Celebration of Life

For

Mr. Jeremy Lamont Bates-Owens



Sunday, January 3, 2021 1:00 O'clock p.m.

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church 2415 Old Moulton Rd SW Decatur, AL 35603

Pastor E. Chip Owens, Eulogist Elder Kenneth Owens, Officiating

Obituary

Mr. Jeremy Lamont Bates-Owens was born February 12, 1977 in Sheffield, AL to Edward L. Owens and Hazel Bates. Jeremy made his peaceful transition on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Huntsville Hospital Main Campus.

Jeremy's Christian journey began at an early age at the Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of his paternal grandfather, Reverend Leo Owens. Jeremy later joined the Westside Missionary Baptist Church with his father under the leadership of Pastor George A. Smith. When his father was called to pastor the Shiloh Missionary Baptist, Jeremy joined the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church under his father's leadership and remained a faithful and committed servant until the Lord called him home. Over the years Jeremy was active in youth ministry, music ministry, and quietly serving wherever he could be of help.

Many saw him walking wherever he went. He didn't walk because he had to walk. He walked because he chose to. His parents bought him a car while in High School and taught him to drive. He had the ability to drive but a traumatic experience in his teen years left him apprehensive about driving. So, he chose to walk. And being independent he often turned down rides from even his own family members. But Jeremy didn't let his anxiety with driving hinder him from setting and achieving even higher goals. Jeremy graduated from Austin High School in 1996. He went on to complete an Associate Degree in Secondary Education at John C. Calhoun Community College, a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Arizona Global Campus (formerly Ashford University), a master's degree in public administration from the University of Arizona Global Campus and was working toward the completion of a PhD in Public Administration from North Central University all while working full time. Jeremy loved reading and learning. Early on doctors and his parents noted his uncanny ability to recall vast amounts of information. He had a photogenic memory for facts, numbers, and statistics. He often served as his family members' encyclopedia. Long before Google when many of them needed to research something rather than google, they called Jeremy. When he wasn't reading, he was watching Alabama Football. Jeremy never missed watching an Alabama game and showing his one-man sports center update capability. He kept his Facebook friends abreast of every score in each game and the stats.

In addition to Jeremy's love for learning he had an impeccable work ethic. He worked in the service industry since he was 17 years old. His photogenic memory, heart for service, and interpersonal skills were perfect for the service industry. He began working in Champions Grocery Store while in High School and remained there until the store was closed. He then joined the team at Belle Foods which was bought by Food World. He remained at Food World until it closed. In August of 2013 he joined the family at Hometown Market and remained a faithful team member until the day he took ill on December 14th. The Hometown Family testified they knew something was wrong on the morning of December

 $14^{\rm th}$ when he arrived to work late. Up until that day he had never arrived to work late nor missed a single day of work.

While there are no perfect people or perfect children, his parents, siblings, family members, classmates, coworkers, fellow tenants, and all who really knew him testify that he comes as close to a perfect child or person as you will ever see on earth. Yes, he was quiet, private, giving, loving, sweet, honest, trustworthy, meek, humble, and genuinely loved people. Yet he was staunchly independent and courageously stood his ground for whatever he believed in. He never asked for anything and never wanted to be a bother. But he gave so much of himself to all he encountered. He never let the words of doubters' ring louder than the drive on the inside of him. He fought until the end. His loved ones are crushed by his loss yet feel so privileged to have been given the time and gift of him in their lives.

Jeremy was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother Mrs. Dallas Bates, his paternal grandmother First Lady Emeritus Ella Mae (Betty) Owens, and his bonus grandparents Deacon Osia and Mother Inez Carmichael; 6 uncles and 1 Aunt.

He leaves to cherish his memories and a forever loving bond with his Mother, Ms. Hazel Horton (Leighton, AL); His father and bonus Mom, Drs. Edward, and Claudette Owens (Hartselle, AL); Sisters Ashley Horton (Calera, AL), and Erica (Fiancé Justin Shepherd) Horton (Tuscumbia, AL); Brothers Pastor E Chip (Lillian) and Arri Owens, Atlanta, Ga.; Nieces and Nephews, Zarya, Skylar, Josiah, and David. Grandfather: Reverend Leo Owens; Uncles Clarence (Joanne) Bates (Muscle Shoals, AL), James Bates (Berlin, Germany), Arthur Scales and Murphy (Crystal) Brown (Decatur, AL), Dwight (Benita) Owens (Hillsboro, AL); Derrick (Lisa) and Kevin Johnson (Mobile, AL); Aunts, Ida (Edward) Nance (Sheffield, AL), Gladys (Mccoy) Jackson (Leighton, AL), Edna Hamilton (Muscle Shoals, AL), Susie (Bill) Walker (Lansing, MI), Joyce (Percy) Eggleston (Muscle Shoals, AL), Thelma (Mike) Swift (Traverse, MI); Pauline (Roosevelt) Beasley (Lansing, MI), Carolyn Hampton (Leighton, AL); Glenda Owens Scruggs (Decatur, AL), Cassandra (Marvin) Rogers (Cleveland, OH); a devoted cousin, Dr. Brenda (Reginald) Goodloe (Leighton, AL); a bonus family of Carmichaels, Johnsons, and Malones; a host of other cousins, relatives, and friends, a special set of God Mothers, Brothers, and Sisters: Dr. Cheryl Bowman, Mrs. Mary Sue Bowman, Mrs. Hazel (Noah) Boyett, Evangelist Effie Clifton, Mrs. Patricia Evans, Ms. Richelle Graves, Mr. Rodney and Mrs. Deitra Mobley, Elders Coynis and Valerie Smith, Mr. Marcus Stovall, and Drs. Karockas and Audra Watkins; and his forever infamous Austin High School, Westside and Shiloh God Brothers, God Sisters and encouragers: Deacon James Baker, Ms. Tameeka Buford, Christian Fellowship Teams, Deacon Brian and Alma Davis, Pastor Janice Ellison, Anthony Goodner, Minister Leavon and Tonya Hampton, Mr. Marcus Jones, Minister Vanessa Powell, Mrs. Vickie Steele, Pastors Jerry and Felica Brown, Ms. Natasha Clay, Pastor Tommy Cook, Pastors Anthony and Keisha Lovejoy, Mr. Torris Marshall, Ms. Rena Nance, Mrs. Katie Smith, Ms. Kamelia Warren, Roger Williams, and Mrs. Paula (Rodney) Woodall, all of whom consistently loved, supported, and encouraged him with all their hearts over the years. And we are forever grateful to the team at Hometown Market for making our boy an integral part of the Hometown Family.

I Finished Early

Modified from the original by Dr. Claudette C. Owens

Some may feel I finished early. But you see I knew I had a lot to do. You know me, I had more than some of you. Yet you wonder why I rest so soon, why, I finished early? I came into time. I started my assignments on time even though the choices were all mine.

I always put in a full day's work. Yet, I finished early. I thought at first the road would be long. So, I asked the Lord to keep me strong. And step by step I ran my race. I kept the faith and moved at my pace. Not even Corona Virus could steal my joy or interrupt God's Plan. I just finished early.

I'm not a quitter, nor did I ever slack or half step my friend. I kept on fighting until the very end. And the only thing I can say is, I finished early only by the measure of man's mind. I finished in my God's perfect and sovereign time. Some of you look at the years and think I finished early. But, with God it counts not at all how long, how brief, or how small. God looks for a ready heart and a faithful servant, even if it looks to you like I finished early.

Letter to Our Sweet Jay

Dr. Claudette C. Owens

Jay, many years ago, your mom and I made a pact together. She trusted my heart and you in my hand with her precious treasure. I had no idea the pricelessness of the treasure she chose to share with me. From that day, you have never cased to amaze me. Your intellectual brilliance, your pure love, your heart of Gold, and your quiet strength were simply unmatchable. My heart is crushed, the tears won't stop flowing, and I have no words to say. My road partner, my sports coach, my referee under Friday night lights, my Saturday football game and wings co-anchor, my Sunday afternoon football game host (both praying your dad didn't have an evening program), my living encyclopedia, my personal professor, my touch of heaven here on earth, my rare and precious jewel, just simply my "Jay." I can't understand how I could have you with me one day with smiles and grins and the next day we're off to what would be the end. You showed me what pure undefiled love should be. I love you with an everlasting love and right now, I really can't breathe. I know God must have needed another jewel as he prepares Jesus' crown for the coronation day. But I know they can't crown Him until we all get there. We will miss that eternal smile and your sweet and gentle spirit. But we knew you were tired and needed to rest our sweet child. When I saw the look on your Mom's face it literally broke my heart to see her holding the same hand that drew his first breath now take his last. I could see the pain in her face. It literally tore me apart. I knew what she was saying to me without ever having a word to part. All we could do was cry, yet we all agreed not to say goodbye. We could feel the peace of the almighty God flowing down the aisle. So, we decided to let you go for now and just say after a while, our sweet Jay, after a while.

Order of Service

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," II Tim 4:7

Elder Kenneth Owens, Officiating

Musical Prelude	Musicians

Processional and Final Glance Reynolds Funeral Home

Selection Shiloh Music Ministry

Scripture & Prayer Reverend Thomas Bates

Words of Comfort Reverend Leo Owens and Reflections Grandfather and Past Pastor

Selection Shiloh Music Ministry

Sibling Tributes

Ms. Ashley Horton

Ms. Erica Horton

Mr. Arri Owens

Acknowledgments Dr. Cheryl Bowman

Musical Tribute

Dr. Janette Kotey

Pastor Lillian Kotey Owens

Eulogy Pastor E. Chip Owens
Transformation Church

Transformation Church

Atlanta, GA Video Tribute

Closing Prayer Pastor Lillian Kotey-Owens

Recessional Reynolds Funeral Home

Note: For the safety of all attending, please keep your mask on. And please remain socially distanced at 6 ft unless you are from the same family/household.

To My Mom: Hazel Horton



Sometimes you get discouraged because I am so small. And I always leave my handprints on the furniture and wall.

But everyday I'm growing up and soon I'll so tall, that all those little handprints will be so hard to recall.

Now here's a little handprint just so you can remember too! Exactly how my fingers looked on Mothers' Day 1982.

l Love You, Jeremy

The Professor It's hard to say bye,

To my cousin, my friend! My nephew, my brother, My beloved next of kin.

Touched so many people, A loving spirit and heart. One of God's favorite, We all knew it from the start.

A hard worker by day, And a PROFESSOR by night. Everything that he done, He gave it all his might.

Gone way too soon, And understatement to make, But my God would know best, So his soul He would take.

Tribute: Cousin Eric Jackson and Son E.J.

Cherished Memories





















Psalm 23

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



A Mother's Love



Jeremy, you're the love of my life. I loved you from the moment that I found out I was pregnant with you. My heart was so overjoyed from the first time that I felt your kicks and punches that you made while I was carrying you.

When you were born into this world and I first laid my eyes on you and held you into my arms, my heart was filled with so much joy. You're the best part of me. I will always love you forever and ever and always. I could not have asked for a more loving and caring son than you, my love.

My heart is broken into more pieces than I can count. I asked God how can I give up my child? He said, "I gave him to you for 43 years to love and care for, but it's time for me to take him home." That was the hardest decision that I ever had to make in my life, but I know that God knows what is best for his children. I also know "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." That is where my sweet "Jeremy" is right now, with the Lord.

So, my beautiful son rest on and enjoy the glory of the Lord. Words can't express how I'm feeling right now, but I know that you're in a better place free to be who you are. For that reason, that gives me a little comfort. I will love you forever, forever, and always.

Love mom,

Hazel



Good Night Dear Son,

Now we lay you down to sleep. We know the Lord your soul will keep. It pained our hearts to see your last breath as we laid our hands upon your chest. Your life brought us hope, smiles, and cheer. We often wondered how you could keep that gentle smile on your face as you faced the evils of this world from day to day. We finally realized you saw the world in a whole different view. You saw it through the eyes of the one that created you. For you knew the greater one, Jesus, lived inside of you.

We did not see this day coming so soon. And it pained us to see you leave us Tuesday Afternoon. But go on our dear son, sleep now and take your rest. For we know you are in the hands of the one who loves you best. Your brothers and sisters, grandfather, uncles, aunties, family, and friends join us as we say good night because we will definitely see you again.

With our eternal love Mom Hazel, Dad and Bonus Mom Edward and Claudette



Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Flower Bearers

Minister Vanessa Powell Simone Fells Kamelia Warren Cousins and Friends







Internment
Owens Cemetery



Acknowledgements

The Family of Mr. Jeremy Lamont Bates-Owens wishes to acknowledge all your wonderful acts of kindness shown during our time of loss and grief. Your cards, texts, prayers, phone calls, social media posts, emails, donations, flowers, food, encouragement, tears wiped, and tears shed meant so much to us and brought much comfort to our grieving hearts. We appreciate everything you've done. We would like to especially thank the caring staff of nurses and doctors of Huntsville Hospital Main Campus CCUII. You went beyond just treating our baby boy, you cared for him and allowed for us to be with him when he needed us most. The Owens, Horton, and Bates Families are forever grateful.

Funeral Services: Reynolds Funeral Home Programs: Quantus Link, LLC