

BISHOP HOPETON W. MAIR, SR.

Affectionately known as "The People's Bishop"



As a little boy growing up in Jamaica, West Indies, Hopeton William Mair attended church with his mother, Missionary Julie Brown-Dunstan.

In 1951, at the age of seven, he began his early childhood education at Burnt Savannah Elementary School in his birth parish of St. Elizabeth. They skipped him to the second grade.

About 1954 his mother moved from St. Elizabeth to Kingston (the capital of Jamaica), where he continued his education at the Swallowfield and Rousseau Schools. There they skipped him from the third grade to fourth grade.

It was in Sunday School that he decided to give his life to the Lord Jesus Christ and was baptized in the Name of Jesus in September 1955, by the late Bishop David Thomas, pastor of the Refuge Apostolic Church in Kingston.

About 1958, his mother established membership at the Rehoboth Apostolic Church located at number 3 Burke Road in Kingston, where Mother Mary E. Bailey was the pastor. There he received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. He was a member of the choir, a Sunday school teacher, a youth Minister, and President of the Youth Department.

It was there he preached his first message on a Tuesday night (about 1964) taken from Jeremiah 10:10. The title of his message was "The True God".

He later pursued higher learning at St. Andrew Technical High School and the Eastern School of Accountancy in Kingston.

In 1965 he attended the Rehoboth Apostolic Churches Convocation in Baltimore, Maryland, where the late Bishop R. A. Carr was the presiding officer.

He decided to further his education in the United State and had his visitor's visa changed to a student visa. Upon arriving in the Washington, D.C., he enrolled at the Armstrong Adult Education Center where he came second among the graduating class (the second highest class average) and was elected President of the graduating class. Because he was the Salutatorian, he received a much-needed scholarship for college. However, the scholarship was later withdrawn because he was a foreign student and not an American citizen.

Upon completion of High School, the U.S. Government informed him that he must return to Jamaica unless he is continuing his education. He quickly enrolled in the Mary Margaret Washington Nursing School and later began his college education at Federal City College. He attended both schools at the same time while working part time. He graduated from nursing school and successfully passed the District of Columbia State Board Exam. He completed his Public Health internship at the Howard University Sickle Cell Program under its director, the late Dr. Roland Scott.

Now living in Washington, D.C., he was a member of the Rehoboth Church of God located at 8th and L Streets, N.W. His pastor was the late Bishop Monroe R. Saunders, Sr. There he continued his full involvement in the ministry of the church where he served as a teacher, a minister/Elder and Youth President. His new pastors were Elder Joseph Garlington and Bishop Charlie B. Burroughs.

In 1967 he initiated and sponsored "The Thought for the Day" broadcast on WFAX in Falls Church, Virginia (Saturdays at 1pm). This broadcast ministry continued for over 20 years. He later established the "Christian Workers Inc., which evolved out of the Broadcast ministry, Elder Van Bynum, Sr. and Elder and H. Anthony Morris were his two assistants.

On March 17, 1973, Bishop Mair was united in marriage to Annie Ruth Bynum. They are blessed with three children — Klaudette, Hopeton, Jr., and Kevinn. They are the proud grandparents of Hopeton, III, Kiara, Samuel, Lillian and Kerri Ann, and proud great grandparents of Myla.

He received his B.S. in Public Health from the Federal City College in 1974 (now the University of the District of Columbia). He received a partial scholarship from Yale University but could not attend the New Haven Campus due to the pending birth of his first child, Klaudette.

Pastor Mair has done post graduate work at Georgetown University, D.C. Teachers College, Howard University, and other institutions of higher learning. In the early eighties he taught general science at Banneker Junior High School in Washington, D.C.

In 1981 he was asked to serve as pastor of the Mount Olivet Apostolic Church, located at 1418 New Jersey Avenue, N.W., by the ailing pastor, Elder Walter Izlar and the Board of Trustees. The invitation was accepted only after consultation with his pastor, Bishop Charlie B. Burroughs who gave him his blessings. The church came under the Christian Workers, Inc. of which Bishop Mair is the presiding officer.

On Sunday, August 6, 1995, he was consecrated to the office of Bishop by the late Bishop Monroe R. Saunders, Sr., presiding prelate of the United Churches of Jesus Christ.

He retired from the Washington Hospital Center in 1999 after 27 years of honorable service in Health Care.

He received both his Master and Doctor Degrees in Theology in 2004. In 2014, he received an Honorary Doctor of Theology Degree from St. Thomas Christian University.

He now spends his full time where his heart has always been, with the New Mt. Olivet Church family, encouraging and admonishing us to always to visit the sick and never forget to ***“Give God all the Glory,”*** because the church is **"All About JESUS!"**

He currently oversees three churches in the United States and five churches in Jamaica, West Indies.

Programs Established

1. He started the GED program at the Jail, Hyattsville, Maryland
2. Feed the Homeless program at the City Shelter, Washington, DC
3. Prison Ministry, Prince George's County, Maryland
4. He is president of Non-profit “Willing Aid, Inc., Washington, DC (provide assistance to the needy worldwide)