



Life Reflections

Bishop Damen M. Bennett was born in Chicago Heights, IL on February 29, 1968 to the late Walter Bennett, Jr. and Joyce Listenbee Bennett. He confessed Jesus Christ as his Savior at an early age and was baptized at First Union Missionary Baptist Church in Ford Heights, IL.

As a child, Bishop Bennett was always advanced and mature. He naturally drew people to him through his charismatic and outgoing nature. His warm and compassionate spirit and sense of humor remained with him throughout his life. Whatever circumstances or life challenges he faced, he never complained. He always remained positive and upbeat, which was a most admirable quality that he possessed. He was clearly born to do the work of the Lord, as he was called into ministry as a youth.

He graduated from Bloom Township High School and attended Bishop's College, later graduating with a Doctorate in Biblical Studies from Midwest Christian College and Seminary. Additionally, he informally studied a wide range of subject areas and was well rounded and well informed. As a result, Bishop Bennett succeeded at most any new task or area of work that he decided to pursue. He was always a persistent and brilliant young man, who is known for sharing his wisdom, and encouraging and empowering others – his family, his congregation, or strangers.

Throughout his career, Bishop Damen had a wide range of employment, beginning at Chicago Heights Steel, and then as a case manager in social services. His last and most fulfilling position in the secular arena was as a Behavior Support Specialist with the Hammond, Indiana School District. His positive influence on students and their families was notable. Through his witness, he was able to bring entire families to Christ.

Bishop Bennett was the Founding Pastor of Fresh Oil Ministries and Church. The church recently celebrated their 32nd year anniversary. Fresh Oil Ministries has ministered to thousands and proudly had a Mortgage Burning Ceremony in 2020.

Bishop Bennett was married to Staci Jackson on October 27, 2001. In Reverend Staci, he found his perfect mate. They became a power couple, growing their

ministry together and impacting the lives of many. In October of 2020, Pastor Bennett was ordained as Bishop, under the Apostolic Empowerment Network, Chicago, IL. At this time Reverend Staci became Pastor of Fresh Oil Ministries. Bishop Bennett was also the overseer of a network of pastors. Additionally, the Bennetts hosted a radio broadcast and Fresh Oil Ministries became a household name throughout the country. As part of his legacy, Bishop Bennett will always be remembered for his friendly and outgoing personality, his perseverance and determination, his generosity, and his desire for others to be prosperous and successful.

Bishop Bennett is preceded in death by his mother, Joyce L. Bennett; father, Walter Bennett Jr.; sister, Theresa Bennett Wallace; and brother, Walter Bennett III.

His memory will always be cherished by his wife, Pastor Staci Bennett; his son, Quentin Dismukes; daughters, Akhali Thompson, Chassidy and Chloe Small and granddog, Kublai Khan Bennett. Damen is survived by his brothers, Elder Deon (Palmer) Bennett of Merrillville, IN; Brandon (Sandra) Johnson and Doland Bennett of Sauk Village, IL; Omar and Walter Johnson of Ford Heights, IL; William Johnson of Minnesota; sister, Trisha Johnson Sims of Indianapolis, IN; (and cousin, aka brother, John (Demetrice) Cole Jr.) of Texas; aunts, Josie Harper, Arnetta Cole, Sillerine Bennett, Beverly (Johnny) Johnson, Gloria (Ezell) Moody, Sandra Green and Brenda Mitchell; uncles, John (Valerie) Cole Sr. and Lyndon Green; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends, along with his precious Fresh Oil Ministries Family. Special acknowledgement to the “Mack Brothers”, Darryl Greenwood, John Cole Jr., Richard Brand, Wilbon Perry, Tiger Alexander, John Wade, Don Bell, Monty Fason, and Melvin Mason.

The memory of Bishop Damen M. Bennett's life of faith will be cherished in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

“Have you not known? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint, nor is He weary? His understanding is inscrutable. He gives power to the faint, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint.” - Isaiah 40:28-31

