The Legacy of Apostle Lobias Murray
From Vision to Victory
On Friday December 23, 2011, God transitioned a gospel giant, a five star general, a prince among preachers, a servant leader and a mighty Man of God - the Honorable Apostle, Dr. Lobias Murray from his earthly home to his home in glory.

Emerging from an obscure and humble beginning in the piney woods of east Texas (Jacksonville), Apostle Murray was born July 28, 1927. The eldest of four children, he excelled academically and graduated from Goldsberry Chapel High School in Henderson, Texas. After graduation he served three years of service in the U.S. Army (a Korean War veteran). While serving his country, he was introduced to the former Shirley Hollis in a pen pal relationship. Her modest ways and wholesome charm won his heart and they soon graduated from a pen pal relationship to one of courtship, love and marriage - that lasted 61 years.

In 1953, a few years after marriage, Apostle Murray moved his family to Dallas, Texas. His trip to Dallas with only $10.00, a wife and two small children (Herman and Sharon) in a 1949 Ford was his first test of his faith. However, to establish him for the mandate that God would place on his life, his faith was further tested when he was told that his son, Herman, was dying from a tumor on his brain. Heartbroken and desperate, he surrendered to the call that God had placed on his life and vowed to God, “God, If you let my son live, I’ll tell it everywhere I go.” God raised his son from the dead and Apostle Murray kept his vow. For over 50 years he was a commanding voice for God preaching salvation, deliverance, healing and miracles. His unquestionable faith in God and the laying on of hands to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost are the hallmarks of his ministry.

Continuing to keep his vow, in 1971 Apostle Murray, accompanied by Bishop Larry Kiel, Sr., went on a world tour preaching and teaching the “good news” of the gospel. Their missionary trip took them to the back side of India, the Philippines and numerous Middle East countries. The living conditions, food and water was often scarce. Although the sacrifice was great, the harvest of souls was greater. Testimonies of healing, miracles, the lame walking, and leprosy healings.
A man of vision, integrity and wisdom, Apostle Murray sought God for ways to help society cure some of its many ills. During an annual international convocation in 1976, Apostle Murray, preaching under a heavy anointing, declared “I HAVE A VISION.” He began to speak prophetically of a school where children could learn in a Christian environment. In 1979, the doors of Lobias Murray Christian Academy opened. The Academy was the first African-American owned, private, K-12 accredited school in Texas. His vision included a place where the saints could go for relaxation and recreation. In 1981, the church purchased 109 acres of land in Scottsville, Texas that has been developed into a Christian resort: L&S Christian Camp. Also, in 1981, the Helping Hand Outreach Ministry opened its doors to Dallas County’s needy families supplementing them with food, clothes and toys (during Christmas season). Additionally, over 50 outreach ministries flow from the church into nursing homes, juvenile centers, half-way homes, homeless shelters and street ministries spreading the “good news” of the gospel.

“Thou art my brethren and my friends,” (John 11:13).

Apostle Murray has been a mentor, role model, example and father-figure for members. An honorable and upright Man of God, his character was consistent with his life and message. He preached holiness and he lived holy. He was so loved because of his biblical teaching: faithfulness to God, develop good work ethics, be diligent in business, how to be a good husband, how to be a good wife, discipline in fasting and a plethora of “common sense” basics.


A devoted husband and doting father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Apostle Murray loved his family. The same gospel he preached in the pulpit he also preached and practiced in his home. Cherishing his memory, his widow Dr. Shirley Murray; three daughters— Sharon (Alfred) Smith, Gwendol Renee Murray and Brenda Rice; One brother—Lovester (Margaret) Murray; one sister— Velma (J.C.) Reedy; 14, grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; a loving nephew, Dr. Autry Terry; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and the Full Gospel Holy Temple, Inc. He is preceded in death by his parents—Mr. Herman and Mrs. Willie Mae Trimble Murray; his son—Elder Herman Lobias Murray, Sr.; and one brother—Bishop Lorenza Murray.

Farewell to a renaissance man, a principal architect in the community, a religious icon, a humanitarian, a pioneer in the educational arena and a legend who walked among us.

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:” (II Timothy 4:7)
OFFICIAL HOMEGOING SERVICE PROGRAMME
DECEMBER 30, 2011
11 o’clock A.M.

THE HONORABLE BISHOP PAUL CANNON, JR.– PRESIDING OFFICIAL
PASTOR, FGHT NASH

MUSICAL PRELUDE
“JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS”

ECCLESIASTICAL PROCESSIONAL (*)
FGHT BOARD OF BISHOPS
FGHT INC. FELLOWSHIP PASTORS
THE ECUMENICAL & DENOMINATIONAL LEADERS
THE FGHT, INC. EVANGELISTS

THE MURRAY FAMILY

OPENING STATEMENT
THE HONORABLE BISHOP PAUL CANNON, JR.

HYMN OF COMFORT – “EVERLASTING LIFE”
BROTHER CLARENCE COX

THE INVOCATION (*)
THE HONORABLE BISHOP GEORGE COPELAND
UNITED FAITH CHURCH OF DELIVERANCE, SALISBURY, MD

OLD TESTAMENT (*)
THE REVEREND C. C. BOYCE
PASTOR, FGHT LANCASTER

NEW TESTAMENT (*)
THE REVEREND ALFRED E. SMITH
ASSOCIATE MINISTER, FGHT DALLAS

MUSICAL SELECTION
DR. TONY B. WADE – “ANTICIPATION”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:
STATE REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA MALLORY-CARAWAY
MR. WILLIAM BLAIR, THE ELITE NEWS
DALLAS CITY COUNCILMAN DWAYNE CARAWAY

MUSICAL SELECTION
PASTOR BEVERLY CRAWFORD
GAINESVILLE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER, GAINESVILLE, FL

ECUMENICAL TRIBUTES
THE HONORABLE APOSTLE LEON WALLACE
VOICE OF DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES, NASSAU, BAHAMAS
THE HONORABLE BISHOP J. NEAUL HAYNES
COGIC GENERAL BOARD

THE HONORABLE BISHOP J. BERVIN RANSON
TRINITY TEMPLE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH, DALLAS, TX

THE HONORABLE BISHOP DAVID E. MARTIN
GOSPEL TABERNACLE, DALLAS, TX

THE HONORABLE BISHOP JERONN WILLIAMS
NEW LIFE INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CHURCH, DECATUR, GA

SUPERINTENDENT T.T. TERRY, SR.
HOLY TRINITY COGIC, DALLAS, TX

MUSICAL SELECTION
THE REVEREND KERVY BROWN
GREATER DELIVERANCE TEMPLE, DANVILLE, VA

FGHT TRIBUTES
WOMEN’S DEPARTMENT
EVANGELIST SHIRLEY OWENS
FGHT DALLAS

BROTHERHOOD
THE REVEREND MICHAEL T. SMITH
FGHT DALLAS

FGHT, INC. COUNCIL OF PASTORS
THE REVEREND JOHNNY P. TILLMAN
PASTOR, FGHT TYLER

FGHT, INC. BOARD OF BISHOPS
THE HONORABLE BISHOP LARRY B. KIEL, SR.
PASTOR, FGHT MARSHALL

THE HONORABLE BISHOP Jimmie Horton, Sr.
PASTOR, FGHT DAVENPORT, IA

MUSICAL SELECTION
PASTOR BEVERLY CRAWFORD – “UNCLOUDY DAY”

CHURCH RESOLUTIONS
FGHT WORLD HEADQUARTERS
FGHT FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES

INTRODUCTION OF EULOGIST
THE HONORABLE BISHOP PAUL CANNON, JR.

SERMONIC SELECTION
SIS. JERMIA CANNON – “HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW”

EULOGY
THE HONORABLE BISHOP HERMAN L. MURRAY, JR.

A GLIMPSE ’TIL GLORY

RECESSIONAL

NOTE: PLEASE STAND (*) WHERE INDICATED
1961 - Full Gospel Holy Temple founded at 4228 Second Avenue in a renovated barbecue pit.

1963 - After reaching its capacity on Second Avenue, FGHT moved to 1103 East Ninth Street.

1965 - The church acquired its first radio broadcast. The late Eld. Adell Williams (FGHT's first fellowship pastor) received the holy ghost while laying his hands on the radio during an anointed broadcast service.

1969 - FGHT Choir recorded its first album, This is the Day! FGHT also hosted a revival at Bishop College (now Paul Quinn College), which ushered in many souls, including Bishop Paul Cannon, Jr.

1971 - After six years, the church moved to 2152 Fordham Road. It was at this location that FGHT created the “Children’s Church (ages 6-12),” to help accommodate the rapidly growing congregation. Children ages 4-5 attended service in another building called the “Happy House.”

1972 - Two churches established-FGHT Greenville (Eld. Adell Williams) and FGHT Marshall (Bishop Larry B. Kiel)

1975 - The “temple” becomes a reality as the FGHT church moves to 1900 South Ewing Avenue, a building appraised at over two million dollars. In October of 1977, just two years after moving into the church, Apostle Murray joyfully announced that FGHT is debt free!

1979 - The Lobias Murray Christian Academy and the Shirley Murray Child Development Center were opened at 330 Ann Arbor in Dallas, Texas.

1981 - The L&S camp, a 109-acre retreat and resort, was purchased in Scottsville, TX (near Marshall)

1982 - The Honorable Jack Evans, then Mayor of Dallas, proclaimed October 17, 1982 “Lobias Murray Day.”

1995 - FGHT aired its first television broadcast via satellite on KMPX TV 29.

1997 - LMCA opens the Herman L. Murray gymnasium, named for Apostle Murray’s late son, who was also one of the school’s first teachers.

2000 - Apostle and Dr. Shirley Murray celebrated 50 years of marriage at the Wyndam Anatole Hotel. Bishop George Copeland, a good friend and supporter of the ministry, officiated.

2002 - On August 18, the FGHT family moved to its new world headquarters at its present location-39727 LBJ Freeway. A host of pastors and ministry supporters came from across the country to help celebrate, which included a parade and other grandiose fanfare.

2004 - On July 18, 2004, the President and administrator of St. Thomas Christian College came to the Dallas Full Gospel Holy Temple church to confer upon both of our founders their second Honorary Doctorate degree.

2007 - This year marked two major milestones for our founder-Apostle’s 80th birthday and 50th year in ministry. FGHT hosted the 80/50 celebration weekend, which featured a white-tie gala, a concert featuring gospel greats such as the late Rev. Timothy Wright, Pastor Beverly Crawford, Kim Burrell and many more, and an official Sunday service.

2009 - Apostle received special birthday commendations from the First Lady Michelle Obama, wife of our nation’s 44th President, Barak Obama.

2011 - A banner year for FGHT, we celebrated 50 years of successful and progressive ministry. As we lay our founder to rest, we look forward to carrying the legacy he left behind and celebrating another 50 years of preaching and teaching holiness without fear or failure.
Tributes from the Family

SHOULD YOU GO FIRST

Should you go first and I remain to walk the road alone, I’ll live in memories garden dear, with happy days we’ve known.

In spring I’ll wait for roses red, when faded, the lilacs blue. In early fall when brown leaves fall, I’ll catch a glimpse of you.

Should you go first and I remain, for battle to be fought. Each thing you’ve touched along the way will be a hallowed spot. I’ll hear your voice, I’ll see your smile, though blindly I may grope, The memory of your helping hand will buoy me on with hope.

Should you go first and I remain, one thing I’ll have you do: Walk slowly down that long long path, for soon I’ll follow you.

I want to know each step you take, so I may take the same. For someday down that lonely road you’ll hear me call your name.

Dr. Shirley Murray

Dad, you have always been the strong one of our family. The one that would tell us when we were wrong, but there to give loving support when needed. You were the one we looked up to and never wanted to disappoint. Always gave the best advice. A strong disciplinarian when we were young. But, because of you. We’ve never been jailed or got into the legalities of the system. Hopefully, we’ve made you proud.

We tried to raise our children with the same strong spiritual and moral values you instilled within us. You taught us to have strong work ethics—because hard work and perseverance always pay off. Dad, you worked hard for God. You were faithful, loyal and always constant in your labour. And now it’s time for your reward.

Rest well Dad, in the arms of Jesus. We look forward to seeing you again in that beautiful home that was prepared just for you. We will always love you the same yesterday, today and forever.

Your Daughters,
Sharon, Gwendol Renee and Brenda (Tweet)
FAREWELL

To our Precious Granddaddy

Farewell our precious Granddaddy
Your race on earth is done.
You now live in Heaven
With God and His precious Son.

Although our hearts mourn for you,
And our eyes are filled with tears
We are thankful that we had you
To love and guide us through the years.

You were always an inspiration.
Your strength, it knew no bounds.
I know that God has blessed you
With so many heavenly crowns.

So farewell our Precious Granddaddy
You will always be in our hearts
We will remember your gentle teachings
From which we’ll never part.

From your grandkids:
Shawnee, Amaya, LaJoi, Bishop Murray, Adric, Patrick Sr., Dallas, Anrica, Brenica, Dominique,
Brianna, Gionna, Rhianna and LeCharleston.

And, great-grandkids:
Akeem, Ashtyn, Skylon, Jalen, Nakari, Arrington, Nakayla, Aaliysh.
Patrick, Jr., Shaun Michael, Haydn Luke

“How can I say thanks for all the things you’ve done for me?”

From my childhood to this day, you and mother allowed me to be part of this family. You allowed me to share in ministry with you traveling across the country as well as some foreign countries. You taught me how to cultivate the gifts God placed in me and how to be sincere about the work of God. You taught me how to be a good husband and a good father. You taught me how to be a good man. You didn’t teach me in conversation but by example. It has always been my desire to be a son that would make you proud. I will always be grateful to you for being the man you are and for allowing me to proudly call you ‘Daddy.’

Bro. Tony Wade
“To be great among men and still keep the common touch” is an amicable trait and such was the spirit of Apostle Lobias Murray. A leader of leaders and a “preacher's friend,” Apostle Murray was always concerned about training men of God to become leaders all across the country. During 50 years of successful ministry, God blessed the Apostle to oversee more than 30 churches that make up the incorporated body of the Full Gospel Holy Temple Church.

Tributes from the Fellowship Pastors

Alexandria, LA
Elder Henry Duskin

Altus, OK
Elder Avon Harris

Anniston, AL
Bishop Macy Carr

Carthage, TX
Elder Von Eric McKee

Cleburne, TX
Elder Johnathan Halton

Commerce, TX
Elder Jessie Kinchen

Compton, CA
Elder Louis Nash

Dallas, TX - Headquarters
Bishop Herman L. Murray, Jr.

Davenport, IA
Bishop Jimmie R. Horton, Sr.

Frost, TX
Elder October Thomas

Garland, TX
Elder J.C. Reedy

Grand Prairie, TX
Elder Curtis Malena

Greenville, TX
Elder James Coleman

Houston, TX
Elder Andre Lee

Jackson, MS
Elder David Horton, Sr.

Lancaster, TX
Elder Clifford Boyce

Lexington, KY
Pastor Carol Carter

Longview, TX
Elder Jerry Stanmore

Marshall, TX
Bishop Larry Kiel, Sr.

McKinney, TX
Elder Carl Pierce

Nash, TX
Bishop Paul Cannon, Jr.

Oak City, NC
Bishop James Cooper

Orange, TX
Elder Larry Brooks

Overton, TX
Elder Adolphus Horton

Petersburg, VA
Pastor Dianne Cooper

St. Louis, MO
Elder Ronald Shaw

Sherman, TX
Elder John Shelton

Shreveport, LA
Elder Charles Turner

Simmesport, LA
Elder Arthur Drummer

Tyler, TX
Elder Johnny P. Tillman

Waco, TX
Elder Martin Trammel
My First Christmas In Heaven

I am having my first Christmas in Heaven
A glorious, wonderful day!
I am standing with saints of all ages,
Who found Christ, the truth and the way

I am singing with the heavenly choir
I-who so loved to sing!
And, oh what celestial music
We bring to our Savior and King

I am singing the glad song of redemption,
How Jesus to Bethlehem came,
And why they called His name Jesus,
That all may be saved through His Name!

Oh, loved one, I wish you could be here!
No Christmas on earth can compare,
With all of the rapture in glory,
I witness in Heaven so fair!

You know how I always loved Christmas,
It seemed such a wonderful day,
With all of my loved ones around me,
We were so happy in every way.

Yes, now I can see why I loved it,
And, oh what a joy it will be,
When all of my loved ones are with me,
To share all the glories I see!

So, dear ones on earth, I send greetings,
Look up! Til dawning appears,
And, oh what a Christmas awaits us,
Beyond all our partings and tears!
Acknowledgements

We felt your love, we saw your concern and took note of your actions. Thus, it is with grateful appreciation that we acknowledge your kind expressions of sympathy during this difficult hour. In times like these we are made aware of God’s presence and the meaning of true love and fellowship with friends. We thank you for your concern, prayers, acts of kindness, sacrifices made to be in attendance and most of all for just being here for us. We thank all of you from the depth of our hearts. Truly, we never could have made it without you.

The Murray Family

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS
Milton Owens
Dan Wiley
Adrian Autry
Anthony Kemp
Ernest Brown
Fred Thibodeaux
Richard Robinson
John Pringle

HONORARY PALLBEARERS
Adric Smith
Anrica Murray
Dallas Rice
Brinton Tinnard
Sedrick McCurdy
Christopher Wright
Ramon Hearn
Kenneth Murray

INTERMENT
Laureland Memorial Cemetery
6000 South R. L. Thornton Freeway
Dallas, TX 75232

*Will those driving in the cortege to the gravesite proceed with headlights turned on.

SERVICE RENDERED TO:
Golden Gate Funeral Home
4155 S. R.L. Thornton Fwy
Dallas, TX 75224
(214) 941-7332