



Thomas Howard

April 23, 1956 - April 20, 2020

Thomas Asberry Howard was born April 23, 1956 to Dorothy Mae (Abrams) Howard and Joseph Howard (both now deceased). Tommy came into this world a happy baby. He was not born to a materially wealthy family, but instead into a family rich in smiles, joyful spirits, and love. Within the culture of Tom's family, the word "family" includes grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and all their offspring--all of whom together form a warm circle of love, of which Tom was proud to be a part. His love and concern for them often showed up in his fervent prayers to God in their behalf.

Those who knew Tom well can easily frame him in their mind's eye: his slow, deliberate manner, equally quick wit, and amazing memory come right to the fore. A "people person", Tom liked few things more than sitting down with someone for a nice, unhurried chat.

Often times in obituaries, a person's work history or secular accomplishments are enumerated. For Tom, the most endearing of his accomplishments during his lifetime was that, in addition to dedicating his life in worship of his God, Jehovah, in 1975, he had the privilege of introducing the truth about Jehovah God and his purposes to his family, several of them reaching baptism, thereby becoming servants of Jehovah right along with him. At 2 Corinthians 3:1, 2, the Apostle Paul spoke of those that he and his partners had instructed and aided to baptism as 'letters of recommendation'. During the course of his life, Tom also acquired those spiritual letters of recommendation.

Though often wrestling with pain and discomfort, Tom did not allow his challenging circumstances to extinguish his love for people and for his God: down to his death, Tom delighted in sharing the good news of Jehovah's coming Kingdom and the blessings it would bring to this troubled earth with both patients and staff members alike, in the hospitals and rehabilitation centers that had become his home the final weeks of his life. If you truly knew Tom, you would likewise know how much he treasured his beloved wife Juanita, to whom he was happily married for over 37 years. Tom dedicated every day of the closing years of Juanita's life to taking good care of her. It was his hope that after their resurrection, they would be able to remarry one another, a question to which he keenly looked forward to receiving an answer in God's promised new earth.

Tom's immediate family consisted of three sisters and four brothers: Joseph, Jr.; Daphne [Eliza Abrams] (son K'lowlai and daughter Aurelia); Benjamin [deceased]; Clarence Eddie

(wife Kim Franchesca, son Clarence Eddie, Jr.); R. Sherry Howard Cotton (husband Stanley William Cotton [deceased]), daughter Sherria Cotton Pegram (husband Scott Girard Pegram, Jr., and son Scott Girard Pegram, III); Douglass Henry [deceased] (through wife Incha Kim, daughter Incha Sherrie (husband Adonis Seals, son Jeenu and daughter Jahyu Jaxin), and daughter Dorothy Oksic (husband Robert Hargrove, son Jinsu-Rahcree, daughter Sing, and son Sonaji); and youngest sister Dorothea Wava, who sadly died in infancy. Also, through his dear wife Juanita, Tom inherited and embraced 3 sons and their offspring: Ellington Brown; Reggie Brown (daughter Tiesha, daughter Elisha, son Romeire, son Reggie, and daughter Destiny); Kent Brown (wife Tonya), son John (wife Comfort), daughter Fantasia (daughter Kirika Dell), and daughter Tionna Epps. Leaving behind countless family and friends who will truly miss him and anxiously await his return, Tom peacefully closed his eyes in death on Monday, April 20, 2020, after having loyally 'run the race of life' in this present system of things "to the finish".

Memorial Service to be held on Saturday, May 2, 2020, at 3 p.m. via Zoom.com.

Order of Service

Chairman: Sidney Presley

Opening Prayer: William Spencer

Reading of Obituary: Tony Gramby

Memorial Discourse: Shawn Empson

Closing Song#151, "He Will Call"

Closing Prayer: Shawn Empson

Condolences From Attendees