



Pallbearers:

ANTOINE BANKS, DENNIS BURTON, DERRICK BURTON,
FRANK MASON, RONALD NANCE, JAMES RUSSELL

Honorary Pallbearers:

KEVIN BROWN, MARCUS JONES, NATHANIEL NEELY, JR.,
MICHAEL NEELY, SR., DEACON WILLIAM KIDD, MARIO
JONES

Ministerial Staff:

ELDER JULIUS JACKSON, ELDER NOAH RILEY, ELDER NASH
E. SHAFFER, III, MINISTER SYLVIA CARSON, MINISTER
KAREN GORDON, MINISTER DOROTHY MOBLEY, MINISTER
MICHAEL NEELY, JR., EVANGELIST CASSANDRA JOHNSON,
EVANGELIST MARLA CARSON JONES, EVANGELIST LORRI
NEELY, PRAISE MINISTER EDWARD HAYES, PRAISE
MINISTER CEDRIC NUNLEY

OBITUARY BOOKLET DESIGNED BY:

S. TE'RESA (BRASSSELL) THOMAS

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PASTOR
Maceo L. Woods

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:32

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

Visitation 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.

Musical Celebration Tribute - 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020

Visitation 10:00 a.m.

Celebration of Life 11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

Memorial Service 1:00 p.m.

Elder Julius Jackson - Officiant



FRIDAY - Musical
January 17, 2020

Pastor Woods' HIT
RECORDINGS INCLUDE :

AMAZING GRACE
HELLO SUNSHINE
STEP TO JESUS
I'M SO GRATEFUL
I'LL GET HOME SOMEDAY
JESUS CAN WORK IT OUT
IN JESUS' NAME

Host:
PASTOR DEANDRE PATTERSON
MINISTER MICHAEL NEELY AND
BROTHER RICHARD JACKSON

Musical Selection Opening

Christian Tabernacle Concert Choir

Musical Tributes

Cosmopolitan Church of Prayer Choir

Vernon Oliver Price

First Church of Deliverance Choir

Minister Tim White

GMAC

Darlene Roberts

Pastor Angie Spivey

Queenie Lenox

Fred Nelson

Billy Always

Walter Strickland

Special Tribute

Pastor Marion Johnson

Larry Beasley

Don Jackson

- Central City Productions (Stella Awards)

Processional.....Trumpet Fanfare
Prayer.....Minister Karen Gordon

Scripture:

Old Testament.....Minister Dorothy Mobley
New Testament.....Minister Edward Hayes

Congregational Hymn.....*God Never Fails*

Officiating.....Elder Julius Jackson

Musical Selection.....Christian Tabernacle Concert Choir
"The Lord Strong and Mighty"

Pastoral Tribute.....Pastor James Bryson

Musical Selection.....The New Maceo Woods Singers

Pastoral Tribute.....Pastor Mack C. Mason

Musical Selection.....The Gospel Imperials

Pastoral Tribute.....Pastor Isaac Whittmon

Musical Selection.....Christian Tabernacle Concert Choir
"Total Praise"

Tribute.....Dorothy Tillman

Tribute.....Dennis Cole-GMAC

Musical Selection.....Pastor Deandre Patterson

Acknowledgements & Resolutions.....Eric Peterson

Family Acknowledgements.....Evangelist Lorri Neely

"Precious Lord".....Delores Harrington

The Preacher.....Elder Nash E. Shaffer, III

The Producer.....Elder Noah L. Riley

The Person.....Howard Henry

Musical Selection.....Christian Tabernacle Concert Choir

Long Time Friend.....Archbishop Lucius Hall

"Marvelous".....Evangelist Marla Carson Jones

Benediction

SATURDAY - Celebration of Life
January 18, 2020

Interment

(Immediately after Celebration of Life)

LINCOLN CEMETERY

12300 S Kedzie Ave | Blue Island, IL 60406



A Graceful Journey

The Legacy of Pastor Maceo L. Woods



"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." (Jeremiah 3:15)

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ..." (Ephesians 4:11 & 12)

Born on the far south side of Chicago, Illinois, April 23, 1931, in the community of Morgan Park, the pulse and heart of Pastor Maceo L. Woods -- after God, and the Woods family was the congregation of the Christian Tabernacle Church family. From the union of the late Deacon Fred and Mother Rosa Woods, he showed promise as a servant of God early in life; being interested in and concerned about the welfare of others.

In 1959, in the midst of a successful gospel music career, and abandoning his yearning for a career as a lawyer, he announced his 'call to the preaching ministry' to his father and mother. Subsequently, on December 14, 1959, Maceo L. Woods was ordained by his then pastor, the late Reverend A. Edward Davis and, his then godfather, the late Reverend Arlander C. Mitchell, at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Morgan Park, Illinois.

In 1960, 'Rev. Woods' organized and founded Christian Tabernacle Church—Baptist -- after first holding Bible classes in the homes of its members in 1959, subsequently moving to its current location at 4712 South Prairie Avenue (later renamed and dedicated by the City of Chicago as Pastor Maceo L. Woods Avenue). The scripture reference for the Pastor's first sermon was "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (St. John 8:32/KJV). The church motto is 'The growing church with the family spirit.' One of the Pastor's and the Christian Tabernacle Church's most quoted mantra is "We don't count people. We make people count." The Christian Tabernacle Church of Chicago, Illinois, has become one of Chicago's institutional churches.

From the earlier years of his pastorate, although he and the Christian Tabernacle Choir were continuously in demand for engagements in churches, for civic affairs, and on concert stages throughout the nation, Pastor Woods chose to spend the majority of his time pastoring the flock of Christian Tabernacle Church. He was often heard saying, "I thank God I'm a preacher who can play the organ, rather than an organ player who can preach." He would further state that God had allowed him to experience fame and the applause of crowds early in his music ministry, and had gotten all of that out of his system.

Pastor Woods was unique among pastors in his strength, purpose, and delight in which he led his flock. A "profound" yet "practical" preacher, Pastor Woods was a stable and steadfast positive force of encouragement in the lives of not only the congregants he served, but also, numerous pastors—those young to the ministry, and seasoned clergy as well, community leaders, the professional, legal and medical community, common, ordinary people, and the Chicago and beyond community-at-large.

In today's time, it is hard to imagine gospel music without the sound of the Hammond organ. That is unless you are in Trinidad or some other part of the Caribbean where the

steel drum takes the lead. Thankfully gospel music had Pastor Maceo L. Woods, whose many critically acclaimed albums and annual concert promotions helped to shape the genre as we know and love it today.

From early youth to manhood, he labored in the field of church music, as a soloist, choirmaster, and organist. His signature group was the famed Maceo Woods Singers. The Christian Tabernacle Ensemble, one of Vee-Jay's recording groups, grew to become the celebrated Christian Tabernacle Church Concert Choir. Pastor Woods presented the choir's concert debut on September 30, 1963, at DuSable High School Auditorium. Later, the concert was moved to the Arie Crown Theatre at the original McCormick Place in September 1965. From the Arie Crown Theatre, they moved to the Auditorium Theatre, The Civic Opera House and later, two-night performances at the Bismark Theatre and also Mount Pisgah Baptist Church. After the beautiful renovation of the Christian Tabernacle Church, the concerts were finally Home -- now, however, requiring two or three nights to accommodate requests for Gospel Supreme tickets. Intermittently, several Gospel Supreme concerts were held at Christ Universal Temple. Gospel Supreme 2019 marked its 56th year of production. Through the wisdom and foresight of Pastor Maceo L. Woods, the vision and annual production of Gospel Supreme, presented with Christian Dignity, will continue under the supervision of one of the Pastor's many godsons—Elder DeAndre Patterson who has faithfully served alongside Pastor Woods as his Co-Producer. Before his passing, Pastor Woods appointed Elder Patterson as Producer of Gospel Supreme, effective after the passing of Pastor Woods.

By the year 1950 Maceo L. Woods was already universally acclaimed by many to be one of the world's greatest gospel organists and choirmasters; appearing in such noted auditoriums as New York's Madison Square Garden, and Harlem's famed Apollo Theater. In 1956, he redefined traditional gospel music as played on the Hammond organ; recording his classic and soulful rendition of Amazing Grace -- immortalizing his signature on the Halls of Gospel music.

Releasing many albums on the famous Vee-Jay label, his demand for both live performances and appearances playing in the studio began to increase. Amazing Grace became a radio standard across the country. Several newspapers, books, and other media have documented and sensationalized "the young Woods" walking around and dusting off the organ with his white handkerchief, as the organ continued playing his last chord. As bookings and demand continued for him to appear on the Hammond organ, group members from the famed Maceo Woods Singers—Norman Merchinson, Donald Smith, Archie Dennis and Billy Kyles went on to pursue their own various careers and ministries. Much later in life, during his seasoned years, Pastor Woods formed his record company -- GOSPEL SUPREME.

Having graced the stages of Chicago's Civic Opera House, The Arie Crown, The Auditorium, and The Bismark Palace Theatres, it didn't seem strange at all for Pastor Maceo Woods to be present when the Chicago Music Awards were being presented at the Park West. The Park West is an intimate north side venue, known for hosting top acts in jazz, R&B, and world music. On that night, however, gospel music was in the house as the iconic minister took the stage as the recipient of the prestigious CMA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The celebration of Maceo L. Woods' almost nine decades as a founding pastor, is an accomplishment that few ministers are privileged to enjoy. Although to many, he made it look easy, Pastor Maceo Woods has indeed paid his dues, having passed on tremendous spiritual wisdom.

Since the time of his calling to the ministry in 1959 and the birth of Christian Tabernacle Church, in 1960, Pastor Woods continued producing, training and directing choirs, recording and reaching vast public audiences through radio and television ministries.

He could be heard nightly on his Midnight Gospel Broadcast (WNIB & WCFL) and also weekly on The Good News Hour (WJPC & WCFL).

Although Pastor Woods seemed larger than life when he looked into the TV cameras during appearances on TV or took center stage at Gospel Supreme concerts, the congregation of Christian Tabernacle Church knew their leader and appreciated his humility and accessibility. He was a man with a down-home everyday demeanor. Although he was a walking thesaurus, he would choose simple words. The profound yet practical gospel which he preached was welcomed into homes where his messages of good news targeted faithful viewers over the airwaves.

During his lifetime, there is no question that Pastor Woods has left an indelible impression and made a tremendous impact on Chicago and the world. From his youth, he enjoyed the friendship and mutual respect of late gospel music pioneers -- Mahalia Jackson, Roberta Martin, Alex Bradford, and Pops Staples, and the city's elder statesmen in ministry; most notably the late Reverend Arlander Mitchell, the late Reverend A. Edward Davis, Sr., Reverend Benjamin Franklin Paxton, Reverend Louis Boddie, Reverend Clarence Cobbs, and Reverend E. E. Franklin. Having been blessed and mentored by these ministerial fathers, Pastor Woods unselfishly shared with ministry colleagues and has often extended opportunities to many up-and-coming ministries and promising gospel artists.

Pastor Woods is included in the pages of gospel music history as accounted by author Anthony Heilbut in his book *The Gospel Sound*. This book relays the complete history of gospel music, paying special attention to the relationship between gospel and other African American musical forms in America such as jazz and R&B. It discusses specific gospel music singers as well as the world of the gospel church itself.

In his book *A Graceful Journey*, Pastor Woods, for the first time, compiled his memoirs and allowed readers to join in reviewing historical documents and many vintage photographs. There are stories of the many dedicated members, including those that have passed on, as well as those who yet remain. Although the road was not always easy, Pastor Woods was truly committed, dedicated and faithful to his apostolic charge -- as one sent to an area which was abandoned by ministers and ministries seeking the comfort and safety of greener pastures. By God's grace, however, this man of God outlasted many defectors, detractors and critics, remaining and shining like a beacon in one location for almost nine decades.

Considered by some of his colleagues as 'a gentle giant', Pastor Woods effectively extended his Christian ministry through involvement in many community and civic causes. He was a member of the Broadcast Ministers Alliance, a registered Agent of the Community Cable Consortium of Chicago, Inc., and a Board member of the Harold Washington Cultural Center (T.R.I., Inc.), just to name a few.

The full account of the life and legacy of Pastor Maceo L. Woods may be found in his book *A Graceful Journey* (Maceo L. Woods with Mack C. Mason, Faithday Press, Hazel Crest, IL) and may be purchased at Christian Tabernacle Church.

Left to cherish the memory of Pastor Maceo L. Woods is his devoted son Len Eric Woods, a sister-in-law (John—deceased), a host of nieces and nephews, his spiritually adopted daughter Evangelist Lorri Neely, adopted sons Frank Mason and Ronald Nance, granddaughter Raquel Mason, godsons Elder DeAndre Patterson, Minister Michael Neely (one of his traveling buddies) and Eric Peterson (another traveling buddy), Antoine Banks, his nurses -- Patricia Canon and Valerie Ralston (who both lit up his face every time they showed up—Valerie even showed up on her days off), caregiver Minister Richard Jackson (who showed up daily), caregiver Elder Nash E. Shaffer, III, Eleanor and the Golden Girls of Morgan Park, long-time friend—Isadore James, special friend—Rev. Henry O. Hardy, .

LIFE LONG friends Pastor Isaac Whitmon and Archbishop Lucius Hall (his oldest living childhood friend), and of course, his beloved Christian Tabernacle Church family members

Note: Portions of the narrative extracted from *A Graceful Journey*.
Narrative edited by Elder Noah L. Riley, proud Administrative Assistant to Pastor Maceo L. Woods for 47 years!! "Rest in peace Pastor."

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith:"* II Timothy 4:7 (KJV)



Tribute

My Dad was a man who could put a smile on your face who made you feel good with his warm words of praise. I will remember my Dad for all that he gave his wisdom, his humor, these memories I save. My Dad I remember as a man of his word, soft spoken at times but always heard. He was well respected and revered with honest conviction and not easily steered. That's my Dad I'm proud to say, I'll miss you Dad, oh how I wish you could stay.

Len