Celebrating The Life & Legacy of

Bishop

EDDIE L. LONG

May 12, 1953 - January 15, 2017
Order of Service

The Official Obsequies
The Most Reverend Eddie Lee Long

Wednesday, the Twenty-fifth Day of January,
In the year of our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen
Eleven o’clock in the Ante Meridian

New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
6400 Woodrow Road
Lithonia, Georgia 30038

His Grace, The Most Reverend Neil C. Ellis
Eulogist

His Grace, The Most Reverend Eric D. Garnes, D.Min.
Episcopal General

The Reverend Tony Wilson
Officiant

Tuesday, January 24, 2017
Lying in State
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
11:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 25, 2017
Lying in Repose
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Wednesday, January 25, 2017
Celebration of Life
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
11:00 AM
Legacy of a General

Bishop Eddie L. Long
May 12, 1953 – January 15, 2017

With heartfelt honor, we celebrate the life and legacy of our dear Bishop Eddie L. Long, who was a true General in the Kingdom of God, a worldwide leader who impacted the lives of millions, a great shepherd to thousands upon thousands of church members over many years, and a loving husband, father and grandfather.

On Sunday, January 15, 2017, Bishop Long breathed his last breath on earth, after 63 years of life, in Lithonia, Georgia, where he resided and served as the visionary and leader for New Birth Missionary Baptist Church.

Because of his exceeding compassion for people and his determination to see them flourish in their God-given purpose, Bishop Long established additional churches around the nation, serving as Apostle to all. From his godly counsel, teaching and mentorship, his legacy echoes and reverberates through those ministries.

Bishop Long first served as a Pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in 1987. The congregation consisted of about 300 members, and because of God’s favor upon his insightful leadership, over the years that number grew to well over 25,000.

Due to the overwhelming growth in membership, Bishop Long directed numerous land acquisitions as well as building expansion and development efforts, including the construction of a 3,700-seat sanctuary in 1991, a Family Life Center in 1999 and a 10,000-seat complex in 2001, the current home of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church.

Located in the heart of DeKalb County, Georgia, in the city of Lithonia, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church continues to impact the community through countless outreach programs and community-empowering projects orchestrated by Bishop Long.

A native of North Carolina, Bishop Eddie L. Long received his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from North Carolina Central University and a Master’s of Divinity degree from Atlanta’s Interdenominational Theological Center. Additionally, Bishop Long received an honorary doctorate from North Carolina Central University, Beulah Heights Bible College of Atlanta and the Morehouse School of Religion. He also earned a doctoral Ph.D. in Pastoral Ministry from the International College of Excellence, an affiliate of Life Christian University in Tampa, Florida.

A Worldwide Life of Service

Bishop Long was revered locally, nationally and internationally as a dynamic man of vision, leadership, integrity and compassion. In addition to his commitment to New Birth Missionary Baptist Church as Senior Pastor, Bishop Long also served in many other prestigious capacities:

- Vice Chair of the Morehouse School of Religion Board of Directors
- Board of Visitors for Emory University
- Board of Trustees for North Carolina Central University
- Board of Trustees for Young Life
- Board of Trustees for Fort Valley State University
- Board of Directors for Safehouse Outreach Ministries
- Honorary member of 100 Black Men of America
- Co-Chair for the DeKalb Police Alliance, a non-profit organization that enhances the lives and families of men and women serving as licensed officers
- Vice Chair for the Board of Trustees for Beulah Heights Bible College
- Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Beulah Heights
- Board of Directors for Gospel Today Magazine

A Global Reach

Bishop Long worked to spread the Good News to all, and his messages have been captured in a plethora of audio and video series. New Birth and Bishop Long’s “Taking Authority” broadcast aired weekly in 120 countries on the Trinity Broadcasting Network to a potential worldwide audience of 2.6 billion viewers. The broadcast consistently ranked within the top five broadcasts on TBN. Bishop Long also aired a radio broadcast in five domestic and two international markets, reaching more than 738,000 listeners.

In his true pioneer fashion, Bishop Long increased his global impact even more by launching the International Prayer Call conference line in 2011, which has impacted 3.5 million people throughout 97 nations. The weekly prayer call empowered God’s people; consequently, many ministries have since launched prayer call lines throughout the nation.

While he lived to bring souls to Christ, Bishop Long also worked to provide opportunities for people from around the world to live
Legacy of a General

fulfilling lives. He established long and fruitful relationships in Kenya to support that goal, including a women and children’s hospital, a tech center, an orphanage and a foundation working to negotiate peace in troubled regions.

In addition to appearing in front of the camera, Bishop Long expanded his television ventures to include behind-the-scenes experience; collaborating with Robert Townsend, he served as executive producer of a television program that aired on the Gospel Music Channel. He also appeared in Tyler Perry’s movie, “Daddy’s Little Girl.”

Bishop Long enjoyed success with the release of a CD titled “Bishop Long and Friends: The Kingdom Volume One,” featuring Gospel stars Dorinda Clark Cole, Mary Mary and Tye Tribbett. He also had the opportunity of voicing the biblical character Joel in the series called “The Bible Experience.”

A noted author, Bishop Long’s captivating and powerful messages are masterfully captured in a number of audio and video series, including: “I Don’t Want Delilah, I Need You; The Spirit of Negativity and Familiarity and Kingdom Relationships; Power of a Wise Woman; What a Man Wants, What a Woman Needs; Called to Conquer Devotional; Taking Over; Gladiator; The Strength of a Man; It’s Your Time: Reclaim Your Territory for the Kingdom; The Elect Lady; The Blessing in Giving; Deliver Me From Adam; Re-Church: When Change Is No Longer An Option; 60 Seconds to Greatness; The Power of Being One and The Untold Story: The Story of Adversity, Pain and Resilience.”

Bishop Long and New Birth Missionary Baptist Church hosted many of the country’s most noted conferences and programs. Through these conferences, each year many received salvation and submitted their lives to Christ, and generations are blessed and forever changed because of the passion he had for mentoring youth, men and pastors. Through his ministry, people have discovered their destinies.

Because of the favor on his life, Bishop Long had close relationships with key leaders in the religious, political and entertainment arenas; consequently, this humble servant advanced the Kingdom of God in a whole new way and redefined what church means as we see it today.

Lasting Impressions

- Named one of America’s 125 Most Influential Leaders
- Legacy Award, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta, 1999
- Co-chair for “Hosea Feed the Hungry” — beginning in 2001
- Leadership Award: Faith/Community Award from 100 Black Men of America, 2003
- Religious Contemporary Award from IRC’s “Portraits of Sweet Success,” 2003
- Champion Award for Spiritual Enlightenment from All Children Are Special Inc., 2003
- One of The Most Influential Blacks in America, Savoy Magazine, 2003
- Emmy Award for “The Face of Homelessness” with New Birth’s Production Team
- For the “Taking Authority” broadcast seen in 170 countries worldwide, more than 40 nationally recognized honors received, including the prestigious Telly, Axiem, Aurora and Communicator awards
- Trumpet Award for leadership, dedication and service around the world, 2005
- The “300” award for his tireless efforts in the area of economic development, youth development, education and health awareness by the DeKalb Chapter of the 100 Black Men of America, 2005
- Honored by the Center for Disease Control and the National HIV/AIDS Partnership (NHAP) for his outstanding and ongoing work in fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Recognized by the Dominique Wilkins Foundation for his community leadership at their first annual charity golf tournament, 2006
- Phi Kappa Kappa Award for Mentor of the Year from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.
- Honored by the King family to officiate the Homegoing Ceremonies for Mrs. Coretta Scott King, wife of the late Martin Luther King Jr., 2006
- Head of State’s Commendation by His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya, 2009
- Founder and CEO of New Birth Christian Academy, New Birth’s school of excellence
- Largest donor of faith-based organizations for the American Red Cross
- Faithful benefactor of the Hosea Feed the Hungry Organization
- Leadership Award: Faith/Community Award from 100 Black Men of America, 2003
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Through all of these awards and accolades, Bishop Long truly loved, lived and led like Christ.
**Order of Service**

**THE WORSHIP**

†THE PROCESSIONAL

THE PRELUDE

Psalm 46 Deus noster refugium

(Responsively)

God is our refuge and strength,*
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed,*
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;
Though its waters roar and be troubled,*
Though the mountains shake with its swelling.
There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,*
The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
*I God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.
Be still, and know that I am God;*
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!
The Lord of hosts is with us;*
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

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**Legacy of a General**

**The Personal Man**

Bishop Long was married to Vanessa Long and was the father of four children — Eric (Nicole), Edward, Jared and Taylor — and grandfather to Destiny, Serenity and Eric Long II. He loved his family dearly, and they will miss him; however, they understand that he’s now resting at peace with God.

He is also survived by his brothers Elder Floyd M. Long III, Deacon Larry H. Long (Sandra), Pastor James Long (Lareece), who preceded him in death, and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

As much as he was an international leader and influencer for God’s Kingdom, Bishop Long was also very personable and could relate to his members and their struggles. He often personally gave life-changing gifts to those in need — single parents, students, the elderly, etc. — including houses, cars, college scholarship funds and much more.

Bishop Long’s huge zest for life can be summed up by all the things he truly loved: family, people, New Birth, laughing, movies & popcorn, fried chicken and fish, Thomas Blackshear art, The Atlanta Falcons, electronic gadgets, pound cake, sweet potato pie and working out.

**We’ll See You Again**

The spirit of Bishop Eddie L. Long, a man of courage, influence, grace and infectious love, shall live on … and on … “Watch this, watch this!”

We will see you again, Bishop — when we, too, are called to enter our Heavenly Father’s pearly gates. Oh, what a time it will be. We love you immensely, and we know that God loves you more. We can hear God saying to you, “Well done, my good and faithful servant. Well done.”

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**Start Where You Find Yourself**

Where you are right now in your life is an amazing place. Even if it’s a low dwelling, it’s great.

If it’s hopeless, it’s really brimming with fulfillment. And if it’s laden with failures, it’s actually quite victorious.

Because where you are today is the precise place for your new start. Where you are today, no matter what it feels like, is where God is.

You’ve created the life you live. And if you don’t like it, you have the power to change it.

But in order to get where you’re going, you have to start where you find yourself.

- Bishop E. L. Long
I challenge you to step into position for destiny…

Write the dream, read it and recite it often to internalize it.

Move away from props, insecurities, familiarity, comfort zones and tradition; relocate to where you can clearly hear what “thus says the Lord.”

Command these God-given dreams and visions to dictate your actions for the day.

Then, crush Satan by staying on course.

- Bishop E. L. Long
The Family of the late Bishop Eddie Lee Long wishes to express deep and heartfelt appreciation for your loving thoughtfulness and concern, including cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, your presence here today, and especially your prayers.

May God bless each of you and may His peace be with you always.
Precious Moments
1984
- First New Birth Missionary Baptist Church service, held at 2778 Snapfinger Road at its 520 seat sanctuary.

1987
- Rev. Eddie L. Long appointed Pastor.

1991
- New church facility built at 2778 Snapfinger Road beside the initial facility called the Chapel.

1992
- Membership grows to 8,000.

1993
- First Resurrection Sunday services held at the Georgia Dome.

1995
- First “Taking Authority” television broadcast on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN).

1996
- Church purchased 170 acres of prime property with over $10 million for $3 million in College Park, GA.

1998
- Bishop Long received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Beulah Heights Bible College of Atlanta, GA and North Carolina Central University of Durham, NC.
- Bishop Long spreads the Word of God in Tokyo, Japan.
- Bishop Long spoke to members of the Georgia State Senate and prayed for the United States House of Representatives.
- The official ground-breaking ceremony for the new church complex in Lithonia, GA.
- Bishop Long’s first book, “I Don’t Want Delilah, I Need You!” was published.

1999
- Grand opening of the new Family Life Center worship site in Lithonia, GA.
- Membership grows to more than 23,000.
- Bishop Long delivered the main ecumenical address at the historical Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta for the Martin Luther King, Jr National Holiday celebration.
- The King Family passed the mantle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr to Bishop Long at New Birth.

2000
- Bishop Long met with Vice President Al Gore and led a press conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

2001
- In response to the tragic terrorist attacks on September 11, Bishop Long preached one of the most thought-provoking messages, “One Nation Under God.”
- New Birth Cathedral held its first worship service.
- New Birth Kingdom Church was established.
- New Birth South Metropolitan Church was established.

2002
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- The King Family passed the mantle of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr to Bishop Long at New Birth.
Chronology

2003
– New Birth Charlotte was established.
– Bishop Long was ordained Elder of Nakuru during a journey to Kenya with 90 church members.

2004
– Bishop Long was presented with the Gospel Heritage Award
– New Birth was chosen as a debut site for the preview release of “The Passion of the Christ,” actor Mel Gibson’s critically acclaimed movie about the last 12 hours of Jesus’ life.
– Faith Academy celebrated its 10th anniversary.
– Bishop Long and the New Birth Television Ministry won the prestigious Emmy Award for a special edition of the Taking Authority broadcast, “The New Face of Homelessness.” This was the first time in the history of the Southeast Regional Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences that a church won such an award.
– Bishop Long and the Total Praise Choir release their long awaited debut of the “Spirit & Truth” CD. One month after its release, the CD hit the No. 1 position of Billboard Magazine’s Gospel Chart.
– Called to Conquer Bookstore was honored with a Gold Record from EMI Gospel for being the highest selling store in the nation for the Gold-selling CD “I Need You Now” by recording artist Smokie Norful.
– Bishop Long’s books “Gladiator, The Strength of a Man,” “Deliver Me From Adam,” The Blessing in Giving,” were published.
– New Birth Total Praise Choir’s debut “Spirit & Truth” CD received six Stellar Award nominations.
– Bishop Long declared First Lady to be Elder Vanessa Long during Sunday morning worship service.

2005
– Bishop Long received the Trumpet Award.
– Bishop Long announced Project Kingdom Health, the first church-wide wellness journey titled “Commit to Fit.” Collectively, more than 2,000 pounds were lost and many individual health conditions were significantly improved.
– Bishop Long was appointed Ambassador to Kenya on a journey to the Motherland.

2006
– Bishop Long officiated the Homegoing Service for Coretta Scott King at New Birth. Invited guests included Mr. and Mrs. Bill Clinton, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Bush, Mr. and Mrs. George Bush.
– New Birth drew nearly 40,000 into the Georgia Dome for the country’s largest Easter Service.
– New Birth welcomed two new satellite churches,

2009
– Bishop Long’s book “ReChurch (When Change is no Longer an Option)” was published.

2010
– Bishop Long’s book “60 Seconds To Greatness” was published.

2011
– Bishop Long established the first International Prayer Conference Call.

2013
– Bishop Long’s book “The Power of Being One” was published.

2016
– Bishop Long’s book “The Untold Story” was published.

New Birth Spartanburg in South Carolina and New Birth Concord in California.
– Bishop Long’s book “It’s Your Time” was published.
– New Birth was listed as one of the 50 most influential churches in the country. Church Growth Today issued the report and votes came in from more than 2,000 of the largest non-Catholic congregations in the nation.
– Bishop Long was unanimously appointed voted as Vice Chair for the Board of Trustees for Beulah Heights Bible College.
– Bishop Long was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Beulah Heights University.
– Bishop Long established the Embassy International Chamber of Commerce.

2007
– Bishop Long was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Beulah Heights University.
– Bishop Long established New Birth Latina.
– Columbus, Georgia proclaimed “Bishop Eddie L. Long Day.”

2008
– Bishop Long’s book “The Elect Lady” was published.
Dear Mrs. Vanessa Long and Family,

On behalf of the City of Atlanta, I offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to your family on the loss of your loved one, Bishop Eddie Long.

Bishop Long was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. He was a mentor, pastor, and leader. He was known for his wisdom, kindness, and generosity. He was a man of faith, integrity, and compassion. He was a man of the people, and he touched the lives of many. He was a man of substance, and he leaves a legacy that will not be forgotten.

While we may not be able to find the words to express our grief over the loss of a member of our family, we hope that you can find comfort in knowing that the memory of Bishop Eddie Long will endure. He was a man who lived his life with purpose and passion, and his legacy will continue to inspire us.

We hope that you will find solace in the memories of Bishop Eddie Long, and that you will be comforted by the knowledge that he is now at peace.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kasim Reed
January 16, 2017
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church
6400 Woodrow Road
Lithonia, GA 30038

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

On behalf of the members of the DeKalb House Delegation, we would like to send our condolences to the congregation on the passing of Bishop Eddie L. Long. Bishop Long is known worldwide as a pioneering leader, revolutionary mind changer, a family man, and a caring and loving pastor. We legislators know him as friend and advocate for the “least of these.”

Moreover, we send our thoughts and prayers to his beautiful wife, First Lady Vanessa Long and to his 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

Although Bishop Long was a pioneering leader for change worldwide, his home and his heart was in DeKalb County Georgia. Bishop Long always made himself available to community leaders and politicians who were about positive change for all. He was a friend to many, an asset to my colleagues, and a change agent for justice. We are indebted to him for the work he’s done in DeKalb County and the State of Georgia, and pray you take solace in knowing the legacy he’s left on making all of our communities better.

Our prayer is for God to bring you peace during this difficult time. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with this congregation and the family.

Sincerely,

Rep. Howard A. Mosby

Tribute from the Family

As much as we wanted you to stay here, we know God wanted you more. We will forever cherish the precious time you were here with us. We will miss your smile, sense of humor and most of all your hugs and kisses. We will continue your legacy and make you proud. You taught us so many life lessons, we are well equipped to travel the next phase of our journey.

Thank you for loving us unconditionally. Thank you for encouraging us to develop a personal relationship with the Lord. And, thank you for just being you. We couldn’t have picked a better father. We will miss you dearly, but we are comforted knowing you are resting in the arms of The Father.

See you on the other side. #WeWin

Love Always,

Vanessa, Eric, Nicole, Edward, Jared, Taylor, Destiny, Serenity and Eric II
Final Arrangements Entrusted To:
Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.
“A Family Serving Families Worldwide”
www.levettfuneralhome.com

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Scottdale, GA 30079
(404) 294-5500

South DeKalb Chapel
4347 Flat Shoals Parkway
Decatur, GA 30034
(404) 241-5656

Gwinnett Chapel
914 Scenic Highway
Lawrenceville, GA 30045
(770) 338-5558

Rockdale Chapel
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