



Paul Lawrence Sowell

FEB 2, 1931 - MAY 8, 2022



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The Man – “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he delighteth in his way”. Proverbs 37:23

Elder Paul Lawrence Sowell was born February 2, 1931 to the union of Henry Sowell and Polly Davis Sowell in West Gravel, Louisiana. He was the third youngest of 13 children and lived in the Hawthorne Community for most of his life. As a young man, he worked at Smith Construction and was able to purchase over 40 acres of land when he was seventeen years old. As a farmer he often fed the community from the crops he harvested and provided a job on his land to anyone who was a willing worker. He retired from Vernon Parish School as a Bus Driver. As an entrepreneur he established several businesses including: Red Top Cab, Sowell's Variety Clothing Store, S & S Limo Service, and Sowell's Medical Transportation. As a real estate developer, he was the first black man to own a building in Downtown (Third Street) Leesville, La.

The Marriage – And the Lord God Said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him” Genesis 2:18

Elder Sowell was blessed to marry Jean Ellen “Jeanette” Sowell, the love of his life, on August 14, 1949. Shortly thereafter, he joined Pine Grove Church of God in Christ under the leadership of Elder James Edwards. During his union with Jeanette, eight children were born. He provided and cared for his wife, Jean Ellen Lee Sowell until the day of her passing August 20, 2021.

The Minister – “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the words of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith” Hebrews 13:17

Elder Sowell served faithfully in the church under the leadership of ten Preachers for over 71 years. Elder Sowell happily served as a Deacon, Minister, Assistant Pastor, and then a Pastor for four years. Under his leadership, he provided a free meal every Sunday for his congregation. He also purchased a van to pick members up and dropped them off to church and doctor's appointments at no charge. He also served as YPWW President; he was a Sunday School



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Superintendent and worked with the choir over the years. He also helped add brick to the church at Pine Grove which is still there today.

The Message – One of his favorites versus was “Follow me as I Follow Christ”. 1 Corinthians 11:1.

Like Apostle Paul in the Bible, Elder Sowell spent his life teaching and being an example of how to walk by faith in Christ. He was a humble man with a Christ like spirit. He knew that God was with him and was not deterred by those that meant him harm. He was a man of God that treated everyone with love, respect, and dignity. He exemplified how to love God and others, to lead a family and the value of hard work. He was not a man of many words, but his actions spoke volumes. Elder Sowell departed this life peacefully at home on Sunday, May 8, 2022. He leaves to carry on his legacy, his children: Rufus (Margie), Lionel (Beverly), Henry (Patricia), Patricia Gayden (Willie), Sandra Boyd (Joe), Alfred Ford, Mary Lothery (David), Jerry (Shantele), and Terry (Dalana). A host of nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great – grandchildren, great-great grandchildren and other relatives and friends. Memories of family members that have preceded him in death include his loving wife Jeanette and son, Ray Sowell, his parents, sisters, and brother.

Words of comfort may be expressed to the Sowell Family at www.labbymemorial.com



Tribute Wall

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PL

Phillip Lewis posted:

In loving memory of a wonderful person. We will love you and miss you always.

May 19 at 7:00 PM

EW

Edward "Bruce" Wood posted:

To the Sowell's Family We are so sorry to hear of the passing of Elder Sowells and will definitely keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. Please be comforted in knowing that Mr. and Mrs. Sowells are reunited with each other in Heaven and are resting in the arms of our Heavenly Father and Almighty God. Respectfully, Edward "Bruce" Wood and family in Hinesville, Georgia.

May 17 at 7:00 PM

AW

Angie Wiggins posted:

I did not know Mr. Sowell's but in reading his obituary I was amazed at the many things he has done in his life. My grandfather would have been 96 if he had lived and I imagine this generation was as great as there ever was. I wanted to say that this obituary showed how great his love for the Lord was and that he truly was God's servant. He knew he was here to serve and took care of everyone. I know that god welcomed him in "with a come in my faithful servant, I am well pleased". Your family was very blessed to have him in your life.

May 16 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Paul by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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