

**Celebration of Life and Legacy**

**BISHOP**

*Calvin Wallace  
Woods Sr.*

**Sunrise**

Semptember 13, 1933

**Sunset**

August 15, 2025

**Saturday, August 23, 2025**

**10:00 am**

**Sardis Missionary Baptist Church  
1615 4th Court West  
Birmingham, Alabama 35208  
Dr. Curtis Clark, Pastor**

**Dr. Timothy J. Woods Sr.  
OFFICIATING**



# Walk with Me

*"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighted in his way."*

**Psalm 37:23**

## His Life

On September 13, 1933, in the East Thomas community of Birmingham, Alabama, a child was born who would grow to carry a louder voice than any obstacle. Calvin Wallace Woods, Sr., was the fourth of thirteen children born to Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods, Sr., and Maggie Rose Wallace Woods. Though small in stature, he had a presence that could not be ignored.

From the time he was a boy, Calvin had a gift for leadership. He organized choirs, led groups in the neighborhood, and carried himself with vision far beyond his years. At Parker High School, he discovered the power of his voice, winning oratorical contests and quickly becoming known as someone who could inspire and persuade. He graduated at just sixteen years old, already walking the path of purpose.

He answered his call to ministry early, serving faithfully at Shiloh Baptist Church under his father's guidance. By his early twenties, he was pastoring East End Baptist Church, preaching with a wisdom and fire that amazed many in the 1950s. Over time, he would serve other churches, touching lives wherever God sent him.

But his ministry did not stop at the pulpit. The late 1950s and 60s brought a storm of injustice to Birmingham, and Bishop Woods stepped into the fight. He marched, he protested, he was jailed, and he endured beatings. His voice became a weapon against oppression, and his courage caught the attention of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King trusted him to help lead efforts in Birmingham, appointing him as City Convener of the SCLC. For the next sixty years, Bishop Woods stood as a drum major for justice, not only in Alabama but across the nation.

His life was not easy; he lost jobs, had his car taken, and carried scars from police beatings. Yet, he never stopped preaching hope. He lived as a man determined to be a servant leader, no matter the cost.

# His Love

*“And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”*

## **1 Corinthians 13:13**

During it all, Calvin found his queen. As a young man, he met a beautiful majorette named Lucille Grayson. She was radiant, full of life, and captured his heart completely. In December of 1950, the two became spouses.

Together, they built a family, thirteen children born of their union. Lucille, an only child, and Calvin, one of thirteen, seemed destined to create a family rich in love, discipline, and faith. Their home became a place of music, laughter, and prayer, where lessons of responsibility and respect were taught daily.

Bishop Woods’ platform was always prayer and intercession. He believed deeply in the power of calling on God, and he taught his children from the earliest age to pray for strength, pray for one another, and even pray for the nation. He reminded them often that their role was to “fix things” through faith and to stand as what he lovingly called “Captain Save the United States.” Their home was not just a house, but a sanctuary, a training ground for prayer warriors nurtured by the love of their father and mother.

Through hardships, arrests, and trials, Lucille stood by his side, and Calvin drew strength from her unwavering support. Their love was the anchor that held them steady while the world outside was often in turmoil. To their children, they gave not only guidance but also an inheritance of faith and resilience. Their love story was not just about affection, but about building a legacy of strength for generations to come.



# His Legacy

*“Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”*

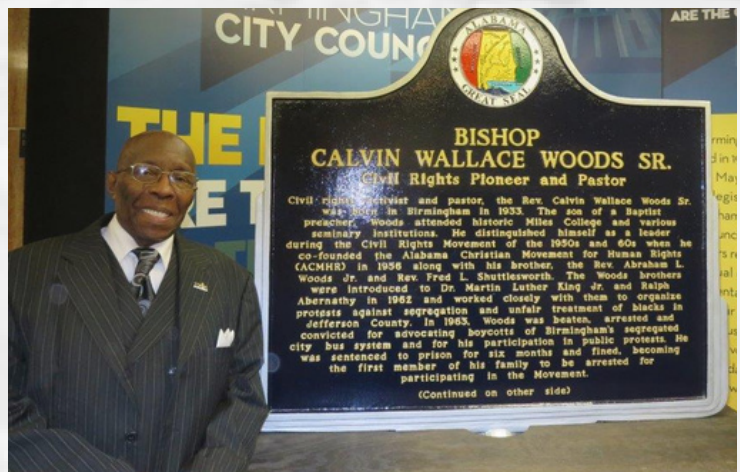
## Matthew 25:23

When you speak of Bishop Calvin Woods, you speak of a man who left more than memories left a movement, a ministry, and a model for how to live. He carried the mantle of his father and passed it down to his family. Ministers, leaders, and servants of God arose from his teaching and example, both within his bloodline and among those he mentored.

His legacy is not only in his family but also in his service. He worked in Birmingham City Schools, counseled with JCCEO, served on boards, and led conventions. For more than twenty years, he stood in Kelly Ingram Park, sharing the story of Birmingham’s struggle with visitors from across the world.

But at the heart of his legacy was intercession; he was a man of prayer. His children and grandchildren remember his call for them to be repairers, to step in the gap, to fix things when others walked away. He believed that through faith and prayer, even a family could help heal a nation. And so, he taught them to pray, “Fix Things Captain - Save the United States,” was more than words, it was a charge to everyone who carries his name and spirit.

Over the years Bishop Woods received honors and awards, but his greatest reward is not here on earth but in heaven, where he now rests with the Lord, receiving the joy and glory that come from a life lived in faithful service. His story lives on in his children, his community, and in every soul touched by his voice and his vision. He served faithfully under the pastorage of his son, Dr. Timothy J. Woods, Sr. at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church.



# His Legwork

*“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!”*

**Romans 10:15**

Bishop Calvin Woods’ journey was marked not only by his words but also by his work. His “leg work” carried him across pulpits, classrooms, streets, and cities each step a testimony to his calling as both preacher and foot soldier.

## Ministry & Leadership

- Pastored several churches, including East End Baptist, Roby Temple A.O.H. Church of God, Believers Temple Baptist and Shiloh Baptist Church, Norwood.
- Served more than 60 years with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) on national, state, and local levels. Held positions such as National Vice President, National Chaplain, State President, and President of the Birmingham Metro Chapter.
- \*President of the New Era Baptist State Convention of Alabama.
- \*Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, Birmingham Easonian Baptist Bible College.
- \*Board Member of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.
- \*Active member of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

## Civil Rights Work

- Stood on the front lines of Birmingham’s struggle for justice, working side by side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Headed the Transition Committee to ensure that various sectors were integrated following the 1963 demonstrations
- Appointed in 1966 by Dr. King as City Convener for the Birmingham Ministers Leadership Conference following the U.S. Civil Rights Commission’s findings against the city.
- Filed the lawsuit with the United States Court of Appeals in Atlanta, GA, “Linda Cal Woods v. Theo R. Wright” after his three daughters and hundreds of other students were jailed during the Children’s Crusade in 1963—securing their reinstatement in school.
- Was jailed, beaten, and harassed numerous times for his activism, yet never wavered in his mission.
- For more than 20 years, he shared the Birmingham Civil Rights story with thousands of out-of-state visitors at Kelly Ingram Park.

# Education & Community Service

Retired from Birmingham City Schools after years of service in Discipline & Administration and as Evening Supervisor for Parker High School's Community Education Program

Worked as a Counselor, Counselor Group Worker, and Center Director for JCCEO in assisting the poor in their quest for economic opportunity and equal justice

Honored in 2014 by the State of Alabama with a marker for more than 57 years of non-violent civil rights involvement stationed in Kelly Ingram Park  
-Guided and mentored generations of young people through both education and ministry.

Bachelor/Master/Doctoral degrees include- Miles College, Universal Bible Institute, Union Baptist Seminary, School of Truth, Birmingham Easonian Bible College, Morehouse College, Graduate studies -University of Alabama Birmingham, Urban Training Center for Christian Missions & Samford University Birmingham

Preceding him in death were his loving queen, Lucille Grayson Woods, his parents, Rev. Abraham Lincoln & Maggie Woods, Sr.; his brothers Rev. Abraham Lincoln Woods Jr., Dr. Roy Woods Sr., Franklin Delorna Woods, and Dr. Dwight Edward Woods; his sisters Mary Ruby Woods Hutchinson, Melzer Woods Luke, and Lois Woods; his daughters Linda Cal Woods Holt and Shelia Vanessa Woods Minter; his son Dr. Freedom Progress Woods Sr.; his granddaughter Tamecia LaShun Woods; and several in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Left to cherish his memory are his children: Jeanette Marie Woods Smith, Judy Kay Woods, Dr. Calvin Wallace Woods Jr. (Minister Constance), Carlton Wayne Woods Sr., Rev. Byron Elliott Woods, Christopher Wyatt Woods, Minister Joyce Elaine Woods Lewis (Dr. Tommie), Minister Angela Gay Woods McClure (Dr. Michael), Dr. Timothy Justice Woods Sr., Dr. Quintin Prescott Woods Sr. (Tramella). Also honoring his life are thirty- seven grandchildren, sixty-eight great-grandchildren, eleven great-great-grandchildren, two daughters-in-law, two sons-in-law, thirty-three nieces and nephews, sixty-one great-nieces and nephews, Special daughter Laquetta Postell, three sisters Minister Lottie Woods Hall, Shirley Woods Simmons Minister Cathy Woods Jackson (Ralph)cousins, ministers of the gospel, faithful parishioners, and a host of other relatives and friends.

## **ORDER of SERVICE**

### **Prelude**

**Carlton Reese Movement Choir/Celebration Choir**

### **Processional**

**SCLC, Pastors & Ministers, Pallbearers and Family**

### **Selection**

**Carlton Reese Movement Choir/Celebration Choir**

### **Invocation**

**Dr. Wilson Fallin Jr., Pres. Bham Easonian Baptist Bible College**

### **Scripture Reading:**

**Old Testament; Psalm 23:1-6**

**Rev. Ralph Bryant, Bham Metro SCLC Chaplain**

**New Testament; John 14:1-7**

**Rev. A. D. Jackson, Bham Metro SCLC Chaplain**

### **Selection**

**Carlton Reese Movement Choir/Celebration Choir**

### **Acknowledgements**

**Councilman Clinton Woods**

### **Reflections (Two minutes)**

**Mayor Randall Woodfin**

**Dr. R. L. Patterson, President Bham Metro SCLC**

**Dr. Charles Steele, President Emeritus National SCLC**

**Dr. Eddie Dansby Jr., Birmingham City Schools**

**Sheriff Mark Pettway**

**U. S. Congresswoman Terri Sewell**

**DeJuana L. Thompson, Chair of Board, Housing Authority Bham District**

**Eric Williams, Carl Covington, Bertha McCurdy**

**Shiloh Baptist Church Norwood**

**Deacon John Tyus,**

**Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church**

**Selection - Children of Bishop Calvin Woods Sr.**

**Family - Minister Lottie Woods Hall, Sister**

**Dr. Calvin W. Woods Jr. & Judy K. Woods, Children**

**Julian Woods Sr. & Jerita Smith Zellander, Grandchildren**

**Solo "In the Mist of It All"**

**Minister Joyce Woods Lewis**

### **Celebration Message**

**Dr. Timothy Justice Woods Sr. , Pastor**

**Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church**

**Recessional Selection**

**"We Shall Overcome"**

**Acronym      Poem Written by Dr. Quintin P. Woods, Sr.**

Entitled

**“Bishop Calvin Wallace Woods Sr.”**

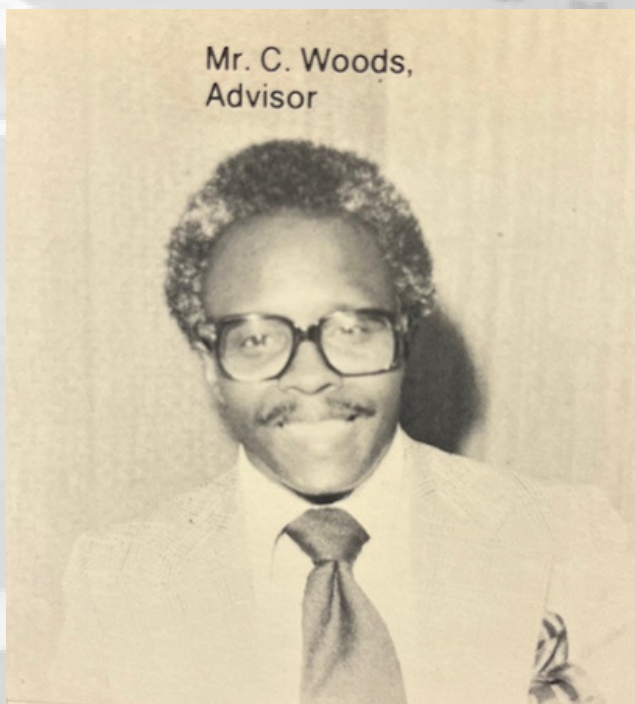
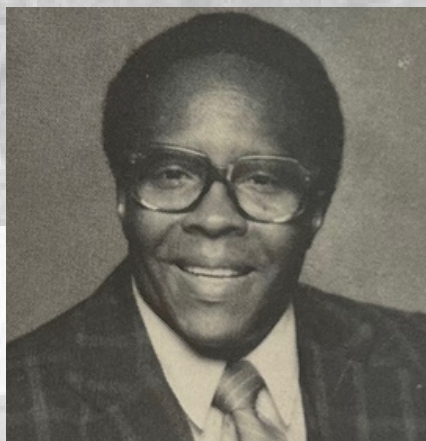
Bishop Calvin Wallace Woods, Sr., as we know ran a good race  
And although we will no longer be from a physical standpoint, able to see his face  
We thank God that he lived here on Earth for almost 92 years by God’s amazing  
grace Even beyond this we find comfort in knowing that his soul is in a better place  
To us and many others, he was so dear  
And although he’s no longer here  
We can be of good cheer and have no fear  
Because of the love in our hearts for him is so near  
He was a servant of God who labored hard and long  
We can’t help but to thank God, who for many years kept him healthy and strong  
He was one who was intelligent and smart  
He was one who served God and his fellowman with all of his heart  
He was one, alone with our dear mother, who taught us to stand for what is right  
No wonder for many years he stayed in the fight  
In the fight, he fought for justice, freedom, and equality  
And for this he owed no apology  
Ultimately for many years he labored in the Master’s vineyard  
When he departed this life, from a human standpoint to us, it was very hard  
Like the Apostle Paul and many others, this Man of God fought a good fight  
He finished his course  
He kept the faith  
We find joy in that from the Lord, just a few days ago he received a well done  
and went on to be with the Lord because of the race that had already been won  
To God Be the Glory for Bishop Calvin Wallace Woods, Sr., whose life had an amazing  
Story

**Acronym      Poem Written by Dr. Quintin P. Woods, Sr.**

Entitled

**“CALVIN”**

**C** – He was Committed and Consistent to the Cause of Christ  
**A** – He was Available, Active, and such an Achiever  
**L** – He Loved the Lord and Labored Long  
**V** – He was a Voice for the people, Vibrant, Visible, and a Visionary  
**I** – He was very Intelligent, an Intercessor, and an Icon  
**N** – He was Noble and did Not put up with any Nonsense



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **Pallbearers**

#### **Sons**

**Dr. Calvin Wallace Woods Jr.  
Carlton Wayne Woods Sr.  
Rev. Byron Elliott Woods  
Christopher Wyatt Woods  
Dr. Quintin Prescott Woods Sr.  
Rev. Julian Demetrius Woods, Sr.**

### **Honorary Pallbearers**

#### **Grandsons**

### **Flower Bearers**

**Hopewell Missionary Baptist  
Birmingham Metro SCLC  
Family & Friends**

### **Interment**

**Elmwood Cemetery and Mausoleum**

### **Acknowledgement**

**The family of Bishop Calvin Wallace Woods, Sr. wish to express our deepest gratitude. and appreciation to everyone for every call, texts, visit, meal, floral arrangements, resolutions, prayers and all other expressions of love and support. Your thoughtfulness has uplifted us during this challenging time, and we are humbled. As we navigate this journey without our loved one, we ask for your continued prayers.**

### **Professional Service Entrusted To:**

**Eastside Funeral Home  
5523 1st Avenue North  
Birmingham, Alabama 35212  
205-592-2233**

**SCAN FOR SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

