



Tribute

TO OUR
SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Caleb E. Oates

"It is by HIS GRACE and MERCY that I have COME THIS FAR"

Rev. Caleb Oates, son of the late David and Emma Oates, was born in Waco (Cleveland County). At the age of seven, his family moved to Asbury Park, New Jersey, where he attended elementary school. He completed high school in New York and furthered his education at Rutgers University.

As a youth, Caleb excelled in various sports, but was particularly drawn to golf and played in the Negro Golf Association for nearly 20 years.

During his military tenure he attained the rank of assistant chaplain to the 47th Battalion, received five Battle Stars, the Bronze Medal for Bravery, and the Good Conduct Medal. After his discharge, he returned to his job with the United States Air Force Command in Eatontown, New Jersey and resumed his civilian and ministerial activities.

In December, 2001, a celebration was held for Rev. Oates honoring him for 55 years of service as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Farmingdale, New Jersey, where he resides today. Bethany Baptist Church was once a one-room schoolhouse. When Rev. Oates first appeared on the scene, there were only four adults and five children who made up the congregation. Some friends advised him to seek a better place to minister, but he ignored them and accepted the challenge to "bring the church to life". Before long, membership had increased, new programs were implemented, the building was refurbished with modern facilities and it eventually became the pride of the community. Rev. Oates' ministerial and community accolades are numerous. He has held offices in the Sea Coast Missionary Association, National Baptist Convention, Juvenile Justice Committee of Howell and Farmingdale, New Jersey, Martin Luther King Memorial Commission (New Jersey) and Hampton University Ministers' Conference, to name a few. A world-wide traveler, he is the author of *THE DEACON AND HIS OFFICE*.

For fifty-three years, Rev. Oates was married to Authella Reba Walker who is credited with initiating many programs at Bethany Baptist where she served faithfully until her passing in February, 1992. They were the parents of two sons, Rev. Bernard Oates and David Oates.

In December, 1999, Rev. Oates married his present wife, Ruby, and takes great pride in sharing with others that she works well with him as he continues his ministry.

Rev. Oates feels that mission goes beyond the church doors; that he should do all that he can possibly do for mankind. He lives by the creed: "Let me do all that I can while I can... For I shall not pass this way again!"

FamilyReunion

Roberts Borders Mauney Howell Briggs and Related Families
