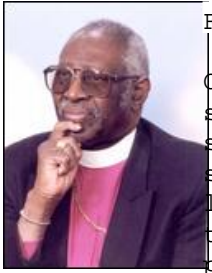


## HALL, Bishop Milton



Feb. 2, 1921 - Aug. 20, 2006

On the Sabbath day, at 2:58 p.m. Aug. 20, 2006, Bishop Milton Hall stepped on that gospel ship and left this world of sin and went sailing through the air to fulfill the words of the song he so often sang. He was at home surrounded by his wife, Mother Julia Mae and loved ones. He was born Feb. 2, 1921, in Fordyce, Ark., the second son to Elder Lewis J. and Mother Betty Rebecca McCoy Hall, who as pioneers, founded and built a number of missions and churches across the country. In 1925, the family moved to Indiana Harbor, now East Chicago.

He received his early education in the public school systems of East Chicago and Thornton, Ark. Later receiving the Doctor of Divinity degree from Trinity Hall College and Seminary.

He was employed by the Continental Steel Corp., where he was the first African-American offered a supervisory position in Kokomo. Although he was flattered by this prestigious offer, he declined because it called for a decrease in wages. He served as a union steward for the United Steel Workers of America Local #2958, retiring in 1976. Bishop Hall was married to Mother Julia Mae "Ruth" Watson Hall. To this union was born three sons and one daughter. Their children are carrying on the spiritual heritage of their father; Elder Milton L. Hall Jr., senior pastor of Grace Memorial Institutional COGIC, Kokomo; Elder Lewis J. Hall, associate pastor of Grace Memorial Institutional COGIC, Kokomo and Mother Joyce M. Rice, first lady of New New Bethany COGIC, Marion. At the tender age of 10, the young lad, Milton sat in the chair of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, the national overseer.

When rebuked and told to get down, he adamantly refused to budge. Bishop Mason while praying would pat him on his head, only then would he get out of the chair. Bishop Hall cherished and shared this memory often, believing he received a special anointing from Bishop Mason. As a young man Bishop Hall was privileged to chauffeur his aunt, Mother Nancy Gamble, as she established churches across the nation. She was the state mother of Indiana and Illinois and a pioneer in the early Church of God in Christ. Little did Bishop Hall know that the seed being sown in him would spring up and flourish.

Due to the tragic events leading to the death of his infant son, Edward Thomas, Bishop Hall's heart was touched and in his brokenness, he reached out to God. He was saved and sanctified in October 1949. In 1951, he accepted the call to the ministry and was ordained in 1958. He dedicated his life to the Lord and in service to God's people in many capacities; deacon, minister, elder; co-pastor with his father of Grace Memorial COGIC; pastor of Grace Memorial Institutional COGIC and pastor of New New Bethany COGIC,

Marion; district Sunday School superintendent, state chairman of Sunday School department, chairman of public relations, district superintendent, administrative assistant of First Jurisdiction under Bishop William O. Blakely; Chisca Headquarters renovation committee, national renovation of church property committee and official commissioner COGIC Inc. International Constitutional Convention.

In November 1988 he was appointed Bishop of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Indiana. Under his leadership, First Jurisdiction became unparalleled. He established the Mother Betty Hall Fine Arts Department and the Scholastic Motivational Ministries; instituted the church extension and scholarship banquet to financially aid pastors

and to assist deserving students in the jurisdiction of their pursuit in higher education; established Grace Memorial Institutional Church as jurisdictional headquarters and also established the Jurisdictional Youth and Family Retreat. He allotted a seat on the executive board to supervisor Dorothy M. O. Blade, an honor previously awarded only to men. Bishop Hall commissioned the book titled, "Embracing the Past, Building the Present, and Looking to the Future." This book, published and distributed in 1995, detailed the history of the COGIC church in the state of Indiana. This list is only a glimpse of the accomplishments in the life of Bishop Hall.

Bishop was the unofficial architect of the original Grace Memorial complex. The plans he drew were so precise that only one change was needed to obtain the state's approval. The state building commission had difficulty believing that Bishop had developed those plans. Many in the community were touched by the vision and generosity of Bishop Milton L. Hall. He had a heart to minister to the needs of everyone, from the babies to the seniors. He was affectionately known as the "father of pastors" in the local community. He organized his benevolence into, New Beginning Alliance Food and Clothing Pantry, GMIC Daycare and Project Spirit, an after school tutoring program. Bishop was a man who was tender enough to give candy to children, even during service, to being fearless enough to pick up hitchhikers on the dangerous highways and offer them a warm meal. Bishop visited and helped those incarcerated to gain their freedom. His generosity was so well known that it reached all the way to the courthouse. He was asked by city officials, "Please do not give to anyone else that knocks on your door."

Bishop Hall belonged to several civic organizations; Community Chaplain, ADELPHOS Ministerial Alliance, lifetime member of NAACP, Mayor's Advisory Committee, Mayor's Block Grant Committee, Mayor's Citizens Review Committee for 18 years and political activist. He received the Mayor's Achievement Award and was awarded the very prestigious, State of Indiana Council of the Sagamores of the Wabash, by Gov. Evan Bayh. Bishop was a simple, but also a very complex man. He was a giant among men; perhaps had he been born at a different time and with a European

background he would've been in the roll call with Joseph Kennedy, John-Paul Getty and John D. Rockefeller. He was a man of vision and intellect. A progressive man but also a traditional man. He was a man of the Earth; every year with precise dedication he would prepare his ground for the spring season of planting. His garden was a testimony to his care and diligence. Even in his illness, the last week of his life on this Earth, he could be found in his garden. Sometimes too weak to stand, he would sit on the ground and harvest his vegetables. It was a true labor of love that he shared with us.

His last weeks were spent ministering to those who visited him. As his health began failing the saints and friends came to visit him from far and near. Instead of them praying for him, he would lay his hands on and bless them. Bishop Milton L. Hall Sr. was a shepherd until the end, seeking to comfort his flock.

He leaves to rejoice in his memories his wife, Julia Mae Hall; two sons, Milton and wife Glenda Hall Jr. and Lewis and wife DeElla Hall; one daughter, Joyce and husband Edward Sr. Rice, all of Kokomo; grandchildren, Marietta Wright, Kokomo, Milton III and wife Valerie Hall, Dallas, Ga., Michael and wife DeAhna Hall, Kennesaw, Ga., Edward II and wife Angelica Rice, Indianapolis, Iana and husband Marcus McClung, Marion, Deljere Hall, Kokomo and Sherna Hall, Bloomington; great-grandchildren, Rondell and wife Ivious Barnes, Afghanistan, Deshana and husband Dewayne Mims, Indianapolis, Terrance Wright and

Jazzman Wright, both of Michigan, Tahj Rice, Aria Rice, Donavan Hall, Nathan Hall, Azeria Rice, Nicholas Hall and Sydni Hall; two great-great-grandchildren, Love and Jacquice Barnes; one brother, Superintendent John D. (Raye) Hall, Fort Wayne; six sisters, missionary Betty Ruth Clark and mother Miriam Wilson, both of Indianapolis, missionary Alice Jean, Washington, Mother Dorothy Joseph, missionary Charlotte Corbett and Mother Louise James, all of Kokomo; two sisters-in-law, sister Myrtle and husband Roland Flynn, Chicago, and Mother Virginia and husband Leander Tarver, Fort Wayne; five godchildren, Katina Barnes, Glen and Glenda Douglas, Lisa Simmons and Daisha Floyd; many nieces, nephews and other relatives; many friends and well wishers; the household of faith and the members of Indiana First Jurisdiction.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, superintendent James Hall Sr. and superintendent. Cleophas Hall, Sr.; two sisters, Helen and Francis Hall and a son, Edward Thomas Hall.

Local funeral services will be at 5 p.m. Sunday with a viewing from 3 to 5 p.m. Jurisdictional services will be at 7 p.m. Monday and a viewing from 4 to 7 p.m. National services will be at noon Tuesday, with Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson as the chief officiant. Entombment will be in Memorial Park Cemetery. All services will be held at Grace Memorial Institutional Church of God in Christ, 1417 N. Delphos St. Contact church office at (765) 457-2749, fax number is (765) 457-0694 and please use e-mail address mhalljr@aol.com for any e-mail correspondence. Arrangements are entrusted to Bluit & Son Funeral Home.

Source: Kokomo Tribune

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