

BAPTIST BULLETIN

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FROM LIFE TO EVERLASTING LIFE:

REV. JOSEPH R. SAMUELS (1924-2012)

With sympathy and prayers, we announce the death of THE REVEREND JOSEPH R. SAMUELS. The funeral service will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 4, 2012, at Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, 5000 Noble Street, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. A family hour/visitation is scheduled for Friday, August 3, 2012 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Joseph Roland Samuels, a native of Anderson, SC, was born November 26, 1924. He is the second eldest of fourteen children born to the late Reverend William E. and Beatrice Samuels. Reverend Samuels peacefully went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 28, 2012 at the age of 87.

Reverend Samuels was educated in the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School system. He graduated from Atkins High School where he was an outstanding football player. He furthered his education at Winston-Salem State University.

Reverend Samuels was the first black truck driver employed at R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. His father was the founder and pastor of Mars Hill Baptist Church where Reverend Samuels was the

Superintendent of Sunday School.

Reverend Samuels was called and installed as pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in 1958. The church grew to over 1,500 members. During his tenure, the church name was changed to St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church. Under his leadership God blessed the church with a new edifice. Reverend Samuels served as the senior pastor for forty-nine years and oversaw thirty-three ministers. Additionally, eleven associate ministers have been called to pastor churches in the surrounding communities.

He is known throughout the area for leadership and spiritual mentoring of preachers and pastors. In addition, he pastored Friendship Baptist Church in Cooleemee, NC for 20+

years. In 1994 Reverend Samuels was recognized by Shaw University as Pastor of the Year and in 1996 he was recognized in Who's Who among Baptist Preachers. In 2003, the city of Winston-Salem named a street in the new residential development (Canaan Place) J. R. Samuels Drive.

Reverend Samuels is preceded in death by a brother, Pastor Philemon Samuels; and a son, Joseph Samuels, Jr.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Samuels of the city; four sons, Ralph Brown of Redondo Beach, CA, Samuel (Cynthia) Brown, Timothy Brown and Jonathan (Trenia) Samuels all of the city; a sister Mary Lee (Carnell) Simington of Minneapolis, MN; four brothers, James (Olene) Samuels, Roosevelt Samu-



els, Benjamin (Jackie) Samuels, all of the city, and Timothy (Cynthia) Samuels of Kernersville, NC; grandchildren, Samuel Jr., Jonathan, Antwon, Odasia, and the love of his life Heaven; three great grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Gloria Samuels; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and the St. Stephens church family.