

I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.
(II TIMOTHY 4:7)

**CELEBRATION OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF
REV. CHARLES B. BAILEY**



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 2:30 PM
SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
1824 NORTH ELEVENTH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KS

OFFICIANT, REV. TONY CARTER, JR.

AN ABUNDANT LIFE

MARCH 29, 1923 - SEPTEMBER 5, 2009

"BU-FORD," ESTHER CALLED FOR THE YOUNGEST OF HER THREE CHILDREN. HER VOICE TRAVELED MILES THROUGH KANSAS CITY, KS, AND WHEREVER THAT BOY WAS SHOOTING MARBLES, SWIMMING IN JERSEY CREEK, HOPPING TRUCKS OR EATING COOKIES, HE IMMEDIATELY CAME RUNNING. AS SHE PRAYED FOR HIM DAILY, SHE DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS GOD'S PLAN FOR CHARLES TO INHERIT HER STRONG, LOUD VOICE. AT NORTHEAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, HE AND HIS FRIENDS OFTEN ENTERTAINED THEIR CLASSMATES WITH THEIR *HAM AND YAM* COMEDY ACT. WHO COULD HAVE GUESSED THAT THE VOICE THAT YODELED ON STAGE WOULD ONE DAY BELLOW "YOU GOT A WITNESS" FROM THE BACK ROW OF A CONVENTION HALL?

GOD NUDGED CHARLES WHEN HE WAS 16 YEARS OLD AND HE WAS BAPTIZED AT THE EIGHTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH. WHILE CHURCH AND WORK CONSUMED MOST OF HIS TIME, BAILEY REMEMBERED BEING THE FIRST KID ON HIS BLOCK TO BUY A CAR - A 1931, BLACK TWO-DOOR CHEVY. HE PERSONALIZED THIS AUTO BY PUTTING A YELLOW STREAK ON THE SIDE. LATER, HE WOULD USE RED REFLECTOR TAPE TO CREATIVELY DECORATE HIS CARS WITH "REPENT," "TRY JESUS" AND OTHER GOSPEL MESSAGES.

IN 1943, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DRAFTED BAILEY INTO THE ARMY. AGAIN GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDED. HIS EXPERIENCES AS A SOLDIER IN WORLD WAR II DRASTICALLY CHANGED HIS LIFE AND HIS DIRECTION. HE WITNESSED THE MAKING OF HISTORY ON D-DAY, THE INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE, AND THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA. REV. BAILEY OFTEN COLORED HIS SERMONS WITH THESE FOX-HOLE STORIES, OCEAN ADVENTURES AND HIS NEAR-DEATH ESCAPES TO ILLUSTRATE GOD'S LOVE, POWER AND JUDGMENT. IN 1946, WITH FOUR BATTLE STARS, HE RECEIVED AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM UNCLE SAM'S ARMY TO SERVE IN GOD'S ARMY. GOD ANSWERED HIS MOTHER'S PRAYERS.

AFTER HIS CHURCH REINSTATEMENT TO EIGHTH STREET, HIS ATTENTION TURNED TO A YOUNG BAPTIST TRAINING UNION TEACHER. A FRIEND INTRODUCED THE TWO AND ON JULY 6, 1947, GENEVA STEPHENS MARRIED CHARLES BAILEY. GOD BLESSED THIS UNION WITH FOUR CHILDREN.

IN 1948, ON A FRIDAY EVENING, WHILE WORKING AT THE MEAT PACKING HOUSE, "THE LORD CALLED ME TO PREACH," BAILEY REMEMBERED. "THAT STUFF GOT HOT." HIS PASTOR, THE LATE REV. DR. I. H. HENDERSON, ADVISED HIM TO ANNOUNCE THIS CALL DURING THE MORNING WORSHIP. BUT DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL, WHEN THE CHILDREN SANG *FIT ME FOR SERVICE* (V. DAVIS), BAILEY COULDN'T WAIT. HE RAN DOWN THE AISLE TO ANNOUNCE HIS CALL TO SERVICE. HE ATTENDED THE AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN

NASHVILLE, TN AND IN 1954 GRADUATED FROM WESTERN SEMINARY IN KANSAS CITY, MO, EARNING A BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY DEGREE. ALSO, DURING HIS TRAINING, HE PREACHED AT NIGHT SERVICES AND ON THE STREETS. REV. HENDERSON GAVE HIM A LOUD SPEAKER AND BAILEY CRUISED THROUGH THE WEST BOTTOMS, AROUND THE RAILROAD DISTRICT AND ON THE STREET CORNERS, PLAYING MAHALIA JACKSON AND PREACHING, "SEEK THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND, CALL UPON HIM WHILE HE IS NEAR."

IN 1955, THE CALL CAME FROM A YOUNG, TWO-YEAR OLD CHURCH. SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH. THEY HAD ABOUT 50 MEMBERS AND WERE MEETING IN A DANCE HALL; THEY NEEDED A PASTOR. REV. BAILEY ACCEPTED THE CALL, AND A YEAR LATER THE CHURCH MOVED TO A SHANTY AT 1820 N. 11TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, KS. SOON, HE QUIT HIS RAILROAD JOB TO SERVE THE MEMBERSHIP FULL-TIME. DURING HIS 46 YEARS AS PASTOR, GOD USED REV. BAILEY'S EFFECTUAL, FERVENT PRAYER LIFE, DYNAMIC SOUL-STIRRING PREACHING, AND UNIQUELY DETERMINED EVANGELISTIC STYLE ALONG WITH MRS. BAILEY'S IMPACTFUL TEACHING, VIRTUOUS STRENGTH AND INTENSE LOVE OF LEARNING TO LEAD THIS CHURCH TO HEIGHTS NO ONE EVER IMAGINED. SALEM EXPERIENCED EXPONENTIAL GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP AND GIVING, INNUMERABLE TRANSFORMED LIVES, CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SANCTUARY AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITY, DEBT-FREE OWNERSHIP OF HALF A CITY BLOCK AND AN IMPECCABLE RECORD OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY. TO MANY, REV. BAILEY (THE MAN WITH THE "GOSPEL CHARIOT") WAS A LEGEND IN HIS TIME, BUT HE WAS NEVER TOO BUSY TO CHAUFFEUR SENIOR CITIZENS OR OTHERS NEEDING TRANSPORTATION, VISIT THE SICK AND BEREAVED, RUN A FOOT FACE WITH THE CHILDREN OR LITERALLY GIVE HIS LAST DOLLAR TO THE NEEDY. HOWEVER, HIS GREATEST JOY WAS LEADING A SOUL TO CHRIST, WHETHER IT WAS FROM THE PULPIT OR ON THE STREET CORNER WITH HIS "BUDDIES."

REV. BAILEY JOINS B. FRANK BAILEY (FATHER), ESTHER BAILEY JOHNSON (MOTHER), FRANK BAILEY (BROTHER), TERESA BRADFORD (SISTER) AND FRANK E. BAILEY (NEPHEW) WHO HAVE GONE ON BEFORE HIM. CHERISHING HIS MEMORY IS THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE (HAVING JUST CELEBRATED 62 YEARS OF HOLY MATRIMONY) GENEVA "JENNY" A. BAILEY, CHILDREN CHARLES A. BAILEY OF SEATTLE, WA, NOZELLA L. (DAVID) BROWN OF KANSAS CITY, KS, W. TIMOTHY (ANDREA) BAILEY OF KANSAS CITY, KS, AND GELAINE R. (JESSE JR.) WILLIAMS OF STONY POINT, NY; GRANDCHILDREN MALISA, CHRISHONDA, TIMOTHY JR., CATRINA, ALEXANDER, JESSE III; GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER ERICKA; NIECES AND NEPHEWS LEO "JUNEBUG" HICKMAN OF LEAVENWORTH, KS, DARLENE (ANTHONY) MCWILLIAMS OF BLUE SPRINGS, MO, ELD. ALVIN (SHELLAINE) BRADFORD OF SHAWNEE, KS, KAREN CUNNINGHAM OF SHAWNEE, KS, FRIENDS, SALEMITES, A HOST OF OTHER RELATIVES AND A MYRIAD OF LIVES WHO HAVE BEEN ETERNALLY IMPACTED BY HIS VIBRANT, ZESTFUL AND ABUNDANT LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

(LOVINGLY COMPOSED BY NOZELLA L. BROWN AND W. TIMOTHY BAILEY)