring, and involved in both impacting the behavior of humans to do good works and impacting his community and City to be better. I will miss his wisdom.*

JOHN R HALL, for Deputy Mayor - May 17, 2024 at 01:26 PM

DE

“ To: The Family and Loved Ones of Pastor Ezra E. Russ,

We, the members of the Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church Family celebrate with you in the home going of your beloved Ezra, who was withdrawn from this earth on May 4, 2024. We know that you will miss him, but you will always cherish the loving memories you shared. It is our sincere pray that you shall receive strength from the Lord during this time. In the Words of Scripture, “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run; and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” (Isa. 40:31) Of a truth, your strength will be renewed daily in the Lord.

When one grieves, we all grieve, but not as the unsaved. We will bind ourselves together to strengthen and encourage each other with the knowledge that death is not final. We shall be together with the Lord when He comes to gather His Saints home to be with Him forever. You will see Ezra, not as he was but in his incorruptible body. What a great time of rejoicing that will be! To the bereaved family and friends, be encouraged that your beloved is in the presence of God, never to suffer anymore. Heaven is rejoicing in his home coming. Rest assured family and friends, one day you will see Ezra again, never to be separated again.

Humbly submitted,

*Dr. Mario Elcock, Senior Pastor
Sis. Linda K. Edwards, Administrative Assistant
Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church Family*

Dr. Mario Elcock - May 16, 2024 at 07:37 PM

GD

“ I cannot forget the words of Pastor Russ when he first arrived in Indianapolis. He walked in the door of the United Southside Community Organization (where he later served as a board member) and asked, "What can I do to help?" That sums it up. This outstanding gentleman, community advocate, and pastor was all about serving the citizenry and their neighborhoods. Each time I saw Ezra, I felt as if I was talking to a lifelong friend. May the caring spirit of this excellent leader and unselfish giver live on through his family, and all of the people that he touched.--Gary M. Davis, former Director of USCO, and a friend and co-worker of Pastor Russ.

Gary M. Davis - May 16, 2024 at 06:05 PM

TM

“ I would like to express my sincere condolences to the Russ family. Rev. Russ will be deeply missed from his earthly life. He was there for so many of our families over the years.

Toi McGregor - May 14, 2024 at 07:56 PM

PS

“ I have not the proper words to explain the impact you had on my life, thank you isn't good enough, but I'll do my best to continue the work you started at Greater Saint James MBC. We the church have your back family 🙏🙏🙏

Pastor Charlo D Burrell Sr - May 12, 2024 at 12:34 AM

TW

“ To the family of Pastor Russ. You have our sincere condolences. We love you guys and will keep you in our prayers.

Tammy and Kenny Walker - May 10, 2024 at 03:15 PM

RP

“ To The family of Pastor E.E. Russ sending love and prayers your way. Blessing and prayers Rhonda Pullen Little Bethel

Rhonda Pullen - May 09, 2024 at 09:36 AM

ER

“ To The Family Of Pastor E.E. Russ, You Are In Our Thoughts And Prayers In The Passing Of A Great Man Of God Who Could Preach Sound Doctrine! When Grief Comes Around Remember To Read The Word Of God For Comfort And Strength! We Love You! Deacon Mario And Erika Young From Little Bethel Baptist Church And Union District Ushers And Laymen!



Erika Reeves - May 06, 2024 at 07:33 PM