A Victory Celebration Honoring
The Life and Homegoing of

Rev. Ronald Lucien Wright
October 11, 1949 – August 31, 2015

Tuesday, September 8, 2015
11:00 am
Holman United Methodist Church
3320 West Adams Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90018
Rev. Kevin Sauls- Host Pastor
Rev. Dr. Clyde D. Oden, Jr. Pastor, Bryant Temple AME- Officiant
Committal Services – Inglewood Park Cemetery
Repast immediately following Committal Services in White Hall, Holman United Methodist Church
The Worship Celebration

Processional
Clergy, Family, Pallbearers
Andrea Byrd, The 23rd Psalm

Greetings
Rev. Dr. Kelvin Sauls
Pastor, Holman UMC

Old Testament – 1Samuel 2:35
Rev. Alton Trimble
Pastor, Glory Christian Fellowship International

New Testament – 2Timothy 4:7,8
Rev. William Dawson
Pastor, Spirit of Life Church Christian Ministries

Prayer of Comfort
Rev. Joyce Kitchen
Pastor, Emmanuel/HM Turner AME Church

Musical Selection –
Martha Taylor LaCroix, Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Expressions of Love (Two Minutes, Please)
La’Chelle Monique Woodard, J.D.
Pastor, New Vision Church of Jesus Christ
Rev. Rosalind Kyle Brookins
Pastor, Walker Temple AME
Rev. Dr. Charles Lee- Johnson-
Pastor, Corona AME

Selection-
Greg Walker – Stand

Expressions of Love (Two Minutes, Please)
Recovery Community- Dr. Ronald Simmons
Tues. Men’s Group- Graelan, Thorne, John
Sons/Daughters in Ministry- Jamico Elder
Family Representative- Rev. Jacqueline Minor
Family Representative / Rev. Ken Wright

Selection-
Total Praise Celebration Mass Choir

Acknowledgements/Condolences/Resolutions
Virgie P. Walker

Obituary
Minister Shavon Moore
New Vision Church of Christ

Selection- Marvelous
Cynthia White, Celebration Mass Choir

Words of Comfort
Rev. Dr. Frank Madison Reid III
Bethel AME Church- Baltimore, Maryland

Benediction
Rev. Dr. Clyde Oden, Jr.

Recessional – Goin’ Up Yonder
Josina Epps, Celebration Mass Choir
Obituary of Rev. Ronald L. Wright

“For I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course and I have kept the faith.”

Rev. Ronald L. Wright was born on October 11, 1949 in Louisville, Kentucky out of the love of the late Romonia Clay Wright and Thomas Wright. An only child for a number of years, “Ronnie” was doted on by his grandparents, Leslie and Ollie Clay and other family members. He endured medical fragilities during his childhood, but he persevered. Ron was the first of two children, his brother Kenneth Leslie Wright following him in birth. His first school experience was in Louisville at S.C. Taylor Elementary School. His most memorable report card was in kindergarten when his teacher wrote words that would become prophetic, He is a joy to have in class, but so full of talk”. He was a child who was very imaginative, outgoing and athletic and loved to “kick it” with the fellas. Ron’s father was a law enforcement officer in Louisville during the height of racism and the marginalization of African Americans. Black policemen were not even given vehicles to do their job and were prohibited from arresting whites. Determined to protect his boys from this type of abuse, the Wright family left Louisville and moved to Los Angeles, California in 1954. Ron’s first LA Unified school was Angeles Mesa Elementary School where he developed friendships that have lasted to the very day. Ron attended Pasteur Junior High where he learned to adapt well to cultural diversity. From there, he went on to L.A. High School where he graduated in 1968.

Deeply impacted by a troubled relationship with his father, Ron immersed himself in the “street life” that would later ground him in the understanding, sensitivity and ability to work with those involved in the same “risk-taking”, destructive behaviors. On the crest of that life, Ron met the woman who would share his life and ministry in December, 1978. They were married in October, 1982 at Ward AME Church. Together, they loved and served the communities they were assigned by the Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the end of Ron’s personal journey through addiction, he accompanied Aziza to her home church, Ward AME. Ron had been listening to Aziza’s witness about her dynamic Pastor. The Introduction to Ward (here Aziza was also attending anti-apartheid and Black Women Forum meetings) and African Methodism was another transforming move for Ron that would lead to ministry, evangelism, social advocacy and 31 years of sobriety. Ron joined Ward AME on the first Sunday of hearing Frank Madison Reid preach the sermon, “Put the Devil in his Place”. He hungered for the Word of God and to be of service. He joined the Prison Ministry and developed a substance abuse ministry. It was at Ward AME that he received his call to ministry and was first assigned to St. Paul AME Church, Santa Barbara in 1990. His outreach work in Santa Barbara, inclusive of teaching a class at UC Santa Barbara featuring the great impact of Black Religion to the world brought many students from UCSB to St. Paul where they joined, sang in the choir, and continued to serve the Lord wherever they traveled. One such student went on to pastor one of the fastest-growing churches in Los Angeles. St. Paul experienced a sharp growth in members under Pastor Wright during his tenure there. He was
then reassigned to Emmanuel AME where he led that church to an amazing revitalization. His final place for ministry was New Vision Church of Jesus Christ where he retired in January, 2015.

Ron’s work in recovery occurred in large measure as a substance abuse counselor at People Coordinator Services (Main Street Wagon) that later became Castle East, and also at Castle West. Strongly believing facilitating sobriety was only a “part of the way” liberation, Pastor Wright would pick up residents and take them to Church Sunday-after-Sunday. Rev. Wright’s dear friend, Elder Dr. Ron Simmons, received the vision for a Christ-centered recovery program. Rev. Ron Wright caught that vision and became the co-founder of Free N One, a Faith-Based 12-step answer to the drug and alcohol crisis. This model has been replicated in 15 states across the country.

Rev. Ron Wright’s passion for social justice informed his rich history of serving the Los Angeles area through multiple ministries during his leadership in three socially conscious faith-based institutions. At the behest of the late community stalwart, Queen Lillian Harkless Mobley, Rev. Wright served as member of the Community Advisory Board for Verizon on behalf of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference where he held a seat from 1999 to 2011. He served on the Board of Director of National Family Life and Education for over 7 years. He worked in partnership with Health African American Families, UCLA, RAND and the Department of Mental Health to develop strategies to address the mental health needs of South Los Angeles by-way of Faith-Based participation and leadership beginning in 2004.

Reverend Wright has received numerous awards and commendations from organizations such as the NAACP, The Brotherhood Crusade, the SHARE Foundation (inspiring the Ron Wright award), the United Health Plan, Inc., LA County Board of Supervisors and other municipalities. Of particular importance and a source of profound humility for Rev. Wright was his published contribution to the book Gardner C. Taylor: Letters to the Dean.

Rev. Ronald Wright was preceded in death by both parents Romonia and Thomas Wright. He leaves a host of family and friends to celebrate his life, love and memories beginning with his loving wife, Aziza Lucas-Wright and 2 children, Ra Sudan Tauhid Daaood and Romonia Arnetta Wright Edmond (Lance Love Edmond), 2 grand children, Oni Renee Daaood and Elizabeth Love Edmond, all of Los Angeles, CA; his beloved “little brother”, Kenneth Leslie Wright (Santa Wright), a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. One maternal aunt remains, Margaret Love of Chicago, Illinois. On August 31, 2015, God Almighty God called his servant from labor to reward, intoning the welcome “well done, thou good and faithful servant, come home.”

Rev. Wright has left an indelible footprint of courage and character in the Los Angeles community and across the country. Ron is deeply loved and respected by the faith, recovery, social justice community. His works shall never be forgotten. We thank God for a life well-lived.
Active Pallbearers

Howard Ramsey  
Emmanuel Wright  
Gary Clayton  
Greg Hill  
Lee Radford  
Roland Bynum

Honorary Pallbearers

Cleo Cloman  
Darnell Gilbert  
Pierre Gilbert  
Gary Gilbert  
Mark Gilbert  
Byron Logan

Head Ushers

Johnny Carter Woodson  
Donald Thompson

The Family is deeply grateful to those doorkeepers who have lovingly guided and served the family, friends and colleagues today. Thank you for your giving.

Special Acknowledgments

Words cannot adequately express our heartfelt “Thank You” which is extended to each of you who shared in this celebration and home going of Rev. Ronald Wright. Your fervent prayers, love and support sustained us during this journey. We are sincerely appreciative of the many act of kindness given by so many people. THANK YOU. Whatever kindness you extended is accepted with sincere and everlasting gratitude. Pastor Wright’s remembrance of his last “Charge To Keep”, New Vision Church of Jesus Christ, will travel to glory with him, thank you for your love and caring under the leadership of his worthy successor, Pastor La' Chelle Monique Woodert, J.D.; Rev. Dr. Clyde Oden, Jr. who continually led the charge to provide support to Pastor Wright and family; Rev. Dr. Frank Madison Reid, III who sparked an irresistible “call to ministry” and excellence; Rev. Kelvin and Rev. Judy Sauls for their attentive generosity; to the host of brother/sister ministers who brought the Word to New Vision during Pastor Wright’s illness; and to his loving caregivers, Veronique McCoy and Gail White…how can we ever adequately say thanks. A special “Thank You” is given to Silverado-Beverly Place staff for your professional and compassionate care to Pastor Wright, his family and friends.
A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me.
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song.
The good life I lived while I was strong.
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all, how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your life, don't worry about falls
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes we're together again
–Author unknown

Final Arrangements Entrusted to: Harrison-Ross Mortuary

Repast provided by Catering by Bryan

Printing provided by L.A. Business Printing Services