

Celebrating our Beloved
Dwain Laron Ingram
September 1, 1952 ~ December 14, 2021



Monday, December 27, 2021 ~ 12:00 Noon

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
6175 Campbellton Road, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331

*Aaron Parker, Pastor
Elder George Fishburne, Officiating
Overseer James Chandler, Eulogist*

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see;
If the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today,
while thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
and each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too;
But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand,
that an Angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand,

and said my place was ready, in heaven far above,
and that I'd have to leave behind, all those I dearly love.
But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye,
for all life, I'd always thought, I didn't want to die.

I had so much to live for, so much yet to do,
it seemed almost impossible, that I was leaving you.
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday, just even for a while,
I'd say goodbye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.
But then I fully realized, that this could never be,
for emptiness and memories, would take the place of me.

And when I thought of worldly things, I might miss come tomorrow,
I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled with sorrow.
But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home.
When God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne,

He said, "This is eternity, and all I've promised you".
Today for life on earth is past, but here it starts anew.
I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last,
and since each day's the same day, there's no longing for the past.

But you have been so faithful, so trusting and so true.
So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me,
I'm right here, in your heart.



The Celebration

Aaron Parker, Pastor
Elder George Fishburne, Officiating
Zion Hill Baptist Church



Processional

The Parting Glance

The Clergy and Family

Omega Service

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Rho Pi Lambda Graduate Chapter

Prayer of Comfort

Trent Wilson

Scripture

Old Testament
New Testament

AJ Wright

Selection

Kevin Lemons & Higher Calling

Expressions of Love (3 minutes)

Derrick Thomas
Armenta Jones
Jerry White
AJ Wright
Dollie West
Reverend Hayward White

Solo

Monica Lisa Stevenson

Resolutions

Acknowledgements

Carl M. Williams Funeral Directors, Inc.

Selection

Ingram Gospel Singers Tribute

Marvelous Light Christian Ministries

Eulogy

Overseer James Chandler

Recessional

Interment

Mozley Memorial Gardens
3180 South Sweetwater Road
Lithia Springs, Georgia



Obituary

Dwain Laron Ingram

"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Proverbs 16:19(NIV)

An anonymous author once proclaimed, "You can only seek the heights of manhood when you seek the depths of God," a notion that clearly describes the life, lessons, and legacy of the late **Dwain Laron Ingram**. Born on Monday, September 1, 1952, to the devoted and nurturing ancestry of **Bertha White Ingram** and the late **Frank James Ingram**, young **Dwain** was born and reared in the communal and country confines of **Bealsville, Florida**, a quaint community located some 20 plus miles west of Tampa, Florida.

It is noteworthy that freed slaves founded Bealsville from surrounding communities, including Knights, Hopewell, and Plant City. In Hillsborough County, **Dwain** began a life's journey of unusual challenges, redemptive life experiences, and family-inspired victories.

Having enrolled in the Hillsborough County School System, **Dwain's** early years were spent at **Glover Elementary School**. It is important to note that his 1st through 8th grade years there allowed him to forge friendships that have remained viable and vibrant for countless years. In addition, it is notable that **Dwain** and his brother took private music lessons, including piano instruction from a local tutor, JB Miller, a gift that would ultimately serve him for a lifetime.

Dwain completed his 9th grade studies at **Marshall High School** and later attended **Plant City High School**, where he completed his prep school studies, earning his high school diploma in 1970. It is of unique, critical, and historical importance to know that **Dwain** and two female classmates played significant roles in integrating their high school. This is just one specific instance of **Dwain's** trailblazing personality and fearlessness.

In 1974, just four short years later, **Dwain** earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the historic HBCU, **Stillman College**. It is noteworthy that his passion for sculpting young minds came into crystal clear focus during his intervening undergraduate years. The abiding tenor and tone of **Dwain's** collegiate experiences were defined by his unselfish sharing of his God-given talents. A Stillman College Touring Choir member, he learned to embrace a lasting commitment to excellence, skill, hard work, and professionalism.

Still, **Dwain's** collegiate experience was better because he decided to opt for Brotherhood. He became fascinated with the charitable and community service focus of a unique group of men with whom he developed life-long friendships. So, on Tuesday, November 19, 1971, **Dwain** and his nine line brothers crossed the burning sands into the **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity** via the **Epsilon Nu Chapter**. Since then, his involvement in his fraternity post Stillman College has been stellar as a member of the **Rho Pi Lambda Graduate Chapter**. His focused endeavors related to community service and mentoring remain an example to all.

Dwain's fruitful college experience and unparalleled drive to succeed compelled him to seek legitimate career opportunities that would perfectly align with his distinctive gifts and call. His chosen field of education would prove to be a wise selection. He then launched out into the world's deep-water by accepting a teaching position in the Miami Dade County Public School System. Beginning in 1974 **Dwain** labored faithfully for 33 years at Miami Coral Park High School as a Government/Economics teacher. Interestingly, his ability to bring calm to a troubled student or tumultuous classroom by simply playing a tune on his piano was legendary.

Throughout the breadth and width of his time as an educator, **Dwain** was lauded for his varied and many contributions. Awards including the **Miami Coral Park Teacher of the Year** twice in both **1991-92 and 1992-93**, **Intergenerational Adopt -A- Grandparent Project Award Recipient in 1992-93**, **Heart of the City Cultural Arts Series in 2000**, and **Chairman of the Board for the Board of Directors for the United Black Fund of America** also in 1992-93 to name a few.

Dwain would ultimately close out his illustrious career in 2010 as an educator with the Fulton County School District's Westlake and Langston Hughes High schools in Southwest Atlanta, Georgia.

It should be noted that during **Dwain's** early years, his mother routinely and intentionally exposed him to both fellowship and worship at Plant City's **St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church** led by the longtime pastor, **Reverend James Scantling**. There, he received Christ as his personal Lord and Savior and learned the importance of loving people and

engaging in authentic music ministry. The young adult choir was his primary ministry of choice and where he began making full proof of his ministry call.

Dwain's ongoing spiritual growth and development continued post-undergraduate studies as he relocated to South Florida and labored and learned with **Pastor R. A. Bradley** and the people of the **Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church**. Again, hearing the voice of God, **Dwain** would later join in membership with **Reverend Dr. Samuel Atchison** and the **Mount Calvary Baptist Church**. It is noteworthy that during his time at Mount Calvary, another significant ministry call would manifest in **Dwain's** heart and mind and ultimately make a global impact. Eventually, God would direct **Dwain's** path to the **New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith International**. Under the pastoral tutelage of **Bishop Victor T. Curry**, he recognized and embraced even further the power of his collective music ministry.

Macedonia A.M.E Church found **Dwain** in service as the Minister of Music and under the pastorate of **Reverend Hayward White**.

In recent years, the Ingram family's path led to **Marvelous Light Christian Ministries** in Lithia Springs, GA. Their time in fellowship with **Overseer James Chandler** and the beautiful people of Marvelous Light continued even as **Dwain's** health waned.

The fact is that even after carving out a wonderful life himself and his family, **Dwain's** longing for music ministry that would defy time, encourage those who were lowly in spirit, and honor the God of grace and mercy would become the birth of a movement.

Hence the 1974 birth of the iconic Ingram Gospel Singers.

In the home of Brother Sam and Sister Lillie Corner, the musical ensemble was organized, beginning with a modest nine members. Taking South Florida and the world by storm, **IGS** turned out hit after hit from **“Can We Find A Friend”** to **“Down In My Soul.”** Despite all of the soul-stirring and original gospel music, there was one song in particular that garnered significant attention. It is noteworthy that **“Make My Heart Your Home”** came in at #14 on **Billboard** under **Top Gospel Albums** the week of April 15, 1995.

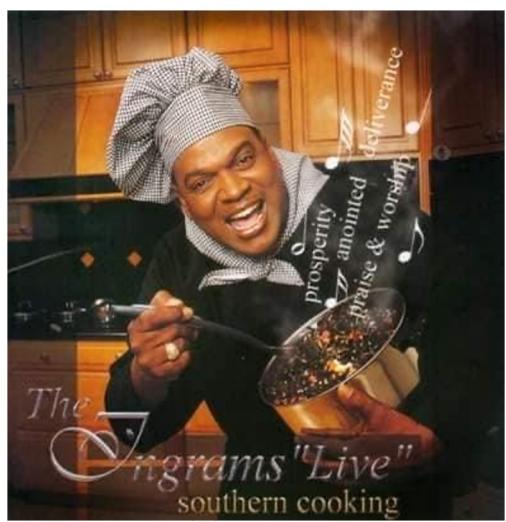
In its lyrics was the reflection of the authentic character of the group's namesake – **humility and service**. Additionally, **Dwain** and the **IGS** would snag an array of recognitions over the years, including their nominations for **Best Uniformed Choir/Ensemble** and **Best Produced Album of the Year** in 1995 from the **Gospel Music Workshop of America**.

It has been said that **“true love is merely friendship that has caught fire.”** No better depiction describes the love shared by a man and a woman given to God's perfect will for their friendship and marriage.

Upon meeting a breath-taking young woman in a Northport Alabama church, **Dwain** would routinely see her for Sunday dinner in the home of Richard and Lucy Little. Those exciting Sunday dinner dates led to Sunday afternoon car rides and Sunday evening pay-phone conversations while **Dwain** was away at Stillman. Convinced that **“he who finds a wife, finds a good thing,”** **Dwain** and the former **Glenda Levels** united in holy and loving matrimony on **Saturday, December 20, 1975**. They enjoyed a Christ-centered, humorous, supportive, and loving forty-six-year-plus union. From that marital alliance, they were blessed with a daughter, Shenavia, and sons, Stankedrian and Dionavon Ingram.

On **Tuesday, December 14, 2021**, **Dwain Lavon Ingram** was **“changed...in a moment...in the twinkling of an eye”** and was summoned by God. Without delay, **Dwain** submitted to God's ultimate and divine will for his life and stepped beyond the veil to enter his eternal rest.

Dwain leaves countless and precious memories to be cherished by his devoted wife, friend, and confidant, Glenda; daughter; Shenavia Ingram, sons; Stankedrian and Dionavon Ingram, covenant daughter; Erika Gates-Mayfield (*Derrick*), mother; Bertha White-Ingram, brothers; Lawrence James, Alfred “Zent” Zimmerman, Reginald Gerard Ingram (*Deceased*), mother-in-law, Evelyn Levels, sister-in-law; Roselyn Levels, , aunts; Dorothy “Dot” Looney (*Egbert*), Mary Love (*Johnny*), uncles; John White (*Inell*), Wesley White, (*Darlene*), Kernal White (*Lola*), Ernest White (*Tish*), and Jerry White (*Joan*), granddaughter; Kadence Ingram, grandsons; Dionavon Lavon Ingram II, Kason Derrick Mayson, Samir Ingram, and Kolin Bernard Mayfield, nieces; Ayanna Walker, Carmen Mondesir, April Hall-Jackson (*Dominic*), nephews; Eric Levels (*Tranitta*), Austin Hall, and Aaron Levels; God-daughters; Shaviece Jones, Dwyia Burton-Joseph, Alixandria Virgil, Ashley Jones Brown, Risha Bolden, Ja'Nyre Parker, and Tina Williams, God-son; Lambert Parker II, best friends; Lambert Parker (*Deceased*), Tito Wilmot, Arthur Barnes and Robert Ziegler along with an innumerable host of other sorrowing relatives, neighbors, church family, extended family, friends, and an exhaustive collection of well-wishers.



In Loving Memory of a Very Special Husband In My Heart

I thought of you today, but that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday, and days before that too,
I think of you in silence. I often speak your name.
Now all I have are memories. And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is my keepsake. With which I'll never part.
God has you in his keeping. I have you in my heart.

*Sleep on my love,
Glenda Ingram
Your Loving Wife*



Heaven's Angel

So Heaven has received another angel
The night sky another star
Your life has become a loving memory
I know you will never be far.
I know you are watching over me
As my life goes on
I will treasure the memories, I have of you
I can't believe you're gone.
You were a loving, caring grandad
You were there for us all the time
You will always hold a place in our heart
A loving, treasured spot
You were really one in a million
A cut above the rest
All who knew you would agree
You simply were the best,
So Pa-pa, I will say good-bye
I love and miss you with all my heart
But as long as I have my loving memories
We will never be too far apart.

*We Love You Pa-pa
Kadence, Dionovan II, Samir, Kason, and
Kolin*

In Loving Memory

He was never one to boast.
He just went on quietly working,
For the ones he loved the most.
His dreams were seldom spoken,
His wants were very few,
And most of the time his worries
went unspoken too.
He was there, a firm foundation,
through all our storms of life,
A sturdy hand to hold onto,
in times of stress and strife.
A true friend we could turn to
when times were good or bad,
One of our greatest blessings
we called dad.

*Forever in our hearts,
Shenavia, Stankedrian, Dionovan I, and Erika*



Pallbearers
The Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha

Flower Bearers
The Ingram Gospel Singers



Words of Acknowledgement

We are never prepared to face life's darkest times alone. At such times, the thoughtful expressions of friends make the dawn come quicker and the cross a little easier to bear. The bereaved family of the late **Dwain Lavon Ingram** sincerely appreciates all expressions of love, support, the many prayers, and all other acts of kindness. May the peace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be with you always.

The Ingram Family



Professional Services entrusted to:

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