



Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.

August 15, 1955 - February 28, 2014

Favorite scripture:

For I am Persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A TIME TO LIVE: Elder/Dr. Mitchell L. Dawkins Sr., D.D. was born in West Palm Beach, Florida on August 15, 1955 to Frank LeRay Dawkins and Mother Harriette D. James.

A TIME FOR EDUCATION: He moved to Orlando at a very young age, matriculated through the Orange County Public school system, and went on to graduate from Maynard Evans High School. He served in the Navy from 1975 to 1977. After leaving the Navy he attended Albany State University and Florida Seminary of Lakeland Florida where he received his Bachelor and Masters in Theology. He later was awarded his Doctorate of Divinity degree from St. Thomas Christian College in 2005.

A TIME TO WORSHIP: Elder/Dr. Mitchell L. Dawkins, Sr., D.D. started his relationship with God at the Antioch P. B. Church of Orlando under the leadership of Elder W. D. Judge. He was called to serve as the pastor of the New Warner Chapel Primitive Baptist Church in Winter Park, Florida in 1992

where he has served for over 22 years. He and his wife, First Lady Melanie Y. Dawkins, have dedicated their entire being to the followers of Christ at New Warner Chapel. Aside from serving as Pastor of New Warner Chapel, Elder Dawkins served in several other capacities including: President of the South Florida Progressive Primitive Baptist Church School Convention; President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship of Winter Park; Chaplain of the City of Winter Park Police Department; Bible Expositor of South Florida District Union #1; and Chairman of the Board of Evangelism for the State of Florida Primitive Baptist Convention. Most importantly, Elder Dawkins is a true Man of God who was saved, sanctified, and Spirit-led. If you ever had an opportunity to meet him you would be able to truthfully attest that “I’m Yours Lord” is not a catch phrase for Elder Mitchell L. Dawkins, Sr., It was the truth. He completely gave himself to Christ and wanted the world to know it.

A TIME FOR FAMILY: Although Elder/Dr. Dawkins spent a large portion of his time serving God and the followers of God, he still made time to be a loving husband and a wonderful father. He leaves to cherish his memories; a loving and supportive wife of 21 years, Mother Melanie Dawkins, whom he commonly referred to as his gift from God. Children; Mesha Tomlin, (husband Jason) James Rivers, Latoya Dawkins, Dexter Rivers, (wife Sarah) Herschel Rivers (wife Melanie), Sade’ Garcia, Mitchell Dawkins II, (wife Breanna) Shandylier Dawkins, Joshua Dawkins, Caleb Dawkins, Devarius Dawkins, Alex Dawkins. A loving Mother, Harriette D. James, Brothers, Darryl Dawkins (wife Janice) Harold Dawkins, Troy Dawkins (wife Irene). Sisters, Lashawncia Merchant, Amanda Clay. Grandchildren Dexter Desequel Rivers, Alison Rivers, Mariah Boyd, Janiah Boyd, Jordyn Dawkins, Faith Dawkins. In-laws, Tracy Lewis, Dexter Lewis, Eric Lewis (wife Sherilyn); a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and sorrowing friends.

Elder/Dr. Dawkins was preceded in death by In-laws, Dwight Lewis and Sonya Garcia.

Cemetery Details

Pineywood Cemetery

1810 S. Lakemont Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32803

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

New Warner Chapel Primitive Baptist Church
753 West Comstock Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

Service

MAR 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Patmos Chapel Seventh Day Adventist Church
821 West Swoope Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall



“ *Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*

October 22, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ *Sad to hear of pastor Dawkins passing. He and Melanie are kind and caring people. Most of their children attended Ingram's Academy (where I worked as the Director) and they too were loving and kind. I remember being in the hospital sick and tired and just about to give up, and pastor Dawkins and Melanie coming to pray for me. I was not a warner chapel member, they were just caring people. We (Ingram's Academy) were blessed to be able to feed the homeless at warner Chapel for yrs. and Pastor Dawkins was always present. My prayer is that the family will continue to be blessed and that his memory will live on. Mrs. Arlene Ingram Turner and the Ingram family*

Arlene Turner - March 23, 2014 at 11:06 AM

DE

“ *its try;y hard to believe my brother is gone. I met Elder Dawkins in 1974 after we had both raised our right hand and joint the navy. I was heard to great lakes boot camp and he was heard to orlando for boot camp He not even really knowing me convince me to change my plan and attend orlando boot camp. some how God had it so that we would be in the same battalion and we attended school in Millington, Tennessee He was always a good friend. we had lost touch over the years. I last saw Mitchell about 20 years ago,my how time fly's. He was on my mind this day, so i looked him up to find that he has gone home to be with the Lord. My how time fly's. I know without a doubt he will be missed. He was what we called a natural born leader. My God bless his family .
Pastor Delbert Thompson (old navy buddy)
ps I beat him in basketball one time lol*

delbert - March 14, 2014 at 10:47 PM

DT

“ *On February 28,2014 God smile upon the earth and said "it is well my servant", and decided to take a strong soldier home to be with him. The family is grieving but heaven is rejoicing. You will truly,, be missed,... I remember being a young teenager running across the the street on Rock Lake ... to see you and calling your name and hearing you say sit down some where Lil Debra, cause I am not taking you to Goff's Ice Cream - I remember when I got my License and I would bring you ice cream, thanks for all the love and caring words ..Cuz ... may you rest in God's Arms ... Dr. Debra G. Thomas*



Debra Thomas - March 06, 2014 at 11:18 AM

MR

“ *Elder Dawkins, A Loving, Kind and Friendly God sent MAN. Once I met Him he never changed. He was a big Brother to me. God called this Angle home to rest we will miss him. To Mother Dawkins and Family my love to you. Sister Mary Rodgers, now of Brooksville, FL*



Mary Rodgers - March 06, 2014 at 09:51 AM

VA

“ *You have your wings now my friend you can soar with the Angels
Be encouraged family God bless you all.*

Love Vanessa and Family



vanessa - March 05, 2014 at 11:47 PM

SY

“ *Sharon Young & Kamilah Young-Jackson lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Sharon Young & Kamilah Young-Jackson - March 05, 2014 at 05:14 PM

ST

“ *To the Family of Elder M.L. Dawkins Sr. God will take care of you, words can not express
How we feel right now but know this we are all standing with you and the family in prayers. He will truly be missed and I say to you thank you for allowing us to learn and know this great man of God, forever in my prayers,
Sis. Michelle Thomas Lakeland fl. Mt. Sinai PB Church*

Sis. Michelle Thomas - March 05, 2014 at 04:35 PM

ST

“ *Sis. Michelle Thomas lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Sis. Michelle Thomas - March 05, 2014 at 04:27 PM

BH

“ *With all of our love and heartfelt sympathy, to the loving and caring bereaved family of your beloved guardian Angel, Elder M. Dawkins, Sr. You all are in our prayers. May the love of God comfort and keep you.*



Elder L.E. & Mo. B. V. Harris/Jacksonville, Fla.

B. Harris - March 05, 2014 at 04:03 PM

RJ

“ *Pastor you will be truly missed!!!*

Robert E. Swilley Jr. - March 05, 2014 at 03:55 PM



“ *Emma Barnes lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Emma Barnes - March 05, 2014 at 02:02 PM

RA

God Bless!!!

Ronaa Flagler Ali - March 05, 2014 at 07:18 PM

DD

“ *Mother Melanie, I am so sorry about the loss of Pastor Dawkins. Please accept our condolences and tell Shandy that Angelique is praying for her at this time, and I also for the family. We love you and please let me know if there is anything at anytime we can assist you with. Your friend, Daphene*



Daphene Daniels - March 05, 2014 at 01:32 PM

DD

“ *Although I was not a member of the Warner Chapel family, I am a friend of Mother Melanie Dawkins and Pastor Dawkins, and I would like to express my condolences to the family. I am so sorry for the loss, but I'm glad to know that a great servant has gone home to be with our heavenly Father. If there is anything my family can do for yours, please let me know. Love you all! Daphene Daniels*



Daphene Daniels - March 05, 2014 at 01:12 PM

CT

“ Charles And Jessica Taylor lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.



Charles and Jessica Taylor - March 05, 2014 at 01:09 PM

WT

“ With all of our love, Charles and Jessica Taylor purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr..



With all of our love, Charles and Jessica Taylor - March 05, 2014 at 01:03 PM

ST

“ WORDS CANT EXPRESS IM SO GLAD THAT ME AND MY FAMILY HAD THE TIME OF KNOWING YOU PASTOR I KNOW YOU ARE IN A BETTER PLACE YOU WILL BE TRULY MISSED BY ME..GOD BLESS YOU THE KEY FAMILY

STACEY - March 05, 2014 at 10:58 AM

BB

“ *Pastor Dawkins was unapologetically souled out! I consider it an honor to have served under him for 18 years. I thank him for his uncensored advice, sometimes unwanted but always needed. He was a father/mentor to all of us young women in the church, he had so many church daughters thru the years. Through Pastor Dawkins we saw what a real marriage should look like, he taught us our worth! Because of him I know what is real, and what not to except. I always admired how before EVERY service he thanked God for his gift from God (Mo. D).*



Pastor Dawkins took the calling over his life very seriously, he was one of God's biggest advocates! He would get in the pulpit some Sunday mornings with water in his eyes to deliver a word to God's hurting people. He was dedicated and faithful, this was not something that was trivial or done for accolades for him. He did all he could to fulfill his promise to God, I've witnessed him many times leave it all in the pulpit and on the altar. I can hear God telling him well done my good and faithful servant.

I entered the doors of Warner Chapel at around the age of 13, I have very fond memories of the stomp choir, and the YAMs. I was inducted into the body of Christ by Pastor Dawkins at the age of 16, rededicated at the age of 23, and baptized at the age of 29. My daughter was blessed by Pastor Dawkins at the age of 5 and baptized at the age of 8. Words cannot express my gratitude for everything that you have done for me and my daughter, many times unknowingly saving me from myself. Thank you just doesn't seem to be enough. I love you and there's nothing you can do about it!

Now that he is in the promise land, the place he always wanted to be, I can hear him saying "I'm yours Lord!" I imagine him engaging in intimate conversation with God and catching up with those who have gone on to glory before him. I imagine him having the time of his life. This makes me smile, because he is now at peace and with

his creator. Pastor Dawkins is where we all aspire to be! I thank God that I was allowed to share time and space with such an amazing gift to the body of Christ!


To the members of NWC, I love you and there's nothing you can do about it, I'm praying your strength during this time of bereavement.

Brooke Brown - March 05, 2014 at 07:32 AM

TB

“ *There are no words that can express the love I have for you. I know you are in a better place, and I know you made it with your savior. God bless you, and you will be truly missed by all of your Cleveland family. Love the Cleveland Family*

Tramaine Brown - March 04, 2014 at 09:50 PM


Cherish
Bemba-
Kaye

“ *New Warner Chapel.... you've made my home. I was there more than I was at my own. You had a church full of supportive women and tried to find each of us a husband quick! Lol.... You treated us like daughters and only wanted the best for us. If nothing else, you've not only taught me but given me an example of how a man is to a woman and make her his wife. The way you displayed your love for Mo. D gave me the vision of how I want to be treated and the type of man I desire. I honestly thank you for the example because growing up without a father was the hardest thing I've had to deal with. I have the utmost respect for you and forever in my heart, you'll remain.*

Cherish Bemba-Kaye - March 04, 2014 at 08:36 PM

EN

“ *A Red Candle for Pastor Mitchell L. Dawkins...*



No words could express the feeling of loss or console the hearts of those who knew Pastor Dawkins. Nothing compares to losing the one who was like a father to me...

We know that he is now living in the reality of the comforting words that he shared with others so many times...resting in the bosom of Jesus Christ. We shall see him again when we shall be blessed to transition to eternity.

To the Dawkins Family & the NWC Family, I love you and there's nothing you can do about it!

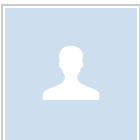
Erika T. Neal - March 04, 2014 at 07:53 PM



“ *Caleb Dawkins sent a virtual gift in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Caleb Dawkins - March 04, 2014 at 07:37 PM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr..*



March 04, 2014 at 04:59 PM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr..*



March 04, 2014 at 04:59 PM



“ *Dexter is my brother in law and I only met his father one time but he was a very nice and easy to talk to man he will be missed*

Noah Johnson - March 04, 2014 at 04:09 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Caleb Dawkins - March 04, 2014 at 04:07 PM



“ *Brooke Brown, Asiah Alexander lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Brooke Brown, Asiah Alexander - March 04, 2014 at 02:46 PM

LH

“ *Linda Rainey Hixson lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



linda rainey hixson - March 04, 2014 at 11:31 AM

RM

“ *REAVOR MCCLLOUD lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



REAVOR MCCLLOUD - March 04, 2014 at 11:20 AM

DR

“ *Donner Radford-Adams lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Donner Radford-Adams - March 04, 2014 at 10:45 AM

DR

May God comfort you with His peace and strenght.

Donner Radford-Adams - March 04, 2014 at 10:54 AM

LJ

“ *Love Deacon and Lakisha Jenkins, Imani, Shurell and Damien Jr.*



Lakisha Jenkins - March 04, 2014 at 10:39 AM

SM

“ *Shari Moore lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Shari Moore - March 04, 2014 at 09:21 AM



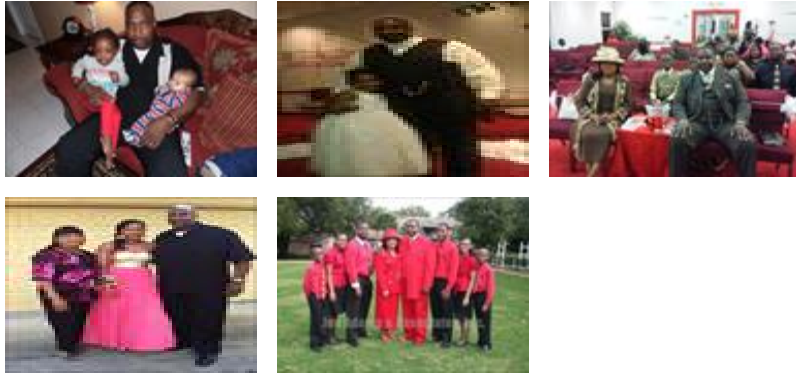
“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr..*



March 04, 2014 at 08:17 AM



“ 9 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Caleb Dawkins - March 04, 2014 at 04:04 AM



“ *Caleb Dawkins lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Caleb Dawkins - March 04, 2014 at 04:02 AM



“ *Mrz Trena lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.*



Mrz Trena - March 03, 2014 at 05:31 PM

JW

“ Johnny Wilson purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr..



Johnny Wilson - March 03, 2014 at 02:57 PM

GA

“ Gogie London Allison lit a candle in memory of Elder Dr. Mitchell LeRay Dawkins, Sr.



Gogie London Allison - March 03, 2014 at 12:27 PM