



407 East Grover St | Shelby, NC 28150  
 | Tel: 1.704.487.0624 | Fax: 1.704.487.0742  
 Cover Design: Jamal Clark, Edited by Eula Davis  
 Created by Desi L. Campbell & Let's Print Lillington, NC



# Celebration of Life for DEACON *Ezra* MEANS

September 17, 1969 - February 14, 2025

Saturday, February 22, 2025  
Viewing 12 noon

Celebration 12:30pm  
Tabernacle Baptist Church  
519 W 19th Ave  
Gastonia, NC 28052

Bishop Brian Moore, Pastor, Eulogist  
Life Center Fellowship, Inc

Bishop Antonio Gathers, Presiding  
Life Cathedral Church  
Orangeburg, SC



# OBITUARY

Ezra Durene Means, affectionately known as “TIC” to family and friends, was born September 17, 1969, in Gaston County, North Carolina to Robert Alan Smith and Emily Loretta Means. He departed this earthly life and entered into eternal rest on Friday, February 14, 2025, at Atrium Health – Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina at the age of 55.

He was educated in the Gaston County Schools System and graduated from South Point High School in 1987. Ezra emerged as a protector and a true friend at an early age in life. All who knew him would add “helper” as a strong character trait.

He learned his masonry skills as he worked side by side with his grandfather, Rev. Lawson Dewey Means in the masonry business. Shortly after that Ezra became employed with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools for 30 years, where he also served on the advisory committee.

Ezra was a praiser, God was truly the center of his life. He loved traveling domestically but wanted to experience a taste of international life and took his first trip out of the country to Madrid, Spain in 2023. His greatest past time when not in church, was going out to eat, and spending time with family and friends. Wherever he was, he was the life of the party. His infectious smile and sense of humor was admired by many. He had a comedic flair for telling a story, he would take a sad situation and find a way to make your laugh. He changed the mood of a room just by being there.

His second love was singing with various gospel artists such as, John P Kee, Melvin Crispell III, Patrick Love and on the Life Center Charlotte Choir. Ezra loved everything that uplifted God and inspired people. He was such a bright light.

He never complained about anything but moved in Grace. Ezra was always concerned about the welfare and the well being of others. He was an advocate for the elderly and treated his mother and sister like Queens.

Ezra joined O’Connor Grove AME Zion Church, Belmont, North Carolina at an early age. The Charlotte District Youth Choir was the first choir he participated in. He later moved his membership and became a dedicated, devoted member of Life Center Charlotte Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 2006, he was ordained as a Deacon and served in a leadership capacity for part of his tenure.

Ezra truly loved God, his family and his church. He leaves precious memories to his beloved mother, Emily Loretta Means; his father, Robert Alan Smith (Fredia); three sisters, LaVaughn Littlejohn (Brian), Ebony Neely (Roger), and Tracee Okoduwa (Jesse Eron); a special nephew, Cornelius “Neil” Tillman, a cousin, Christopher Ashley Means who was like a brother, two exceptionally close friends who he called his brothers, Jermaine Collins and Kenny Hudson. Also, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, family, other very close friends to many to mention and his beloved church family, who will miss him dearly.

Special thanks to Atrium Health – CMC Main staff, Charlotte, NC; Atrium Health Rehab, Belmont, NC; Bishop Brian Moore and Life Center Charlotte; Jermaine Collins, Kenny Hudson, Bishop A.L. Jinwright, Rev. Frank McCollough, Mohamed and Pamela Alhassan, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools – Metro Area, and everyone who prayed and showed any acts of Kindness that we may have omitted.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

## PROCESSIONAL

“You’ve been so faithful”

## VIEWING by family

## HYMN

“Pass me not oh gentle Savior”

Elder Doris Freeman/Elder Edwin Golson

Life Center Church

Charlotte, NC

## OLD TESTAMENT

Lamentations 3:31-33

Pastor Damion Rawlinson

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Gastonia, NC

## NEW TESTAMENT

Revelations 21: 4-7

Bishop A. L. Jinwright

GAP Church International

Charlotte, NC

## PRAYER OF COMFORT

Pastor Tammy Renae Glenn

Restoration Church of Prayer

Wellford, SC

## SONG

Melvin Crispell, III

“God Is”

## (LIMIT TO 2 MINUTES)

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Representative

Life Center Fellowship, Inc

Means Family

## Selection

Anthoniae L. Jinwright

“This Place”

## Acknowledgements

Elder Melanie Pratt

## Song

Life Center Fellowship Choir

## Eulogy

Bishop Brian D. Moore

Pastor of Life Center Church