

Biography



Samuel ...a man whose name means heard of God, asked of God, offering of God, and appointed by God.

Samuel ...a prophet, an intercessor, a priest, and a judge. An extraordinary leader, a fearless preacher, a compassionate teacher, and faithful servant of God.

Samuel ...a man who heard from God, a man who was heard by God, a man who loves God, a man sent by God.

Thirty-five years ago, **Bishop Samuel Wright, Sr.**, a latter day prophet, a man appointed by God, a man anointed by God, was sent by God to assume pastorate of Zion Apostolic Church, Petersburg, Virginia. Bishop Wright has established a rich and diverse legacy of faithfulness, achievement, leadership, and dedication. Born January 8, 1935, to Andrew and Lucy Godbolt Wright, Bishop Wright is a native of Latta, South Carolina. He attended Dillon County Training School and Allen University before enlisting in the United States Army in 1953. During his military career, he held a variety of positions such as squad leader and platoon sergeant during the Korean War, 82nd Airborne paratrooper, radar operator, radiology technician and medic. Upon graduation from the School of Nursing at Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado, he held such positions as staff nurse, emergency room director, chief ward master, and chief of the Department of Clinics. He was honorably retired at Fort Eustis, Virginia in 1974, having enjoyed a diverse and successful military career.

Called of God, with an “ear to hear” and a servant’s heart, Bishop Wright has zealously pursued the “higher calling in Christ Jesus” for over 40 years. He has fought to advance the cause of Christ as a preacher, teacher, musician, and pastor, as well as through evangelism. Bishop Wright came to Zion Apostolic with a considerable pastoral background—licensed and ordained by the Virginia State Council of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.

He has pastored all over the world to include Ulm, West Germany, Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam, and Sagami-Ono Tokyo, Japan, where he founded and pastored the Camp Zama Pentecostal Serviceman’s Center. He has also assisted countless numbers of displaced refugees and wounded servicemen, ministering to the needs of the whole man while he himself was recuperating. Bishop Wright continues to strive for excellence in his service to the Lord and has proven to be a faithful shepherd. Building upon his past experiences and education, with faith in God, his achievements have been stellar. Under his direction, Zion Apostolic Church was renamed Zion Apostolic Christian Memorial Church and relocated from a run down, small building to its present location on South Young’s Road. The new church, which seats 1,500 people, is now called Zion Apostolic Christian Memorial Temple. In 1975, he founded and remains the administrative director of the Zion Apostolic Day Care Center. Bishop Wright is responsible for and instrumental in the establishment of numerous grants and endowments that have provided funding for the redevelopment of the Gillfield area of Petersburg, the construction of a senior citizens’ home, training for the economically disadvantaged and unwed mothers, as well as college tuition assistance. He has assisted over one hundred families with purchasing their first homes and has been a blessing to other pastors by directing and facilitating the construction of ten new churches.