



## Bishop Matthew Barber

September 4, 1952 - December 8, 2016

Archbishop Matthew Arthur Barber, B.Th DD

Establishmentarian & Visionary

September 04, 1952 – December 08, 2016

Archbishop Matthew A. Barber was born on September 4, 1952 as the baby boy of his beloved parents, the late Rev. William Barber, Sr. and Mrs. Annie Mae Barber, (Queen Mother) in Bridgeport, CT. The Archbishop wings were released for his express travel home on December 08, 2016 by The Almighty God.

He was known for his human but divine, life-applicable, realistic approach to preaching and teaching God's Holy Word. As Pastor of Open Door Tabernacle Training Center for 25 years in Johnson City, Tennessee where he built reputations as a force for reconciliation, and harmony across ethnic, denominational, geographic, and generational lines. Archbishop Barber was a wise, humble, spirit-led seer that loved the people of God and delighted in shepherding his multi-cultural flock.

His Christian and musical education started at an early age. During childhood, he was a member of the "Mother Church" Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Bridgeport, CT. where his father, Rev. William Barber, Sr. was the Establishmentarian Pastor and his mother, Queen Mother, Annie Mae Barber was the Co-Founder. Archbishop carried on that legacy as Overseer of the "Mother Church". In addition, he was the Establishmentarian of I Believe God

Ministries, International, and Archbishop of Refuge of Hope Apostolic Church's, Inc, and Bishop Dr. D.B. Hinton Prophetic Ministries.

Archbishop was the Founder and President of The Interpersonal Connection, a Certified Life Coach, Radio Personality of Blog Talk Radio, Author of "Keys to The Kingdom" and "God Is Not on Recess". Archbishop was an anointed gifted Administrator, Entrepreneur, Spiritual Advisor, Consultant, and a Life Coach. He was known as 'The Encourager" He is also proceeded in death by his brother Rev. William Barber, Jr.

He leaves to cherish his legacy three children, Kenneth Barber, of New Haven, CT, De'Juan Belcher Barber, of Atlanta Ga, and Sherri Barber of Washington, DC. four sisters, Ann Dawson of Victorville, California, Barbara Freeman, of Washington, DC, Mattie Gee, of Birmingham, Alabama and Mary Lee, of Bridgeport, CT. Four Grandchildren, Dillion, Kennedy, Matison and Collin. A host of spiritual children, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A visitation will be held from 6:00pm until 7:00pm Thursday December 15, 2016 at Open Door Tabernacle Training Center 522 Wilson Ave in Johnson City, TN. with a Funeral service to follow.

A Funeral service will also be held at 11:00am on Friday December 16, 2016 at Church of Jesus 809 W. Main St. in Johnson City, TN. The family will receive friends from 10:00am until 11:00am prior to the service at the church.

Interment will be held at 1:30pm Saturday December 17, 2016 in Kannapolis, NC. at Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 15. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Open Door Tabernacle  
522 Wilson Ave  
Johnson City, TN 37601

## Service

DEC 15. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Open Door Tabernacle  
522 Wilson Ave  
Johnson City, TN 37601

## Service

DEC 16. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Church of Jesus  
809 W. Main St.  
Johnson City, TN 37601

# Tribute Wall

JN

“ *To The Barber Family...*

*I recently learned of the passing of my dear friend, Matt. We attended Stratford High School, in Stratford, CT together. Between his many talents and my love for music, he took me under his wing and taught me how to dance and sing at the same time. Our "group" performed all over the town for many events.*

*Rest in peace and thankyou for your wonderful belief in Jesus Christ. You will never be forgotten.*

*Sincerely,*

*Judy (Buda) Nielsen  
Bristol, CT*

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**Judy Nielsen** - June 14, 2024 at 02:39 PM



“ *Bishop Matthew Barber*

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January 29, 2023 at 10:28 PM

CS

“ *Matthew was my classmate and friend. I had lunch at his house and he played piano by ear like magic. In 5th grade Matthew, Christine Hunter and myself sang to Birdseye students. We sang Down by the River side with Matthew on piano. We lost touch during the years but I see God used his talents to spread love and kindness. May our Lord Jesus may and protect all of Bishop Matthew Barber's family and friends. God keep you Matt. Cliff*

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**Cliff St.John** - December 16, 2022 at 09:20 PM

BS

“ Gifted in singing, playing, and preaching. Rest on my friend. Pastor Bernard M. Harris

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**Bernard M Harris Sr** - December 26, 2016 at 09:24 PM

VH

“ His family in North Carolina will miss him greatly. Our deepest condolences to everyone. Cousin Vanessa Reid-House and Cousin Aunt Lib.



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**Vanessa House** - December 16, 2016 at 06:39 PM

PB

“ Bishop will truly be missed by the city. The Open Door Family is in my prayers. Pam Goines Bolden



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**Pamela Bolden** - December 16, 2016 at 04:52 PM

BF

“ Bishop Franklin L. Fountain & FOYC Fam lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber



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**Bishop Franklin L. Fountain & FOYC Fam** - December 16, 2016 at 01:52 PM

BL

“ *Billy Lewis lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Billy Lewis** - December 15, 2016 at 08:46 PM

RH

“ *Roberta K. Hall lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Roberta K. Hall** - December 15, 2016 at 01:08 PM

RH

“ *Hello, I met Bishop Barber in 2000 and was instantly infatuated with his personality and love for people. Although I have not seen much of him in the past few years I have thought of him often with a smile. Please accept my condolences and prayers. He shall be greatly missed by our community.*  
*Roberta K. Hall (fka Chubb)*

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**Roberta K. Hall** - December 15, 2016 at 11:59 AM

RW

“ I was privileged to have known Bishop Barber. I first met him on my Emmaus Walk, but saw him many times at other musical and spiritual venues. When my son had to take a class after receiving a ticket, I was pleased to learn that Matthew would be teaching the class.

*A musical group I was with at the time, Crosswinds, was pleased to provide music once as he preached a revival.*

*Until we meet again...  
Richard Williams*

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**Richard Williams** - December 14, 2016 at 03:39 PM

WL

“ We thank God for Bishop Barber, whos light went beyond the four corner walls to people he never met formally.His teachings, and influence reached our ears a few years ago.His reverence spoke of often.We give our condolences to his family-he shall be deeply missed. The Bomans

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**Waters of Everlasting Life** - December 14, 2016 at 01:46 AM

CM

“ Carrie Davis Marchant lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber



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**Carrie Davis Marchant** - December 13, 2016 at 10:22 PM

RC

“ *Rev. Dr. Melvin T. Conley lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Rev. Dr. Melvin T. Conley** - December 13, 2016 at 05:19 PM

LS

“ *Lucas Snapp lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Lucas Snapp** - December 13, 2016 at 02:53 PM

PF

“ *With a heavy heart, we pray for the eternal repose of one who was a man of distinguished humanity and a positive influence in the Johnson City community.*

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**Pat Collins & Family** - December 13, 2016 at 02:33 PM

VR

“ *Vanessa Robinson lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Vanessa Robinson** - December 13, 2016 at 01:29 PM

GR

“ *The Bishop and I have been friends for many, many years. He was JCPD's Chaplain and we became close friends and brothers. I have spoken at his church and my gospel group has sung there and we felt the spirit of our Lord and kinship. I will miss my brother but I know we will meet again when our Lord returns or I go on before. May the peace and grace of almighty God be with you, the family and friends, as we look forward to our homecoming in the sky. Our loss is Heaven's gain.....until then my brother.....*

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**Gary Willis JCPD retired** - December 13, 2016 at 12:22 PM

SH

“ *Sharron lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Sharron** - December 13, 2016 at 11:56 AM

DF

“ *Dee Orie Fearon lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Dee Orie Fearon** - December 13, 2016 at 10:15 AM

PH

“ *Pastor Annette Houston lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Pastor Annette Houston** - December 13, 2016 at 08:01 AM

PH

“ *So sorry to hear the passing of Bishop Matthew A. Barber. Bishop Barber love the Lord and love people. He was a people person. He could preach, teach, and Anionted to do that, and Anionted to play that organ. Love Bishop Barber family and church family. We will be holding you all up Praying that God will give you comfort at this time. One thing about Bishop Barber he love to praise the Lord. Be did not like no dead service. Every time he came in the service you know he was there. Therefore he fought a good fight he kept the faith. Rest on solider, rest on.*

*Pastor Annette Houston  
1327 Lion Street  
Greensboro, N. C. 27406*

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**Pastor Annette Houston** - December 13, 2016 at 07:59 AM

SL

“ *Sandy Lowe lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Sandy Lowe** - December 13, 2016 at 07:56 AM

EM

“ *Eric Matheson lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Eric Matheson** - December 12, 2016 at 04:29 PM

BB

“ *A true friend to everyone he met here are earth and now his smiling face is watching down on us from above. I will miss you my gentle friend.*

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**Becky Buchanan** - December 12, 2016 at 03:55 PM

WP

“ *Wayne Phillips lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Wayne Phillips** - December 12, 2016 at 01:42 PM

CR

“ *You were always by our side when we needed love most! This is hard to believe! I hope you know how much you are loved. I will miss you friend!!*



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**Cindy Robinson** - December 12, 2016 at 12:16 PM

CR

“ *Cindy Robinson lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Cindy Robinson** - December 12, 2016 at 12:13 PM

LG

“ *Bishop Matthew Barber will be sorely missed by many! He sang at Tetrick Funeral Services 9/11 Remembrance Motorcycle Rally Service in 2010 and stirred everyone with his magnificent voice and presentation. I have worked with him on several projects through the years and always enjoyed his humor, encouragement, exhortation, and most of all admired his faith. Laura Graham*



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**Laura Graham** - December 12, 2016 at 12:07 PM

RC

“ *Ron Campbell lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Ron Campbell** - December 12, 2016 at 09:22 AM

TH

“ *Tracy & Chris Hoffman lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Tracy & Chris Hoffman** - December 11, 2016 at 10:50 PM

BW

“ *Bud Williams lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Bud Williams** - December 11, 2016 at 10:05 PM

SS

“ *Thank you Chaplain Barber for your friendship over the years and compassion you showed my family when my mother passed away. Rest in peace!!*

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**Sherry Stevens** - December 11, 2016 at 06:19 PM



“ *Matthew Lunceford lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Matthew Lunceford** - December 11, 2016 at 06:13 AM

CC

“ *Chuck Carroll lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Chuck Carroll** - December 11, 2016 at 12:12 AM

KM

“ *Sending much love and prayers to the entire family!*



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**Kristin, Nicole,Stephanie,Keith, Matthew** - December 10, 2016 at 11:17 PM

BS

“ *Becky Smith lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Becky Smith** - December 10, 2016 at 09:15 PM

LG

“ *Lorrie Goff lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**Lorrie Goff** - December 10, 2016 at 09:14 PM

RS

“ *Roz Saunders lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



Roz Saunders - December 10, 2016 at 07:25 PM

RS

*To one of the best organ/piano player God created thanks for all the times you played for me RIP bishop.*

Roz Saunders - December 10, 2016 at 07:26 PM

RS

*We will miss you!*

Roz Saunders - December 10, 2016 at 07:28 PM

CT

“ *Chief Steve Terry lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



Chief Steve Terry - December 10, 2016 at 05:48 PM

CT

“ *Chief Steve Terry lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



Chief Steve Terry - December 10, 2016 at 05:33 PM



“ *Brother you will be missed, it was always a pleasure to talk and fellowship with you.*



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**Tim Hensley** - December 10, 2016 at 03:49 PM

JS

“ *John H Story lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



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**John H Story** - December 10, 2016 at 11:52 AM

DL

“ *Matthew was always a friend. Special man that loved his God, country, people and community.*

*Donna Lewis*



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**Donna Lewis** - December 10, 2016 at 10:30 AM

SH

“ *Chaplain Barber will be missed by many and would want us to all know he is now smiling and watching over us!*

*LT. SCOTT HARRELL*



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**Scott Harrell** - December 10, 2016 at 09:14 AM

BE

“ *Bishop Barber is a great man of God who will be greatly missed by all who were touched by his love for the Lord, his fellow man, and everyone he met. His laugh was infectious and his heart was holy. Our prayers are with the family. Bishop John Edwards, Erwin Church pf God*

**Bishop John Eddwards** - December 09, 2016 at 06:23 PM

PE

“ *Pam Ensor lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



**Pam Ensor** - December 09, 2016 at 06:08 PM

MD

“ *Melvin Drumgoole lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



**Melvin Drumgoole** - December 09, 2016 at 12:14 PM

GM

“ *A brilliant light in a darken world will be sorely missed!*



**Gloria McClinton** - December 09, 2016 at 08:05 AM

GM

*To the Barber family: Sorry for your pain at the death of Bishop. I will always remember his smile, laughter and the way he cared for people. Thank God for sharing him with us.*

**Gloria McClinton** - December 09, 2016 at 08:14 AM

SC

*Bishop Barber had a smile that could light up the darkest room and a laugh that could cheer the saddest heart. He was my friend and my mentor. I will miss him.*

**Sharon (Stover) Curtis** - December 12, 2016 at 09:28 AM



“ *Judy Hopson-Haws lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



**Judy Hopson-Haws** - December 09, 2016 at 05:54 AM



*My thoughts and prayers are with the Barber family. I met the Chaplain at the Johnson City Police Department where he became a very good friend and was always there when I needed him and even preached at my father's funeral. He will always have a special place in my heart.*

**Judy Hopson-Haws** - December 09, 2016 at 05:59 AM

JW

“ *Janice Wright lit a candle in memory of Bishop Matthew Barber*



**Janice wright** - December 08, 2016 at 09:06 PM

EB

*His spirit in this cold cruel world will be missed RIP Bishop*

**Elaine Brady** - December 09, 2016 at 09:02 AM

JW

“ *To the Barber family, Bishop will truly be missed.he was such a wonderful human being.praying for all that was so very close to him*

**Janice wright** - December 08, 2016 at 09:05 PM



“ *I had only a few and very brief interactions with Bishop Barber but each was a blessing. My condolences to the family and my gratitude for a faithful life well-lived.*

**Mark Thomas** - December 08, 2016 at 08:23 PM



“ *I will miss the love that shined in your eyes, your care for your flock, your preaching, singing and most of all, your piano playing. I hadn't seen you in awhile, but I am so glad I got to know you.*

**Sandi Fisher** - December 08, 2016 at 07:59 PM



“ *My condolences to Bishop's family. He was certainly an instrumental force in the Johnson City community. Adam Dickson*

**Adam Dickson** - December 08, 2016 at 03:24 PM

JB

“ *Rest in peace my friend. You have been a true friend to me from the day I moved back to Johnson City, I will miss our many conversations and laughs we shared.* ”



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**John Birchette** - December 08, 2016 at 02:06 PM