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A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR *Super Seniors*

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In 1988, former President Ronald Reagan established Senior Citizen's Day to raise awareness about issues that affect senior citizens and their quality of life. The General Assembly of the United Nations took this national holiday a step farther, and in 1990, proclaimed that World Senior Citizen's Day would be celebrated annually each August 21 st.

World Senior Citizen's Day exists not only to increase awareness of the factors and issues that affect older adults. It's also a day to recognize and acknowledge the contributions senior citizens have made to society. Today, many senior adults are still active in their communities as well as continuing to have a strong presence in the workforce. For all they do and have achieved for the good of their communities, senior citizens deserve our thanks!

We have all grown up being taught that we need to respect our elders. Senior Citizen's Day also extends to respecting our elders and acknowledging what they have done (and still do) for our families, communities, and the world. Senior adults add so much value to communities everywhere. Not only do they offer their experience, wisdom, and knowledge, they also provide us with a sense of historical context.

"Chronologically gifted" seniors have a lifetime's worth of incredible experiences, stories and lessons learned to share with us. This is especially true when we consider the monumental milestones of the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church, of which they have been such an instrumental part. We celebrate our Super Seniors who have helped shape the Good Hope family along the way. Join us as we explore their place in our history as we journey back to Brush Arbor in 1872 where it all began.

Father Samuel Grantham 1872-1891

Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church was organized in 1872 in Fourth Ward, in Houston, Texas, just seven years after slavery ended in Texas on June 19, 1865. Many former slaves moved from the rural areas and settled in the Fourth Ward near downtown Houston in what became known as Freedman Town area. Father Samuel Grantham (1872-91) was the founder and first pastor of Good Hope. The church was organized in his back yard on Tilway Bush Road, where Daniel's Funeral Home is now located. Father Grantham, a teamster by trade, had high ideals, as a man and as a preacher. He owned the home at that time, of which we've spoken. The church carried on there for a brief period, under a brush arbor, and finally, the seedling was transplanted to Sherman Road, now Valentine Street. Father Grantham had a board of seven deacons. His key deacon was C. H. Hunt. Rev. Grantham remained in his role as a church leader until his death in 1891.

Rev. Charles H. Hunt 1892-1921

Rev. Hunt assisted Father Grantham during his leadership at Good Hope and was the first superintendent of Sunday School, even in the Baking Box Church. Rev. Hunt was also called to the ministry under Father Grantham and was unmistakably his son in the ministry. Rev. Charles H. Hunt (1893-1921) was elected the second pastor of Good Hope. He tore down the little church house fronting on Wilson Street and built a more spacious building, which was painted brown. Pastor Hunt organized the first choir and Home Mission Society in the church. During this time, the congregation witnessed turbulent relations in Houston originating from the conflict on August 28, 1917, involving the all black 24th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army that was stationed at Camp Logan in the nearby area now known as Memorial Park. The church continued under the quiet leadership of Pastor Hunt until his death in 1921.

Rev. Henry C. Cashaw 1922-1934

The third pastor was Rev. Henry C. Cashaw (1922-34). During his pastorate, the church building was damaged by fire, so the membership temporarily worshipped in the nearby Gregory school building. In 1929, despite the nation and Houston citizens being amidst an economic depression, Pastor Cashaw led the congregation into the first modern brick structure, later used as the church's educational building that included Sunday School and Baptist Training Union.

He married Ms. Mamie Austin, and their granddaughter Mamie Reed Lee later became the praise and worship leader and a featured artist at the 126 th church anniversary at Good Hope. Rev. Cashaw broke down many methods by which service and business meetings were carried out and reorganized the church from bottom to top. He paired elderly men and women with young people in boards and auxiliaries and allowed them to work seamlelssly together to strengthen the church's growth.

He also reorganized the Sunday School, advocated missionary circles and supported young preachers. He finished paying for the building built by Rev. Hunt and erected a modern one for $13,500. He pastored the church 12 years until he went home to be with the Lord on June 16, 1934.

Rev. Albert Anderson Lucas 1935-1963

Rev. Albert Anderson Lucas (1935-63) became the fourth pastor of Good Hope. He led the church into the forefront of local, state, and national events that were both spiritual and political. Under his leadership, the congregation built a new and larger sanctuary that was adjacent to the already existing structure at 1402 Saulnier. Through his position as president of the local chapter of the National Association for Colored People (NAACP), Rev. Lucas encouraged church trustee, Dr. Lonnie E. Smith, to become the plaintiff in the "Smith vs. Allwright" political battle, which secured voting rights in Texas primary elections for minorities in 1944. Pastor Lucas was a great influence for positive development in the Fourth Ward-Freedman town for three decades. He was also the first spiritual mentor for Barbara Jordan, who accepted Christ at Good Hope Church, and later became the first Black congresswoman elected from Texas. The memorable pastorate of Rev. Lucas ended with his death in the pulpit on November 23, 1963.

A Salute to Our Super Seniors

Seldom do we have the privilege of being blessed with the presence of so many pillars of wisdom in a congregation nearing a 150 year anniversary. The Super Seniors of Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church embody the strength of what communities can achieve when character and commitment are at the forefront. More than citizens who have lived long and lived well, each of these individuals has helped usher in generations of believers by first modeling what it means to be of purposeful service to others.

We extend our sincerest appreciation to ***every*** senior who has shared their time, talents and treasures to help us become the family of fellowship we are today. Not only has your insight from experiences spanning over eight decades informed our decision making, but your deepened perspectives, countless sacrifices and undying encouragements have helped us establish the foundation on which our historical church was built and sustained.

Super Seniors, we honor you. On your shoulders, we are able to stand proud, upholding the values and ideals that you have embraced throughout your lives. In our spirits, we retain your passion for a loving God whose faithfulness has never failed. In our hearts, we push forward with tenacity – never relenting in the battles that must be fought until victory is won. Thank you for carrying and continuing the legacy of loving God, loving all people, and changing the world. You have certainly made a monumental difference in ours.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR *Super Seniors*

The Super Seniors we are saluting in honor of World Senior Citizen's Day are all octogenarians and above (80 years old +). They also have the distinction of continuing to serve under the leadership of Pastor D.Z. Cofield after having united with the historic Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Albert A. Lucas. Rev. Lucas was Good Hope's fourth pastor, who served from 1935 to 1963 when our church was located in the Freedman's Town area of Fourth Ward.

CLAUDE COLE

Brother Claude Cole united with Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1940, and distinguished himself as a member of the Brotherhood. His gentle spirit and dynamic leadership as a Trustee has strengthened the foundation on which we stand and we continue to look to him for wisdom.

ELIZABETH FRANCIS

Mother Francis connected with God's family at Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church during its location in Freedman's Town, and was a faithful member of Mission I and the Senior Adult Women. She continues to be a pillar of strength to all of us today.

JOAN JOHNSON

Sister Johnson united with Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church well over fifty years ago, and became an integral member of Mission I and the Senior Adult Women. Sister Johnson remains a beacon of light for all who are continuing to follow in her footsteps.

Rev. Crawford W. Kimble

1964-1994

Rev. Crawford W. Kimble (1964-1994) became the fifth pastor of Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church after assisting Rev. Lucas faithfully for 13 years. He recommended a move with the support of a committee of members to the site bound by Ennis, Calumet and North MacGregor which now serves as the present home of Good Hope.

The property at 3015 N. MacGregor Way was purchased in 1965 as well as the adjacent property known as Cashaw Hall. The new church was completed and two adjoining properties with buildings named the A. A. Lucas Administration Building and the Good Hope Activity Center.

Pastor Emeritus, Reverend Crawford W. Kimble, retired after thirty years of faithful service from January 1964 to January 1994. He became the first pastor to retire, at age seventy-five, from the pulpit of Good Hope. He continued to live a blessed life for another 20 years until going home to be with the Lord in 2014.

BENNIE KING

Sister King is a faithful servant who joined Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church when the church was located the in Freedman's Town area of Fourth Ward. Sister King continues to be part of the foundation on which we stand.

ROSE MARY MCGOWAN

Sister Rose Mary McGowan has been a member of Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church since she joined our family of faith in 1943. Sister McGowan has earned the trust and respect of our church family through singing in the choir, her service in the Bell Choir, and as a member of the Senior Adult Ministry.

FRAZIER SCURRY

Mother Scurry united with Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1942 and had a powerful positive impact in her work with Mission 2, and as a Deaconess. She used her spiritual gifts to educate God's people as she provided leadership in church education, BTU, Sunday School, and work with the youth. Mother Scurry is our second oldest living member at the blessed age of 101 years. Mother Scurry continues to provide inspiration and is an example of a faithful servant.

WILLIAM MCQUEEN

Brother McQueen joined Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1946, but moved out of the city and rejoined Good Hope in 1950. Brother McQueen remains a faithful servant, having served as a faithful member of the Brotherhood, Brothers of Hope and a member of the church choir.

NORMAN TIBBS

Deacon Norman Tibbs joined Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1960. His gifts of leadership, administration and faith are at the core of our church's foundation. Deacon Tibbs was a member of the Brotherhood, Chairman of the Pulpit Committee, and served for many years as Superintendent of the Sunday School. He currently serves as the Lead Servant for the Deacons and Wives Ministry, and is known for his wisdom and faithfulness.

MARVIN WATTS

Brother Marvin Watts united with Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1941 and served faithfully as a member of the choir. His influence is still being felt as part of the foundation on which we stand.

Dr.. D. Z. Cofield

1994 - PRESENT

Dr. D. Z. Cofield (1994 – present) was elected to be the sixth pastor by the membership of the then 122- year old church on March 28, 1994. The Brooklyn, New York native received a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Swarthmore College and his Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary as well as a Doctor of Ministry degree at Faith Evangelical Seminary in Tacoma, Washington.

Under the leadership of Pastor Cofield, many new ministries have evolved with emphasis on community outreach and ministry support, focusing on the theme, “Taking Hope to the World.” In 1995, a nonprofit 501(c)3 was formed called “Hope for Families” to help serve the Houston community.

In 1996, the Honorary Chairwoman of Hope for Families was Congress-woman Barbara C. Jordan. After her passing, Dr. Cofield eulogized her at Good Hope, a celebratory event that was attended by President Clinton and former Governor Ann Richards. The ceremony was broadcast worldwide over the CNN television network.

NAOMI MCQUEEN

Sister Naomi McQueen joined Good Hope in 1943, and has served many years, with distinction, as our church secretary. She was a member of Mission 2, and continues to be known for her gifts that demonstrate God's love.

WILLIE WILLIAMS

Brother Willie Williams joined Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1962. He has demonstrated his faithfulness to our church over the decades, and remains a faithful servant.

Following the vision of Dr. Cofield, the active membership has grown from 150 to over 3,000. Ministry milestones are many and include, but are not limited to: developing the Community Empowerment Health Fair, impacting education with an International Preschool, elementary school and high school, international mission work in Africa and South America, hosting the Real World, Real Talk radio show at HBCU Texas Southern University, facilitating a joint venture with FEMA to create a Distribution Center during a devastating hurricane season, engineering a Disaster Relief Center, becoming a featured writer in several Christian publications and partnering with the United States Census Bureau.

With all the church has accomplished under his leadership, Pastor Cofield still believes the best days of the church are ahead of us. God wants to use all of us to Love Him, Love All People and Change the World.

In Memory Of

Mary Batties

Mother Mary Batties joined Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1952, and was a faithful servant and member of the Usher Board, Sunday School and B.T.U (Baptist Training Union). Her spirit of love and encouragement was poured into her Good Hope family, and she will be long be remembered for embodying the Fruits of the Spirit.

Sarah Scarborough

Sister Sara Scarborough became a member of Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in 1940. Her ministry leadership strengthened the foundation of our church as she served as Church Historian, sang in the Senior Choir, performed with the Hand Bell Choir, and provided leadership as Lead Servant of the Senior Adult Ministry. She will long be remembered for her leadership, administration and faith.

Essie B. Stephens

Long-time member and mother of the church, Sister Essie Stephens went home to be with the Lord in May, 2019. We honor her today by remembering her stellar work with the children's Sunday School, the B.T.U. and for her leadership with the Culinary Ministry as head cook who fed many on first Sunday's at the 4th ward location.

Dorothy Haynes

Long-time member and mother of the church, Sister Dorothy Haynes went home to be with the Lord in September, 2019. We honor her today by remembering her sweet spirit as a member of the Gospel Choir Chorus and as a member of the Senior Adult Ministry.

Alexton Mallory

Brother Mallory served Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in many areas, most notably, as a Trustee, leader of the Hand Bell choir and a member of the Senior Adult Choir. Though he has gone home to be with the Lord, his leadership continues to be felt and he remains part of the foundation on which we stand.