

THE GOSPEL

messenger

SPECIAL ISSUE



REMEMBERING BISHOP WAYNE HICKS

50+ YEARS OF *ministry*
1946-2020

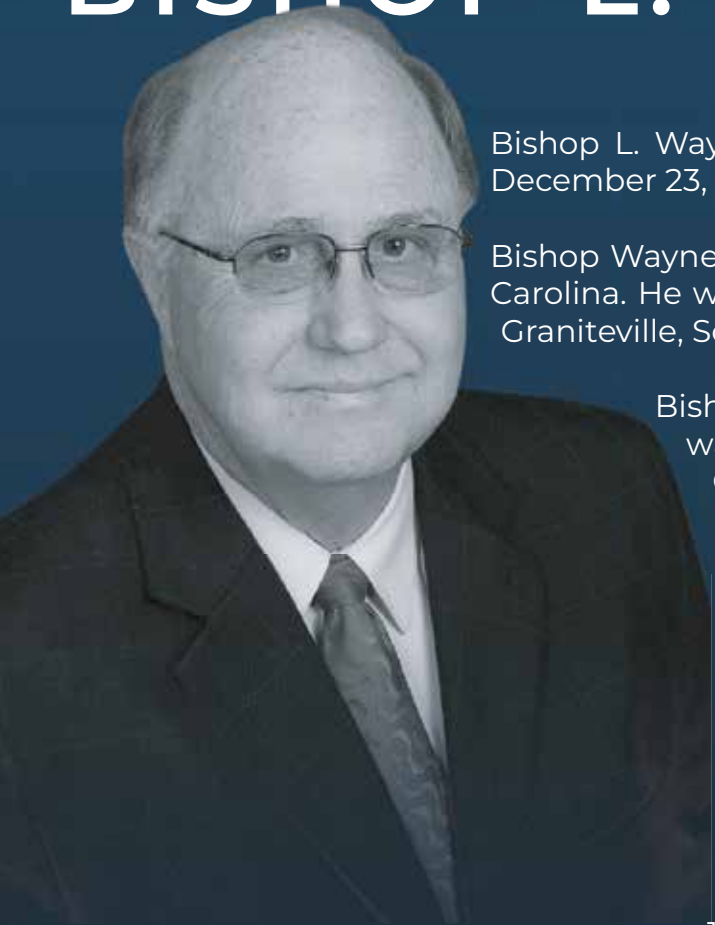
"A LIFETIME
OF BLESSINGS"

by Daren Hicks

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BISHOP L. WAYNE HICKS

1946-2020



Bishop L. Wayne Hicks, 74 of Gainesville passed away Wednesday, December 23, 2020 following an extended illness.

Bishop Wayne Hicks was born on December 4, 1946, in Aiken, South Carolina. He was raised in what is now Christian Heritage Church in Graniteville, South Carolina.

Bishop Hicks has been in leadership for many years. He was elected to the GEB as General Secretary in the 1977 General Conference. He served in this position until 1985 when his father, Bishop Cullen Hicks was re-elected back into the position of General Superintendent. During this time he served on the Presbytery of the North Georgia District. In 1991, when his father retired, Bishop Hicks was re-elected to the GEB as Second Assistant Superintendent. He served in this position until the 2013 General Conference when he was elected as First Assistant Superintendent.

Bishop Hicks is a fourth-generation Congregational Holiness. He preached his first sermon at the age of 18. He began his pastoral ministry in September of 1967.

He and his wife, Cherryl, pastored for a total of fifty years and two months.

In January of 1966, Bishop Hicks married the love of his life, Cherryl Biggerstaff. They were blessed with three children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

A historic event took place for the Congregational Holiness Church on August 27, 2020. The General Committee gathered in Griffin, Georgia, at the Living Waters CH Church to elect a General Superintendent to fill the remaining term vacated by the passing of Bishop Charles Hanson. Shortly after the business meeting began, the General Committee elected the 12th General Superintendent for the Congregational Holiness Church, Bishop Wayne Hicks. When selected, the members of the committee stood to their feet to congratulate and welcome Bishop Hicks to the highest office within the denomination.

Bishop Wayne Hicks had a vision for the Congregational Holiness Church. He felt extremely blessed to be entrusted to finish Bishop Charles Hanson's term. We will always remember the life of service and legacy Bishop Wayne Hicks left for the Congregational Holiness Church





THE 2017 GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

EDITOR
Matthew Turner

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FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



RIGHT MAN, RIGHT TIME, FOR THIS TIME

by Stephen Phillips

Bishop L. Wayne Hicks. Rev. Wayne Hicks. Brother Wayne. Wayne. This is a name that's been on my tongue my entire life. I've never known a time that I didn't know him and his family. This is the name of a man that's seemed more like a relative than anything else. My dad and Wayne were like brothers. When my mom and dad were first married, they lived in the same house as Wayne on Emmanuel College's campus. Through the years, he's always played some role in my life. I'll never forget the very nice and expensive watch Wayne and Cheryl bought me when I graduated High School. The phone calls and congratulations through the years at the various high points of my life. He always seemed to be nearby, aware, concerned, reaching out to me, and even worried about me through some of the most difficult times of my life and ministry. On top of that, he affectionately and privately called me "Son," right up until our last conversation. With that being said, he treated me as an equal and with the utmost respect in all professional situations. For all these memories, I'm so thankful.

continued...

Bishop L. Wayne Hicks, for me, is synonymous with the Congregational Holiness Church denomination. He has been a leader extraordinaire:

■ As a pastor, over five decades, he was always successful. The congregations he shepherded always grew under his leadership, both spiritually and numerically. He was so well rounded as a preacher, teacher, counselor, chaplain, musician, singer, and friend. He didn't just pastor his churches but was a pastor to the communities he served. He would be known throughout town and make a difference in people from all walks of life. For those who came in contact with him, Pastor Wayne made a difference. Countless souls came to know God, find freedom, and find their life's purpose through his ministry for the cause of Christ.

■ As a denominational leader, he served at every level of the CHC. Although pastoring was his call and encompassed the vision of his life, he always made sure he served the Congregational Holiness Church denomination wherever and whenever he was needed. I'm sure he took on many roles that were more taxing on his body and time than was healthy for him. However, he wouldn't have it any other way. As the CHC needed him, he served willingly and with great passion. In District and General leadership, no one has served the CHC with more distinction. For some 37 years, Bro. Wayne served on the General Executive Board. I'm sure this is longer than anyone else in CHC history. His service to the church was always conducted in an exemplary fashion. No matter who he served with and



served under, he made an incredible impact, and everybody was better off because Wayne was on the leadership team.

On August 28, 2020, as Rev. Wayne Hicks has always done when his church has needed him, he rose to the occasion. After the unexpected passing of General Superintendent Bishop Charles Hanson due to the COVID-19 virus, at one of the darkest times in our denomination's history, Rev. Wayne Hicks accepted the assignment to become the General Superintendent of the Congregational Holiness Church, thus becoming Bishop. He calmly and with a steadiness of will set forth to lead the church to a place of healing in a time of great hurt. He immediately began that work and, with everything that was in him, led our church. Although it was only four short months, I'm confident that Bishop Wayne Hicks was the right man, at the right time, for this time.

We will all miss him immensely. His leadership and influence will continue to make a difference in our lives. I look forward to seeing him again one glorious day! And I'm proud he referred to me as "Son."



**BISHOP STEPHEN AND
SHERRY PHILLIPS**

*Bishop Phillips serves the CHC as
the General Superintendent.*

A LEADER OF LEADERS

Several years ago, when I served as North Georgia World Missions Promoter, Pastor Wayne invited me to preach at New Haven CHC. Afterward, he took my family and me out for a meal, and during the conversation, he turned to me and posed the following question - "Have you ever considered serving as World Missions Director?" I answered quickly, "No, I am not qualified," hoping to change the subject because that was the last thought in my mind. I dismissed this possibility because I could not see my ability to serve the Lord and the denomination in a position like this. But Pastor Wayne could see something I could not. He could see beyond where I was to where I could be. Pastor Wayne Hicks was a leader of leaders.

It is hard to believe that we recently said goodbye to Bishop Wayne Hicks. He served as our General Superintendent for only a few short months. Still, his imprint is on the Congregational Holiness Church because he was the leader that led others and served faithfully for many years, both as a pastor and a denominational leader. He was not only our Bishop but a pastor. The Bishop's title was a step where he became recognized for something he had been doing throughout his ministry years: being a pastor to other pastors. Simply put, he was a leader of leaders.

I knew of Bishop Wayne Hicks for many years. I knew he was a denominational leader and a pastor. But in the last ten years, I began to know him personally. He always encouraged and listened and was willing to advise on difficult situations drawing, often from his own experiences, to offer help. He wanted others to succeed and was willing to help them in their journey. He was a leader of leaders.

Looking back, I can tell the story of a county-wide revival that Bishop Wayne assured me that expenses would be covered if necessary. I can speak of his heart for missions, faithfully giving and leading the way at New Haven. I can tell of Bishop Hicks allowing a local High School Chorus Concert to be



REV. SCOTTY AND
REDENN A POOLE

Rev. Scotty serves as the World Mission Executive Director of the CHC.



held, for no charge, at New Haven as an opportunity to reach new people. I can tell of him ministering in Morelia, Mexico, at a leadership conference and watching him interact with pastors and leaders and sow into their lives. For me, these events all speak to the man and minister he was, a leader of leaders. I will miss the leadership and friendship of Bishop Wayne Hicks, but he had prepared for this moment. As he was leading leaders, he prepared them to do what he did, to be a leader of leaders.

My prayers and love go to Mrs. Cherryl and the entire Hicks family.

by Rev. Scotty Poole

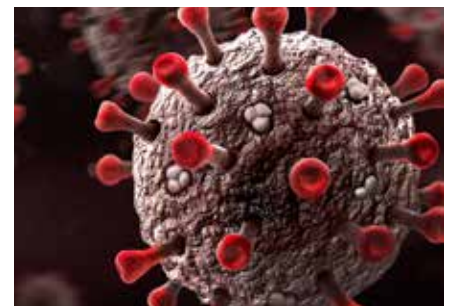
Executive Director's Report

With the help of many churches and individuals, our department sent aid to help purchase food and supplies for the West Virginia Mission and send money to 5 different countries on three continents to provide Christmas Shoeboxes for the children.

Due to COVID, there has been no travel outside the USA. I have been working with our international leaders to help aid them in navigating COVID issues. In Honduras, the two hurricanes have caused much damage, and I have been coordinating relief efforts there. This relief will be an ongoing relief effort for several months.

Even with all the constraints of COVID, we are about to begin new building projects in three countries and still have others waiting to begin projects. I am working with international minister training in two locations and exploring a possible venture of CHC into Australia.

As General Conference approaches, we are working to help our international delegates navigate the travel restriction for the conference. Please continue to pray for the World Missions Department.



I have a clear recollection of walking into the Corinth Church in the early 1970's for a Youth Rally and seeing a young man playing the piano. Although I am sure we had met before, it was this event that marked the beginning of a friendship that lasted almost fifty years. Since we lived in different communities, our friendship began slowly, but it steadily grew stronger. Wayne was a Pastor, and I was involved in Youth Ministry. God divinely opened doors for both of us, and initially, it was our service to God through our church that brought us together. It would not be long, however, until our friendship was not dependent upon



2017 General Conference



2017 General Conference



Bishop Ronald, Bishop Wayne and Foreign Delegates

a position or church; it was because we had truly become friends.

From my early teens, I have always loved to play golf. This was during a time when many in the church frowned on such activity. That gradually began to change, and Wayne and I would play many a round of golf together. We would try to keep church business out of the game as much as possible, but our time of relaxation often turned

into us trying to sort out something that was happening either on a Local, District, or General level. It was not always problems; sometimes, it was dreams of what could be rather than what had always been.

We served on numerous committees together, and Wayne's input was not only beneficial in helping to resolve issues but watching how he handled things helped me grow in so many ways. Leadership is a combination of knowing what to do and what not to do. It is also about timing. It is important that we not only hear God's instructions, but we also listen to when God wants it done. Since Wayne had walked some of these paths before me, his advice was most helpful.

The communities where Wayne would pastor were always better when Wayne left than they were when he first arrived. He actively led in community-based ministries that would benefit the hurting and the needy. Hospital clergy staffs were organized so that the sick could be ministered to by those who had been called to be an extension of the love of God.

Wayne's involvement was not limited to just the Congregational Holiness Church, but to other organizations of like precious faith. His heart for people was not limited to just the boundaries of the United States, but to people of all races and nations around the world. Churches were built because of his desire to carry the Gospel into all the world. There were even times when he was sent to other nations to help resolve conflict. His influence was far-reaching. The world is a better place because of his life.

Wayne served for thirty-seven years on our General Executive Board. I was blessed to serve twenty-two of those years with him. He became our General Superintendent on September 1, 2020, a position that a lifetime of ministry had prepared him for. He was only able to occupy that office for a little over 3 months, but it was a fitting end to his life.

Revelation 14:13 says, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

I miss my friend more than I have words to express, but I am comforted by God's promise that we will meet again and enjoy eternity together.



BISHOP RONALD AND MARLENE WILSON

Bishop Wilson serves the CHC as the 1st Assistant General Superintendent.

by Bishop Ronald Wilson

Anyone familiar with the Congregational Holiness Church will acknowledge the vital and integral impact made by Bishop Wayne Hicks throughout his many years of ministry. Whether it was within the churches he pastored, or the multiple positions held on the General Executive Board, including General Superintendent, Bishop Hicks aimed for excellence and diligence of duty. All churches that he pastored experienced growth, vitality, and a powerful influence in their respective communities. He touched thousands of lives throughout his pastoral ministries. Over the years, Bishop Hicks also affected the ministries of multiple young pastors as they sought him out for counseling, mentoring, and training. He truly loved this aspect of his ministry. As a longtime member of the General Executive Board, his wisdom, experience, and vast knowledge of the Congregational Holiness Church was a positive, guiding influence. Upon his election as General Superintendent at the sudden death of Bishop Charles Hanson, Bishop Hicks quickly assumed the reins of dynamic leadership that successfully guided the whole denomination during this critical time. He cared for and loved the Congregational Holiness Church and always sought to represent the denomination in the most excellent way. Yet throughout the years, his deep love for his wife Cherryl and his family was the guiding foundation of his life and successful ministry. He and Cherryl were always a united team in ministry, community involvement, and family life.

My close association with Bishop Hicks deepened when I served as General Christian Education Director. As the liaison officer for this general office, he served as my consultant, confidant, and link to the General Executive Board. Always open to major goals, innovative ideas, and special projects for the General Christian Education Department, he offered advice, guidance, and outlook that was both positive and strategic. He was both a listener and encourager and gave thoughtful insight to assist me. His faithful support and help continued as I then served as Mission USA Director and then later as a member of the General Executive Board. For all of this, I am so grateful, as are so many others who experienced the tremendous influence of this soldier of the Lord's army. Bishop Hicks powerfully



DANNY AND KATHY JONES

Rev. Danny serves the CHC as the General Treasure.

influenced the Congregational Holiness Church as well as thousands of people. His earthly impact was both enduring and eternal within the Kingdom of God and will always be remembered.

by Rev. Danny Jones

I had been acquainted with Bishop Hicks for years from different camp meetings and his pastoral and leadership positions in the C.H. Church. However, it was in the summer of 2005 when I first met him on a personal level. I had just been elected as the new pastor at Bethel Temple and Bro. Wayne happened to be preaching a short time after that at the Jacksonville



THE FITZPATRICK FAMILY

Rev. Jonathan Fitzpatrick serves the CHC as General Secretary.

C.H. Church. Pastor William Strickland had planned to have breakfast with him before the service, and I joined them because I wanted a little insight into the church and the North Georgia District. This started a relationship that lasted for over 15 years. Over those 15 years, I gained a lot of valuable advice and direction from him. He was one of the most successful and wisest pastors I have ever met. Every church he pastored grew well. I once asked his son Daren why he thought his dad was so successful. He said something to the effect that his dad just "loved people."

When I was in college at Lee University a few years ago, I had a conflict management class. One of the assignments was to interview a seasoned pastor or church leader and ask them some assigned questions with regard to conflict management. One of those questions asked what the person thought was the best possible outcome of a conflict. I'll never forget his answer, "That it can be resolved and both parties continue to attend the church." That is how he lived and led.

His commitment and dedication to the C.H.C. were well above average. When he was elected by the General Committee to fill the unexpired term of Bishop Hanson, his health was not where he wanted it to be, but he took the challenge to step up. And while his physical strength was low, his spiritual strength and commitment remained high. For instance, one of our General Executive Board meetings had been scheduled as a Zoom video conference meeting. Before the meeting, Bro. Wayne was admitted to the hospital, and the meeting went as scheduled with him chairing the meeting from his hospital bed. He had every reason not to be there, but he was. Why? Because it was important to him. In this particular meeting, we had to make a difficult decision to move the General Conference to Christ Chapel. What made it even more difficult (for him) was that it was originally scheduled at West Sunny Side, where I pastor and Bro. Wayne thought that I would be hurt or offended because we had to move it. When I explained to him that I completely understood and that, while we were honored and excited about hosting it, it was the best thing to do. To ease his mind, I made the motion to move it. At the end of the meeting, before we dismissed, he said, "Jonathan, I appreciate your Christlike spirit about this." That meant a lot to me coming from him.

I consider it an honor to have served with him on the General Executive Board these past three and a half years and on the campground committee in North Georgia for seven.

by Jonathan Fitzpatrick



Hick family Christmas 2017



**BISHOP WAYNE AND
DARAN HICKS**

*Daran is the second of three
children of Wayne and Cherryl
Hicks.*

I had the privilege of being the son of Bishop Wayne Hicks. I was not only his son but was able to serve with him for many years in the ministry. When I was 21 years old, with a brand new calling on my life, he made me his Associate Pastor and started bringing me to board meetings in our local church. He loved serving the denomination and did everything he could to set me up to do the same by encouraging me to serve on district boards and committees. Although I enjoyed this type of work, my true love was serving the local church with my Dad.

My fondest memories were when Dad and I preached tag team messages. The first one was in 1991. This one was actually with my Dad and my Granddad, Bishop Cullen Hicks. It would be years before we did this again, but when Dad's health began to give him problems, it became quite common. Dad would send me his sermon when he finished preparing it, and I would study as if I were preaching. On Sunday morning, if he got out of breath or felt weak while preaching, he would motion to me, and I would step up to the pulpit, picking up where he was to continue his sermon. This was a bit unconventional, but I loved it. Somehow I knew then that, when the day came where he was no longer with us, I would look back to those services with a smile on my face.

We served together in various capacities for about 20 years. But, he also had a very distinct relationship with each of my siblings. My brother, John Michael, served in the church, as well. He ran the sound for a while and played the bass guitar for many years. They always bonded through the music of the church. Since music was such a big part of Dad's ministry, I know he loved that relationship with John Michael.

My sister Susan McQueen married a minister. Dad told them at the beginning of their marriage that, although he would love to have them in his church, it would be important for them to serve together. Susan and her husband Philip are both gifted singers and have been a blessing to several churches through their years of ministry together.

Then, there was the relationship he had with my mother. My mother, Cherryl Hicks, was my Dad's greatest supporter in the background. She is not one to want to crave the spotlight, but she was always there. Ministry can be challenging, and at times a minister can feel lonely. I never saw a time in 54 years of ministry that my mother did not have his back. She loved him, and he loved her. He told me in the hospital a couple of weeks before he passed, "She has been a good one. I could not have asked for anyone better."

As a family, we were blessed to have such a strong leader to love and guide our family. Dad led a good life and legacy, but probably the most significant legacy he left our family was not seen by most. The last year of Dad's life was full of hardship. He spent over 90 days in the hospital in 2020. As you know, visitation was very limited at hospitals, so he spent most of that time alone. When Dad came home from the hospital for what would be the last time, he could not sleep in his bed. He slept in his chair and my mother, wanting to be near him, slept on the sofa. I went over to his house each day when I got off work and would ask how he rested. Almost every day, he would tell me of waking up at 2 or 3 in the morning, Mom would get him some medicine, and then they would just talk for about an hour and a half. His words to me were, "Son, we just talked about how good God has been to us." I think about these words all the time since he is gone. After the difficult year he endured, he was not having a pity party that, for most, would have been understandable. He was taking in life as a whole, and in his last days, giving God the glory for a lifetime of blessings.

by Daren Hicks



Bishop Hicks and grandson Noah.



The Hicks Family celebrating Bishop Wayne and Cherryl's 50 Wedding Anniversary in January of 2016.



Bishop Wayne, Grandson Austin, and son Daren at Austin's wedding day November 2014.



Bishop Wayne, wife Cherryl, and Mother Margie Hicks at her 90th birthday.



Bishop Hicks was a talented singer and musician.



Bishop Hicks with Bishop Charles Hanson and Frederick Shumba.



**THE TURNER FAMILY,
MATTHEW, ANNA, ELIA,
AND EDYTH.**

*Dr. Matthew Turner serves as the
Mission USA Administrator for the
CHC.*

I met Bishop Hicks when I was nineteen years old. I was serving as a youth pastor at the Center Congregational Holiness Church. Our pastor, Rev. Glen Studdard, called Bishop Hicks to run a three-day revival. Bishop Hicks' reputation preceded him as a respected and inciteful leader for the CHC. I got to spend time with him as he preached the revival, and he was impressive, to say the least. It was obvious that he spent a great deal of time studying the Word of God and how best to deliver the message God laid on his heart. Needless to say, we saw God move in a significant way that week, and several gave their heart to the Lord as a result.

As the years passed, my relationship with Bishop Hicks grew as I interacted with him more and more. There were countless times I would call him on the phone for advice, or I would take a trip up to Gainesville, GA, to spend a few hours with him learning and asking questions. His depth of knowledge seemed to be endless. He always had a story of a previous experience to share a great ministry lesson with me that was always encouraging.

In 2018, as I knew my time as Senior Pastor at the Piedmont Congregational Holiness Church had come to an end, I was not sure what the next step was for my family and me. The first phone call I received about our next step was from Bishop Hicks asking me to consider the Mission USA Administrator position in Griffin, GA. Completely unsure of my abilities and if I had what it would take to fill such a role, Bishop Hicks believed in me and was confident that I would do a great job. I will forever be grateful for his love and support for my family and me.

After Bishop Charles Hanson's passing in August of 2020, there were many questions about how we, the CHC, would move forward. Our denomination had never faced such challenges before. However, when selecting someone to fill the remainder of the term, there was hardly any question of who the right person for the job was. Bishop Wayne had lifetimes of experience, wisdom gained from decades in leadership, and a heart full of love for our beloved denomination. Bishop Hicks was unanimously voted into the highest office of the CHC, and a standing ovation was given as the results were announced. He immediately brought stability to the CHC and began working to prepare us for our 35th General Conference.

Bishop Hicks served the CHC with excellence, passion, and strength. He was an incredible example to me and everyone around him. The Apostle Luke wrote about Barnabas as he was sent to Antioch in Acts 11, "He was a good man full of the Holy Spirit and faith" (Acts 11:24). This is the verse and description I would ascribe to Bishop Hicks. He was a good man full of God's Spirit and faith. I will always cherish my time spent with him.

by Matthew Turner





REV. RONALD COOK

The CHC thanks Rev. Cook for his service as the Men's Ministry Executive Director. Rev. Cook has assumed a new pastorate role.

Acts 13:36 states, "For David, after he had served his own generation, by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers." In thinking about Bishop Wayne Hicks, I had the honor of knowing him. I felt this scripture would honor him in the many years I had the privilege of knowing him. Bishop Hicks served the Lord with a purpose, and he never wavered. His love for our denomination and people, in general, was one of his greatest attributes.

He was a man of great knowledge who searched out the scriptures and preached strictly from the Word of God. In a quickly changing world,

Bishop Hicks held fast to his profession of faith and the preaching of sound doctrine. He often joked with me that he had plenty of messages if I ran out that he would be willing to share his notes. We always would get a good laugh, but I knew where his heart was, and I would gladly preach one of his well thought out and versed messages. Our delivery would be quite different, but the power behind it would still be the same.

Bishop Hicks's name for me was always Dr. Cook, so therefore I was given an honorary degree many years ago without all the Bible schooling needed. We always loved to meet at the Music Road lobby, whether at Leadership Conferences or Women's Ministry Retreats every year to catch up. He always had fascinating news from around the globe. He not only kept up with what was happening in our denomination but with all our sister denominations. One thing for sure you didn't slide anything by him. He was a man of wisdom beyond his years, and I was honored to have a relationship with him of one that I could love and trust.

He served in so many areas of leadership for the CHC, but also as a pastor, musician, singer, husband, father, grandfather, and to me, friend. In every aspect, Bishop Hicks definitely served his generation well.

Our last conversation was by text. I let him know that I was praying for the Lord to raise Him up, his reply as so many times before, "Thanks my buddy." I miss you, my friend, our talks at New Haven, meetings, and those simply on the phone. You've made your goal and served your Lord well; now it's up to us to do the same. See you soon, and we will catch up!

by Ronald Cook



Perhaps the most difficult assignment I have ever been given as National Commander of Royal Rangers has been putting together the words you are now reading. When I received word that this edition of the Gospel Messenger would be dedicated to the memory of Bishop Wayne Hicks, I immediately realized that a summation of what he meant to me personally would be virtually impossible to pen down. Not in a few hundred words.

So I decided to narrow my focus to one word. If I could describe Bishop Wayne Hicks in one word, what would that one word be? Leader? Pastor? Friend? Visionary? He was all of these things, yes! And many more!

Still, these titles seemed a bit impersonal to me. What did Wayne Hicks do that made him special- not to a church or a denomination, but to me? I have concluded that the very best word I can use to describe Bishop Hicks is the word "encourager." Bishop Hicks was an encouragement to me.

I will never forget General Conference 2017 as New Haven CHC- Bishop Hicks' church. When the conference had ended, and delegates were saying goodbyes to people seen only once every four years, Bishop Hicks invited me into his spacious office at New Haven. Hundreds of books lined the shelves behind his desk. He then directed me to a closet where I would find some large cardboard boxes.

"Son. " He said. "Take one of those boxes and fill it with any of these books that you would like to have."

He then grew quiet. A far off look clouded his eyes.

"Son- I am waning down." (I couldn't help but notice his play on words.)

"Soon, we will need young men like you to take the place of older men like me. I just want to invest in your ministry by giving you these books."

Like a kid in a candy store, I started selecting books. It was no easy task. Which books did I want the most?

A few moments later, I stood next to Brother Wayne as my wife snapped some photos. Little did I know, this would be

the only time I would have this privilege to spend those precious moments with Brother Wayne in his office. I am forever grateful for those memories I have today- almost four years later.

Bishop Hicks: our upcoming General Conference will not be the same without you! But save me a spot at the throne; we will all be joining you soon!

by Brian Willingham



REV. BRIAN WILLINGHAM

*The Willingham family:
Brian, Rebecca, Zach and Ally.
Brian is the Royal Rangers
National Commander for the
Congregational Holiness Church.*



Rev. Willingham in Bishop Wayne's office

Bishop Wayne Hicks was such a great man of God who has given his whole life to the work of the Lord. He was always kind yet firm. I remember hearing him talk about his family, and I could sense how proud he was of them, and when he talked about Sister Cheryl, it was obvious how much he loved her. As the First Assistant to the General Superintendent, he always attended all functions of the church when possible. In his short time in the position of General Superintendent, he insisted on carrying out his duties even with his health issues. On a personal note, he always encouraged me and helped me when I would call on him. His attendance at the Women's Ministry functions was also very encouraging. Bishop Hicks, you will be greatly missed by the Congregational Holiness Church, and all that knew you. I'm sure you are singing with the angels, maybe even playing the piano for them, and enjoying Heaven.



REV. WANDA MURRAY

Wanda Murray is the Women's Ministries Executive Director.

by Wanda Murray



Bishop Wayne Hicks with his father, Bishop Cullen Hicks, and mother Sister Margie Hicks



TONYA COOK

Tonya Cook serves as the Missionettes Executive Director for the Congregational Holiness Church.

Over twenty-five years ago, as a young, timid, newly married woman, I had the distinct honor to meet Bishop Cullen Hicks and his son Bishop Wayne Hicks. I had heard my husband talk of them with the highest esteem, and, to be honest, I was a little intimidated. Not long after the introduction, I could tell why he admired them so.

I never dreamed that in years to come, I would have the distinct privilege to become good friends with Bishop Hicks and Sis. Cherryl. From serving on the General WM Board and getting to be at General events with them and getting to know just how down to earth he was.

His love for music and singing always was a conversation piece for us. He was so talented, and I stood in awe of that.

Several years ago, Ronnie and I moved to North Georgia to pastor and found ourselves visiting New Haven, where Bishop Hicks

pastored, quite frequently on Sunday and Wednesday nights. During this time, he and Sis. Cherryl became dear friends, and we always enjoyed great fellowship.

To say Bishop Hicks was an extraordinary man is an understatement. He was an amazing preacher, musician, singer, leader. His legacy in the Congregational Holiness Church, and so many other sister denominations, will live on for ages to come. One thing for sure, he took his job in our denomination to heart to the very end and served us with pride. It was my distinct honor and privilege to serve alongside such an extraordinary man but more so an honor to call him my friend.

Bro. Wayne, we loved you, and you will be so missed. Thank you for all your years of faithful service. The songs you sang for years are now a reality as the Lord welcomed another great soldier of the cross home.

by Tonya Cook





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