



## Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius Watkins

August 20, 1934 - September 13, 2014

WATKINS, Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius - Age 80, passed away Saturday September 13, 2014 at his residence. Family hour 10:30AM Saturday September 20, 2014 at Greater Harvest Church of God, 1900 Inverness Rd., Sylvan Lake, Michigan, with funeral service commencing immediately at 11AM. Elder Julian Watkins, officiating. Elder Kevin Christmon, Host Pastor. Interment Hillview Memorial Cemetery, 8900 Andersonville Rd., Clarkston, Michigan. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 10:30AM Saturday. Bishop Watkins will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 N. Perry St., and may be viewed from 12Noon-8PM Friday.

Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius Watkins was born August 20, 1934 in Pontiac, Michigan. He departed this life on September 13, 2014 surrounded by his family. Bishop Watkins was one of 11 children born to the late Bishop Major Jerome Watkins and Cornelia Izora Watkins. Bishop Watkins was a graduate of Pontiac Central High School where he was a member of the track & field team. He went on to study Medical Technology in college in the state of Indiana and earned his bachelor's degree. Professionally, he was one of the first African American Medical Laboratory Technicians at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Oakland and Pontiac General Hospital. Bishop Watkins served as President of Watkins Enterprises, one of Pontiac's largest minority- owned businesses for many years. Bishop also

served as a dedicated teacher in the Pontiac and Detroit Public School Systems. He loved studying the Word of God, spending time with family and friends, playing tennis, he was an avid fisherman, and he loved the outdoors. He rededicated his life to The Lord in the 1970's. For decades he devoted his life to the church and various ministries. His passion was for the lost. In 1980 he accepted the call into the ministry and began preaching The Gospel. In 1997, he became an ordained Elder in the church. He was consecrated as a Bishop in 2006. He served the church for many years as the National Evangelist and made several missionary journeys to Jamaica. Bishop evangelized many inner city neighborhoods in Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee. He wanted everyone to hear and accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bishop Watkins also helped to develop the training curriculum for ministers serving in the church. He was a devoted member of the New Life Community Church in Pontiac, Michigan and attended services regularly until his failing health made it impossible for him to leave his home.

Bishop Thaddeus Watkins leaves to cherish his memory: six children, Karen Tipper, Thaddeus Jr., Tammara (Larry) Aguado, Margie Jacobs, Julian (Adrienne) Watkins and Nikki Stovall; Eleven grandchildren; one sister Davida Watkins; four brothers, Nathaniel, Richard, Frederick and Ronald (Mary) Watkins; one brother -in-law, Earcy Christmon; many beloved nieces and nephews, very close family members, his extended church family, and many dear friends.

Bishop Watkins was preceded in death by his parents, Bishop Major & Cornelia Watkins; two sisters, Irene Christmon & Ruth Ann Johnson; and his brothers Major Jr., Stephen Sr., and James Watkins.

The family would like to extend sincere and heartfelt thanks to the doctors, nurses, and staff members of Beaumont Hospital and Clarkston Lakes Family Medicine. The family is truly thankful for the guidance and encouragement provided by his nephew, Dr. Keith Christmon. We would also like to thank the family and friends of Bishop Watkins for their continued prayers, encouragement, and love that has been expressed throughout the years.

# Cemetery Details

## Hillview Memorial Cemetery

8900 Andersonville Rd.  
Clarkston, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **19**. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home Pontiac  
268 North Perry Street  
Pontiac, MI 48342  
(248) 758-1913

## Service

SEP **20**. 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Greater Harvest Church of God  
1900 Inverness Rd.  
Sylvan Lake, MI

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ *Mel Hurner sent a virtual gift in memory of Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius Watkins*



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**Mel Hurner** - September 28, 2014 at 10:05 PM

MH

“ *Mel Hurner lit a candle in memory of Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius Watkins*



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**Mel Hurner** - September 21, 2014 at 11:46 AM

MW

“ *I am so proud and honored to have known you! I also take comfort in knowing you are at peace and with God! I will miss your guidance, wisdom and sense of humor! Please tell my parents I miss them and say hello to all of my relatives as well! Love you uncle Thad!*

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**Michael Watkins** - September 20, 2014 at 02:58 AM

JT

“ I find comfort in knowing my friend, God's calling, you could be no better place.  
How prestigious you must be! To be with the elite...Angels, family and King of kings!

Joseph Thompson

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Joseph Thompson - September 19, 2014 at 10:58 AM

SD

“ Stephanie Daniel lit a candle in memory of Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius Watkins



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Stephanie Daniel - September 18, 2014 at 04:36 PM

BW

“ Bill Wheatley lit a candle in memory of Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius Watkins



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Bill Wheatley - September 17, 2014 at 10:50 PM

AD

“ Arletta Dilworth lit a candle in memory of Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius Watkins



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Arletta Dilworth - September 16, 2014 at 10:31 AM

JD

*Mom please give Elder Watkins & Sister Nicki my love. He will be missed. Love Johnnie*

**Johnnie Dilworth** - September 16, 2014 at 10:33 AM

MW

“ *Mike Watkins lit a candle in memory of Bishop Thaddeus Cornelius Watkins*



**Mike Watkins** - September 16, 2014 at 06:32 AM

TW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Thaddeus Watkins** - September 15, 2014 at 12:45 PM

DA

*Family, we love you and are sending continuos prayers for your strength and encouragement during this difficult time. Peace and God's grace to you all* 💕💕

**diane alexander** - September 15, 2014 at 10:46 PM