



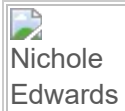
## Thomas Grayson,

August 30, 1956 - July 14, 2008

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at Messiah Missionary Baptist Church, 2615 Williamson Road. Pastor Otis Washington will officiate with interment in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Friends may call on Monday from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the Browne's Mortuary, 441 N. Jefferson Avenue. God has called home one of his most faithful and dedicated soldiers. Thomas Edward Grayson, Sr. passed away suddenly, July 14, 2008 at the age of 51 years at Covenant Medical Center-Cooper. Bro. Grayson was born August 30, 1956 in Saginaw, MI to Hosia and Doristene Grayson. Bro. Grayson was a faithful member of Messiah Missionary Baptist Church where he sang in the Male Choir and with Voices of Messiah and also served on the Bus Ministry. He loved basketball, fishing and spending quality time with his wife and sons. He coached various basketball teams but will be remembered mostly as "Coach Grayson" with the AAU Team, Saginaw Pride and Michigan Mustangs. Mr. Grayson was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He leaves to cherish his memory, a devoted wife, Arnetra Grayson; six sons, Isaiah, Tariq, Jarell, Demond, Thomas Jr. and Julian; one daughter, Carmina (Theodore) McAfee; his grandchildren; one sister, Vivian (Calvin) Grayson-Williams; loving mother-in-law, Louise (Albert) Johnson; his father-in-law, Johnnie Bumper; two sisters-in-law, Kontina and Cierra Draughon; three brothers-in-law, Johnny and Jeremy Stacey and Edward Plowden; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, including Rev. Otis and Bonn Washington and the entire Messiah Missionary Baptist Church. Thomas was preceded in death by his parents,

Doristene and Hosia Grayson, Sr.; brothers, Larry and Hosia, Jr. and sisters,  
Lydia Plowden and Deborah Ann Buck.

# Tribute Wall



“ 9 years later I find out the coach who gave me a chance has passed away. During my brief stay in Saginaw and attending CC Coulter, Coach Grayson, Mrs. Grayson, and their son Thomas Jr was a true example of a family who cared about their community. My prayers go out to his family. Mr and Mrs Grayson will never know the impact they had on my life.

*Very Respectfully*

*Tinniecy*

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**Nichole Edwards** - July 04, 2017 at 03:20 PM

CW

“ TO THE FAMILY OF COACH GRAYSON, I WAS SO SAD TO LEARN OF THE PASSING OF COACH GRAYSON. HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON WHO INTRODUCED ME TO BASKETBALL AND EVER SINCE I LOVED THAT SPORT. I PLAYED HARD FOR HIM TWO YEARS IMPROVING MY SKILLS WITH HIS TEACHING AND BY THE SIXTH GRADE I EARNED THE M.V.P. TROPHY. I WAS SO SHOCKED AND IN DISBELIEF HE TURNED TO ME AND SAID NO ONE HERE PLAY HARDER THAN YOU. THIS TROPHY WASN'T GIVEN TO YOU, YOU EARNED IT. WHAT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT HE MADE ME FEEL. I WAS SAD TO LEAVE HIM AS A PLAYER GOING INTO JR. HIGH SCHOOL AND WISHED THAT HE WOULD COME AND TEACH AT WEBBER BUT HE SAID HE COULDN'T AND DON'T WORRY AND JUST TAKE WHAT I HAD LEARNED AND BE NOT AFRAID TO PLAY AGGRESSIVE BALL. WITH THAT ADVICE I TOOK IT THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. I REMEMBER THE SLEEP OVER RONNIE AND COACH WOULD THROW FOR THE TEAM AND HOW WE LOVED BEING AT THEIR HOME IN BLOOMFIELD. THANK YOU RONNIE FOR ALLOWING COACH TO DEVOTE SO MUCH TIME TO THE B-BALL PROGRAM AND ALLOWING HIM TO BRING THE TEAM OVER SO THAT YOU COULD HAVE GIRL TALK WITH US. YOU TWO WERE LIKE MY SURROGANT FAMILY. I WILL TRULY MISS HIM DEARLY. WHENEVER I WOULD SEE HIM OUT AND ABOUT HE WOULD ASK DO I STILL SHOOT AROUND AND EVEN WITH ALL THE WEIGHT GAIN I WOULD REPLY "YOU KNOW IT." FOR THE FAMILY GOD CAN AND HE WILL HEAL EVERY SADDEN HEART. MAY GOD BLESS COACH GRAYSON WHOLE ENTIRE FAMILY.

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**CELEASHA WILSON** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ To the family of Mr. Grayson: I would like to express my condolences. Arnetra, I will keep you in my prayers.

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**Faye (Ms. Bracey)** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Arnetra, we are so sadden to hear of the loss of your love one. You and your sons have our deepest sympathy. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. May God continue to give you strength in your time of sorrow. Bro. Grayson will be missed dearly at Messiah Missionary Baptist Church. Even though he may be gone, his memories will live on. If you or the boys need us we're only a phone call away. R.I.P Bro. Grayson.

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**Kevin&LaCresha Wearrien** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Arnetra i am so sorry for your lost. I will be praying for your strength. I love you and I will keep you in my prayers.

*Dunkin*

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**Dawnika Cope** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ We have known Coach Grayson since we were kids playing basketball at C.C. Coulter. He was the type of coach that challenged and pushed his players to do their very best. It was very rare that anyone would see him get upset. He always spoke in a soft and smooth tone and was a father figure to those players who didn't have that in their own homes. We just spoke with him at our cousins football camp at Saginaw High last month and he was still the same Coach Grayson that we have always known. May God continue to comfort your family for he will give you strength in your time of loss. Coach Grayson will be truly missed for making such a great impact into the lives of children throughout the City of Saginaw.

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**Annie McLaurin** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Vivian and the Grayson family, I am so sorry for your lost. We never know why God does the things he does and we never ask why. All we know he does them for a reason. My prayers are with you in this difficult time of sorrow. God Bless each and everyone of you. Keep the faith, stay prayful and God will see you through.

Love,  
Melissa

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**Melissa Wadley** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ my heart goes out to caoch grayson familii. stay strong everything go be alright. god wont put more on you than you can handle. your family is in my prayers. coach grayson was my basketball coach when i was in elementary at c.c coulter school. stay strong grayson family.

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**shaena pershay** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Thomas, I can remember in the third grade at Houghton school you show me how to do fractions the easy way. I will miss you

Sandra D, - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ May God bless you and your boy's during this time of sorrow. Keep the faith and God will see you through.

Barbara Lawson - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ To the family of Thomas may God bless and keep you all, i have known Thomas for many years and he has always been a very nice and respectful man, he will truly be missed, stay strong and remember that God will get you thru, he has called one of his children home, Thomas will be missed but, never forgotten.

Pankie Allen Brown - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Mrs. Grayson, I am so sorry that you have lost your husband and that your sons have lost their father. I will miss seeing the both of you at the school. I appreciate the both of you so much and I will be praying for your strength and peace in this trying time. May the Lord bless you and give you peace. I Love you and the boy's.

Miss Herring

Miss Terri Herring - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ To Arnetra Grayson and the Grayson Family, I had the pleasure of working with Tom when he Coached for Saginaw Public Schools. He had a great love for kids and was dedicated to his job. He will be remembered by the many lives he touched. My prayers are with you and your family at this time.  
May God bless and keep you all.

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**Shelaine Parrish** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Arnetra I am so sorry to hear about your loss. I know that you are a woman of God, so I know you will find strength in His comfort. You and your family will be in my prayers and thoughts.

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**Demetria Porter-Graham** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ To Arnetra and family, I would like to send my condolences to you in this time of your loss. Know that God is with you and he will see you through this time. Coach Grayson was one of my favorite coaches throughout school. He was dedicated to his job and was good at it. He will be greatly missed!

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**Adrienne "AC" Cliatt** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ Our deepest sympathy, we are praying for you Netra and the entire family. We were shocked when we received the word of Mr. Grayson's passing, but his memory lives on in many lives... Chip would talk of the games and the kids and how Mr. Grayson, Greg McMath, Coach Lawson and the other Coaches would go on and on about the kids/games, they would meet up and talk sports and what could of been done and what kids had game etc. He will be greatly missed. We're praying for you that God will keep you and give you strength.

1 God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the  
mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.  
Selah

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy  
place where the Most High dwells.

*Psalm 46*

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**Willie & Doralia Mims** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ ALL I CAN SAY IS, I MISS MY DADDY! I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and kind words. He was truly loved and will be MISSED!

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**Carmina McAfee** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Mr. Grayson was an amazing, loving, and devoted father and husband. He will be dearly missed.*

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**Rachel Pappas** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ *What can I say? Your family loved you dearly. You meant so much to so many people, for so many different reasons. I will miss you. Of course, we will take care of Vee. Carmina, Demond, Booka and Julian will be okay. Nitra and the boys will be okay. Our family has lost so much, but it has truly shown us how important it is tell people how you feel about them. I feel good because you knew that I loved you. I know what you expect from me and I will try my best not to let you down. I am very proud of the man that you were. I am glad that you gave your life to Christ and you were faithful to your family and church family. I know that you are praying that the rest of us get it together before God calls us home, and we will! And despite what Dee-Dee may think, I know I was your favorite niece...but it will be our secret!!! I love you Uncle Thomas, Ke*

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**Keisha Plowden** - July 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM