

"HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THEM THAT PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE AND BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!" (ROMANS 10:15)

"So at fifteen years old I received "Religion!" The next morning I woke up and went across the field letting the neighbors, the Ricks, Simons and Snow families know that I had gotten religion. Of course, this didn't last long because I didn't get what God required for me to get, that is salvation through the Holy Ghost. Oh yes, I repented and if I had known about the Holy Ghost I would have gotten it, but I didn't know that after conversion comes the refreshing of the Lord."—**Bishop Joseph Weathers**

Joseph Weathers was born to Estelle Phoebe Weathers on May 3, 1926. Bishop Weathers was married to the late Mother Roberta Kurtz Weathers for forty-eight years, until her death (on his 73rd birthday) May 3, 1999. He is survived by his daughter, Kamala Weathers Matthews, of Washington, DC.: devoted Cousins The Spencer and Bradford Family, devoted sister in law Dollena Kurtz, God Children: Raphael Cook, Redell Spinks, Pearilya Thomas, Trina Cureton and Elder David Myrick, Sr; The Holy Temple Church Family, a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; Caregivers: Georgette, Abbey, and Felice and Personal Assistant, Willie Mae Allison and a host of spiritual sons and daughters too numerous to name.

Much of his childhood life was spent in Sumter, S.C growing up with his three siblings: a sister, Emma Weathers-Broger, and two brothers, William and Ruben—all of whom preceded him in death.

"Ruben and I were just like twins; we played, made toys, set traps for birds and plowed the garden for grandma. Grandma's name was Byna Brooks-Weathers. She was stately, generous, compassionate and a loving woman. She loved her grandchildren, especially me. I was the youngest of the grandchildren and she loved and cared for me as if I were her own son."

Bishop Weathers completed his secondary education in Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1945. After serving "22 months and 17 days" in the U.S. Navy, the young Weathers moved to Washington, DC.

"I left Columbia, South Carolina on a train going to Washington, D.C., on a Sunday in August 1949. I arrived in Washington, D.C. about 2:30 pm in the afternoon. Solomon Harris met me at Union Station and took me to the room he was living in on 9th Street, NW. The next morning we got dressed and Solomon took me out on the job. The first day I was there, I got a job as a carpenter's helper. I was working on a construction site at Longfellow and 8th Street, N.W."

Bishop Weathers also worked briefly for the Statler Hilton Hotel and the Walter Reed Army Medical Center before beginning his professional career at the U.S. Department of Agriculture

(USDA) which spanned over 20 years (1950-1970). A lot of things happened during those 20 years. God began working on and through this energetic young man from Sumter, SC. He was never too proud to dirty his hands whether it was scrubbing floors at the Statler, or working as a carpenter alongside his Uncle Solomon as a carpenter's helper. One of the most important changes came when he discovered the real meaning of 'getting religion' and yes, falling in love with the woman that God would send especially for him. The shaping of a Holy man had only just begun.

"I first observed someone from the Way of the Cross Church when I would go to work on Sunday afternoons and the bus would pass right by the church. A lot of times they would be just getting out of church and I would look at the people. I didn't know I would wind up at that church. Some days in the afternoon, I would pass by as I was going on that route and some of the young people would be getting out of school. That's when I first saw Bernard Brooks and Sonny Williams. They were little boys getting off the bus there at Virginia Avenue. That was my start at the Way of the Cross Church, at 4th & Virginia Avenue, SE. Washington, D.C. in 1950."

Weathers joined the Way of the Cross Church in 1950, and served in several positions including: President of the Youth for Christ, Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School, Second Bible Class teacher, Church Photographer, a member of the Deacon Board, and as a member of the Ministerial Board under the late Bishop Henry C. Brooks. Bishop Weathers was ordained in 1961 and that same year, was elected General Secretary of the Way of the Cross Church, Inc. He served in the dual capacities of Administrative Assistant to Bishop Brooks and Field Minister for approximately four years, commuting from the District to Ashland and Frederick Hall, Virginia, where he had been assigned.

"On an ordinary day, in 1951, I was attending services at the Way of The Cross Church of Christ (then located at 4th and Virginia Avenue S.E), in the District of Columbia. I remember it well; it was a hot summer day with countless paper fans moving in sync with the choir melody. I just happened to gaze over the sanctuary, and I saw this beautiful pecan-brown woman with the prettiest black straight bangs. In case you do not know what "bangs" are (I did not know until later) – it is a Chinese bob hairstyle. I would occasionally glance at her throughout the service. I knew at that moment, she was a woman that I had to meet. Her name was Roberta Eugenia Kurtz. Our engagement lasted one year. We were married on Sunday, November 29, 1952 at our church home, 2 o'clock in the afternoon following morning worship. On July 4, 1963, she gave birth to our daughter, Kamala Nalini.

In 1969, with a lot of faith and 120 members, (Elder) Weathers founded The Holy Temple Church of Christ. The following year, he resigned his position at USDA to serve as a full time Pastor at Holy Temple. He was ordained in 1974 to the office of the Bishop by Bishop William L. Bonner, the presiding Apostle of the Churches of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With God at the center of his life, Bishop Weathers was the spiritual conduit for the personal growth and prosperity of

Today, Holy Temple is a living monument to Ill John 2, which says, "*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*" The membership has grown and flourished as the Lord anointed Bishop Weathers with wisdom, patience and a discerning spirit. Many souls have been baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost; many souls have been healed by the miraculous healing power of God.

Bishop Weathers believed in preparing oneself for spiritual prosperity as well as for natural advancement. As the Shepherd, he always encouraged young people to get an education, and to continue learning beyond high school. As he did with most things, Bishop was an example of his own instruction and was always about self-improvement. As an employee of the government, he completed a number of courses in personnel management and also in supervisory functions and responsibilities. He attended Temple Business School and the Christian International University. He completed a foundation course in Humanities in 1972-1973 and a 100 hour Home Nursing Administrator course in 1974 at the University of Maryland. In 1976, Bishop Weathers received an Associate of Arts Degree in Sociology from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Theology Degree from New Haven Theological Seminary in 1976. In recognition of his educational achievements, outstanding ministerial work and other accomplishments, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree by Eastern American University.

In accordance with Isaiah 54:13, "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children," the Holy Temple Christian Academy was established

Bishop Weathers had more than a passion for children; he had a vision for their welfare, and believed they should receive instruction in a Christian environment. In 1982, he founded The Holy Temple Academy. The establishment of the Academy was a natural outgrowth and expansion of the Christian education being provided children at Holy Temple on Sundays through the Nursery, Sunday School, and Junior Church. Furthering his vision, an accredited Day Care facility was established in 1987 to provide a supervised and structured childcare curriculum to accommodate younger children.

His pulpit was on Capitol Hill, but his message permeated mortared walls, reaching many different worlds and varied

For more than 50 years, the Lord multiplied the voice of Bishop Weathers' through a ministry that gained the attention and respect of the educated, the uneducated; the free, the imprisoned, the rich, the poor—all knew him as a warrior, but a peacemaker too. They knew him as a man of great patience, but little tolerance for wrong-doing. He was a man of humility, but he was a giant among his courts. He was quiet in manner, but projected a thunderous

proclamation when preaching under the anointing of his "Help". Sunday morning, Bishop surrendered to His Master—his Help came for the final time and took him home.

The prisoners at Lorton won't see him again, but they will forever hear him and know of his work --for he told them their bondage need not be the end. The homeless won't hear his voice as he once walked the alley they knew as home---but they will forever remember hearing about a home of eternity. Those listeners who tuned in to radio station WYCB to hear the Good News Radio broadcast—you won't hear him anymore, but he would want you continue the work. He is gone, but his work lives on in each of us who were chosen to know him.

"I am waiting for my Upper-Taker"

No longer, Bishop, no longer. Your wait is over. Your crown now awaits you.