I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
(II Timothy 4:7)

Celebration of the Abundant Life of
Rev. Charles B. Bailey

Saturday, September 12, 2009  2:30 pm
Salem Baptist Church
1824 North Eleventh Street
Kansas City, KS

Officiant, Rev. Tony Carter, Jr.
"BU-ford," Esther called for the youngest of her three children. Her voice traveled miles through Kansas City, KS, and wherever that boy was shooting marbles, swimming in Jersey Creek, hopping trucks or eating cookies, he immediately came running. As she prayed for him daily, she didn’t realize it was God’s plan for Charles to inherit her strong, loud voice. At Northeast Junior High School, he and his friends often entertained their classmates with their Ham and Yam comedy act. Who could have guessed that the voice that yodeled on stage would one day bellow "You got a witness" from the back row of a convention hall?

God nudged Charles when he was 16 years old and he was baptized at the Eighth Street Baptist Church. While church and work consumed most of his time, Bailey remembered being the first kid on his block to buy a car – a 1931, black two-door Chevy. He personalized this auto by putting a yellow streak on the side. Later, he would use red reflector tape to creatively decorate his cars with "Repent," "Try Jesus" and other gospel messages.

In 1943, the United States of America drafted Bailey into the Army. Again God’s plan unfolded. His experiences as a soldier in World War II drastically changed his life and his direction. He witnessed the making of history on D-Day, the invasion of southern France, and the bombing of Hiroshima. Rev. Bailey often colored his sermons with these fox-hole stories, ocean adventures and his near-death escapes to illustrate God’s love, power and judgment. In 1946, with four battle stars, he received an honorable discharge from Uncle Sam’s army to serve in God’s army. God answered his mother’s prayers.

After his church reinstatement to Eighth Street, his attention turned to a young Baptist Training Union teacher. A friend introduced the two and on July 6, 1947, Geneva Stephens married Charles Bailey. God blessed this union with four children.

In 1948, on a Friday evening, while working at the meat packing house, “The Lord called me to preach,” Bailey remembered. "That stuff got hot." His pastor, the late Rev. Dr. I. H. Henderson, advised him to announce this call during the Morning Worship. But during Sunday School, when the children sang Fit me for service (V. Davis), Bailey couldn’t wait. He ran down the aisle to announce his call to service. He attended the American Baptist Theological Seminary in
Nashville, TN and in 1954 graduated from Western Seminary in Kansas City, MO, earning a Bachelor of Theology degree. Also, during his training, he preached at night services and on the streets. Rev. Henderson gave him a loud speaker and Bailey cruised through the West Bottoms, around the railroad district and on the street corners, playing Mahalia Jackson and preaching, "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon him while he is near."

In 1955, the call came from a young, two-year old church. Salem Baptist Church. They had about 50 members and were meeting in a dance hall; they needed a pastor. Rev. Bailey accepted the call, and a year later the church moved to a shanty at 1820 N. 11th Street, Kansas City, KS. Soon, he quit his railroad job to serve the membership full-time. During his 46 years as pastor, God used Rev. Bailey’s effectual, fervent prayer life, dynamic soul-stirring preaching, and uniquely determined evangelistic style along with Mrs. Bailey’s impactful teaching, virtuous strength and intense love of learning to lead this church to heights no one ever imagined. Salem experienced exponential growth in membership and giving, innumerable transformed lives, construction of a new sanctuary and educational facility, debt-free ownership of half a city block and an impeccable record of faithful service to God and the community. To many, Rev. Bailey (The man with the “Gospel Chariot”) was a legend in his time, but he was never too busy to chauffeur senior citizens or others needing transportation, visit the sick and bereaved, run a foot face with the children or literally give his last dollar to the needy. However, his greatest joy was leading a soul to Christ, whether it was from the pulpit or on the street corner with his "buddies."

Rev. Bailey joins B. Frank Bailey (father), Esther Bailey Johnson (mother), Frank Bailey (brother), Teresa Bradford (sister) and Frank E. Bailey (Nephew) who have gone on before him. Cherishing his memory is the love of his life (having just celebrated 62 years of holy matrimony) Geneva “Jenny” A. Bailey, children Charles A. Bailey of Seattle, WA, Nozella L. (David) Brown of Kansas City, KS, W. Timothy (Andrea) Bailey of Kansas City, KS, and Gelaine R. (Jesse Jr.) Williams of Stony Point, NY; grandchildren Malisa, Chrishonda, Timothy Jr., Catrina, Alexander, Jesse III; great-granddaughter Ericka; nieces and nephews Leo “Junebug” Hickman of Leavenworth, KS, Darlene (Anthony) McWilliams of Blue Springs, MO, Eld. Alvin (Shellaine) Bradford of Shawnee, KS, Karen Cunningham of Shawnee, KS, friends, Salemites, a host of other relatives and a myriad of lives who have been eternally impacted by his vibrant, zestful and abundant love for Jesus Christ.

(Lovingly composed by Nozella L. Brown and W. Timothy Bailey)
CELEBRATION OF THE ABUNDANT LIFE OF
Rev. Charles B. Bailey  Pastor Emeritus, Salem Baptist Church

OFFICIANT, Rev. Tony Carter, Jr.
Pastor, Salem Baptist Church

PROCESIONAL

CELEBRATION HYMN  WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN

ELD. ALVIN BRADFORD
GREATER PENTECOSTAL TEMPLE
NEPHEW

ELD. TSgt. EMMANUEL CAMPBELL
RTD. PASTOR, CHRIST TEMPLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
BROTHER-IN-LAW

THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD • PSALM 1

REV. BENJAMIN R. STEPHENS
PASTOR EMERITUS, ANTOCH BAPTIST CHURCH
BROTHER-IN-LAW

THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD • II TIMOTHY 4:6-8

REV. DR. WILLIAM A. LAWSON
FOUNDER, WHEELER AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH (TX)
LONGTIME FRIEND

PRAYER

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC  HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

MRS. GELAINE R. WILLIAMS
DAUGHTER

IN HIS OWN WORDS

REV. CHARLES B. BAILEY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CONDOLENCES

MRS. GWENLOYD RIGDON
TRUSTEE, SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

REFLECTIONS:

REV. C. B. BAILEY, OUR NEIGHBOR

MR. CHESTER OWENS
NEIGHBOR, FORMER 1ST DISTRICT COUNCILMAN

REV. C. B. BAILEY, OUR EVANGELIST

REV. DR. ROBERT L. BAYNHAM
PASTOR, METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH
PRES., MISSIONARY BAPT. STATE CONVENTION (KS)

REV. C. B. BAILEY, MY FATHER IN MINISTRY

REV. STEWART JOHNSON
PASTOR, ST. MARK BAPTIST CHURCH (MO)
SON IN THE MINISTRY

REV. C. B. BAILEY, MY PASTOR

MRS. MARIE TAFFE-HARRIS
CHARTER MEMBER, SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

REV. C. B. BAILEY, MY FATHER

MR. W. TIMOTHY BAILEY
SON

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC  HOW I GOT OVER

REV. JIMMIE L. BANKS
PASTOR, STRANGERS REST BAPTIST CHURCH
SON OF SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

THE PREACHED WORD OF GOD

REV. DR. JESSE T. WILLIAMS, JR.
PASTOR, CONVENT AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH (NY)
SON-IN-LAW

Benediction

REV. TONY CARTER, JR.
PASTOR, SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

RECESSINAL  I’LL FLY AWAY
You can’t feel it
Yet it touches you gently
Soothing the pain
Allowing future insight to reign

Depending on your point of view
It will assist or neglect
According to your reflex

It can’t be purchased
And defies ownership
Yet it’s so easy to spend
Unfortunately, it can’t be replenished

With keen eyes
Watching the season’s dance
It never pauses for late arrivals
Who missed their chance

You can engage in a speed race
Or glide adventurously along
But you can’t out maneuver it
Nor shove it into fast forward

It responds to patience
Utterly, immune to anger
And all we’re entitled is
One

Precious
Moment
Of
Time . . . . . . . . .

Author, Charles A. Bailey

Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near.
(Isaiah 55:6)
An Abundant Life for You

There is no doubt that Rev. C. B. Bailey lived an abundantly fruitful life. But did you know that that same full and meaningful life is available to you? The same God that loved and cared for C. B. Bailey loves you and wants you to enjoy life to the max just like Rev. Bailey!

The thing that keeps all of us from experiencing life as it was meant to be lived is sin. Just like you and me, C. B. Bailey was born in sin. All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And because of that sin, each of us has earned something. The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. What a terrible wage to earn! However, the Bible doesn’t stop there.

Because of our sin, we’ve earned death. But God gave us a gift. That free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Did you know that God loves you so much that He paid the wage for you? That’s right. Even while we were still sinners - and all of us were - God showed His own love for us by allowing Jesus to pay the price [death] for our sins. Wow! What a wonderful gift. However, just like any other gift, you have to accept God’s gift in order to enjoy it.

Rev. C. B. Bailey accepted that gift. Today, you can do the same. Simply confess with your mouth that “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you too can enjoy God’s gift: salvation from eternal death, assurance of eternal life and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That’s what C. B. Bailey experienced. Don’t you want to experience the same abundant life?

If you want to receive this gift, bow your head and pray, “Dear God, I admit that I am a sinner. Please forgive me for all my sins. I believe that Jesus is your Son and the Savior of the world. Please accept me as your child and make my life full and meaningful. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During our season of bereavement, the family of Rev. Charles B. Bailey would like to thank each of you for all your prayers, cards, condolences, e-mails, calls, food, contributions, thoughts, words and other expressions of support and encouragement. A special “Thank You” to Pastor Tony Carter, the officers and members (past and present) of our Salem Baptist Church family.

We invite you to join us in continuing the legacy of Rev. Charles B. and Mrs. Geneva A. Bailey by making a contribution to the Bailey Christian Education Fund (BCEF). For more information, visit www.CBBailey.com. Checks should be made payable to:

BCEF        Post Office Box 2523        Kansas City, KS 66110

PRAYER TEAM

Mrs. Bernice Jackson          Dea. & Mrs. Chauncey & Brenda Rucker
Dr. & Mrs. Eddie & Victoria Smith       Dea. & Mrs. Jesse & Sharon Hall

THOSE WHO BEAR THE BIER

Charles A. Bailey, son         Eld. Alvin Bradford, nephew
W. Timothy Bailey, son         Gregory Stephens, nephew
David L. Brown, son-in-law     Benjamin Stephens, nephew
W. Timothy Bailey, Jr., grandson    Joseph Mark Hathaway, nephew
W. Alexander Bailey, grandson   Craig Campbell, nephew

THOSE WHO BEAR THE BIER IN HONOR

Deacons of Salem Baptist Church

EARTLY INTERMENT
LEAVENWORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY
LEAVENWORTH, KS

FINAL RESTING PLACE
HEAVEN

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO
LAWRENCE A. JONES & SONS FUNERAL CHAPELS
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