



Rev George Terrell Bates

September 18, 1946 - December 23, 2023

Reverend George Terrell Bates was born to the late Gladys Smith Bates Miller and Cleophus Bates on September 18, 1946. During his childhood, he accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and was baptized at Greater Thankful Baptist Church. It was there that the earliest seeds of his preaching and teaching ministry were planted.

Rev. Bates matriculated through Calhoun County Training School where he graduated in the class of 1964. He spent his post-secondary years at Morristown Junior College and Tennessee State University, earning a bachelor's degree in 1968. After graduating from TSU, he began his career as an educator. He taught at Cobb High School, Anniston High School, Coosa Valley Detention Center, New World Business College, and Malcolm X Junior College in Chicago, IL, where he hosted a local television show and was named Kiwanis Man of the Year. Throughout his years in education, he earned a reputation as a fierce protector of his students and a disrupter of oppressive systems.

His passion for teaching did not end in the classroom; it was evident in his preaching style as well. Rev. Bates was a teaching-preacher, and as he pursued theological studies at Interdenominational Theological Center (Morehouse) and Candler School of Theology (Emory), he pastored Grace Lutheran Church where he remained for 16 years. There, he met and wed Cathryn Denise Bradford, and to this union three children were born.

Rev. Bates was a member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorage of Rev. W. S. Fields for a number of years until he was called to pastor and serve at Mars Hill Missionary Baptist Church in 1998. Years later, he founded a small ministry called Holy Commission Non-Denominational Church where an emphasis was placed on teaching the gospel and helping those in need. After some time, Rev. Bates began worshiping at Rocky Mount Baptist Church where he was an assistant minister under Pastor Stevie Houston. In 2019, he rejoined Bethel Missionary Baptist Church under the pastorage of Dr. Walter L. Solomon.

Rev. Bates was a strong advocate for the community, serving on the Anniston Civil

Service Board for 17 years where he was president for several. He was an avid writer, a lover of journalism, speech and drama, and a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Theta Tau initiate).

Rev. Bates was preceded in death by his parents Cleophus Bates and Gladys Miller, and sisters Jacqueline Kirklin, Milton Ann Hall, and Paulette Miller.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 41 years, Cathryn Bates, who cared for him diligently during his final years; three children, Jonathan (Shaniece) Bates of Stockbridge, GA, Jocelyn Bates of Anniston, AL, and Janine Bates of Brookhaven, GA; one sister, Evangelist Sonnie Evans of Anniston, AL; three grandchildren, Jaylen, Kennedi, and Aidan Bates; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Maple Grove Cemetery

3865 US Highway 431
Anniston, AL 36206

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC **29**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Goodson Funeral Home / Anniston
830 Noble Street
Anniston, AL 36201

Celebration of Life

DEC **30**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church
1658 Lehman Avenue
Anniston, AL 36201

Tribute Wall

CJ

“ Thanks for being a Man of God, Thanks for your Service, The Rudolph Family

Council RUDOLPH Jr - December 30, 2023 at 07:01 AM

HK

“ To the Bates Family, we express sincere condolences and hope that you may be comforted. Reverend Bates was an accomplished man that hearkened back to some of our most iconic leaders: Like Dubois, King, Wright, Carver, and Washington, he was an accomplished teacher, preacher, friend and advocate for his People. God Bless him as you Blessed us with him. Now, may he Rest In Eternal Peace. Prayers, Vivian and Harold S. Kimble, Sr.

HAROLD S & VIVIAN A KIMBLE - December 29, 2023 at 01:10 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rev George Terrell Bates.



December 29, 2023 at 09:19 AM

EB

“ Exa L Ball Bell lit a candle in memory of Rev George Terrell Bates



Exa I Ball Bell - December 29, 2023 at 08:56 AM

EB

Deepest Sympathy to the family (class mate of 1964

Exa I Ball Bell - December 29, 2023 at 09:00 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev George Terrell Bates.



December 28, 2023 at 09:21 PM



“ Patricia Turner lit a candle in memory of Rev George Terrell Bates



Patricia Turner - December 27, 2023 at 10:58 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev George Terrell Bates.



December 27, 2023 at 06:55 PM



“ Dr. Jerome King & Mount Moriah Church planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev George Terrell Bates.

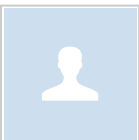
Dr. Jerome King & Mount Moriah Church - December 27, 2023 at 06:55 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rev George Terrell Bates.



December 27, 2023 at 12:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev George Terrell Bates.



December 27, 2023 at 12:02 PM