



Rev. Elward Dwayne Ellis

May 12, 2012

Rev. Elward Dwayne Ellis, Pastor of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church Stone Mountain, GA passed May 12, 2012.

The Rev. Elward Ellis always rooted for the underdog. He championed the causes of the marginalized and he wanted the voices of the minority heard.

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Special, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship The Rev. Elward Ellis, as pastor of Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain, called on his ability to communicate to diverse groups.

Social change and social justice issues were part of his life's work. A life that ended suddenly Saturday morning after Rev. Ellis' minivan crossed the center line of North Druid Hills Road and collided head-on with an oncoming truck. He was 63.

A funeral service is planned for 9 a.m. Saturday at Calvary Gospel Church in Newark, N.J. Burial will immediately follow the service. Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, South DeKalb Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Dr. Dawn Swaby-Ellis suspects her husband of almost 30 years suffered from an unknown medical emergency while driving, but has not yet received autopsy results.

Rev. and Dr. Ellis came to Atlanta in 1986, while he was helping to plan an inter-faith multicultural conference, Destiny '87. The aim of the conference was to help people of color understand their role in the global church, said Dr. Ellis, a physician at Grady Memorial Hospital.

“He had a tremendous calling to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ,” his wife said. “He also had a deep concern for developing young black leaders in the church and in the world.”

Rev. Ellis' work with leadership development started before he got to Atlanta, however. A native of Newark, Rev. Ellis worked closely with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and was the organization's first director of black campus ministries. He got connected with the group when he attended Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., where he helped start an InterVarsity chapter, according to information from the organization. Rev. Ellis' passion for social and urban justice was well-known among his InterVarsity peers.

“He very much wanted to see African-Americans involved in the global outreach of the church,” said the Rev. Tony Warner, an InterVarsity associate regional director in Atlanta. “He wasn't just focused on African-Americans, but also on reaching out to people all over the world.”

At the time of his death, Rev. Ellis was pastor of Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain, a post that suited him well, said the Rev. Robert Henderson, of Tucker.

“When the leaders at Crossroads asked me what I thought about them calling

Elward, I said, when it comes to communicating the Christian faith, I don't know anybody who can do it better," Rev. Henderson said. "Crossroads was a church in transition, and I told them Elward knew how to communicate with the white and black communities, that's been his ministry since he started."

In addition to his wife, Rev. Ellis is also survived by his son, Dwayne Ellis of Nashville, Tenn.; and his sister Dorothy Ellis of Newark, N.J.

Tribute Wall

DP

“ *A Reflection on Elward's First Memorial Service!*

Attended the first memorial service for brother Elward in the ATL on Wednesday evening hosted by his congregation and denomination. Young, old, teens, middle aged. Men and women. Girls and boys. Blacks, Whites, Asians, Latinos. The highly esteemed (Bishop George McKinney, Pastor Crawford Loritz) and the lowly. The educated and not so literate. Church people and homees. Students. Various denominations. Jam packed. Standing room only around the entire parlor. And the people kept coming. A joyous, lively celebration and reunion of saints as Elward laid before us. A small glimpse of what heaven will look like. No races. No divisions, no separations, no ideologies. Just Christ's love among us. We were all there paying tribute and homage to this great man of God who touched our lives powerfully, deeply. The great diversity of people in attendance alone is evidence of the life he lived and the legacy he has left behind for us to follow.

What a great privilege it has been to know him. What an honor to be among this group of witnesses whose presence testified to the life and legacy of this dear brother in Christ. Thanks, Elward, for leading the way! Praying earnestly today and tomorrow for Dawn, Jonathan and his Newark family for the official services and final committal to the ground. And comforted to know that we all one day will join Elward, Alex Anderson and all the saints in a glorious reunion at the feet of Jesus around the mighty throne of God! PRAISES!

Dr. Carolyn P. Parks, Duluth, GA

Dr. Carolyn P. Parks - May 18, 2012 at 09:28 AM

SG

“ Suzette goss-geffrard purchased the Southern Magnolia Tree for the family of Rev. Elward Dwayne Ellis.



Suzette goss-geffrard - May 18, 2012 at 08:25 AM

BP

“ To the Family:
May "the God of all comfort" grant you peace as you look ahead to the fulfillment of John 5:28,29...."The hour is coming when all those in the memorial tombs will hear Jesus' voice and come out." Our Heavenly Father is faithful and always keeps his promises!
~Revelation 21:3-5, Isaiah 55:11. Keep in mind what Jesus stated ..."Do not let your hearts be troubled. Exercise faith in God, exercise faith also in me." ~John 14:1

Beulah Parks - May 17, 2012 at 10:35 AM

FM

“ We lit the following candle, not only in memory of a life well lived, but in memory of the living of that life... which was like a light on a hill. Elward lived the words of the passage and so may it remind all left behind to see it, we must let our lights shine before men so they may glorify our Father in heaven. In loving memory...

Freeman and Kathryn Moore - May 17, 2012 at 03:36 AM

FM

“ Freeman And Kathryn Moore lit a candle in memory of Rev. Elward Dwayne Ellis



Freeman and Kathryn Moore - May 17, 2012 at 03:30 AM

MM

“ Dearest Dawn,

I am truly sorry for your loss when Elward left you to be safe in the arms of Jesus. I remember him as a wonderful, gentle giant, with an enormous love and admiration for you, you were truly blessed to have him in your life. May his soul rest in peace and life perpetual shine upon him. I cannot say cheer up as I well know the pain in your heart, but as Jamaican' s say "It hot but hush". Lots of love, a great big fat hug and lots of kisses, for Jonathan and yourself.
Marguerite Simpson Millar

marguerite millar - May 16, 2012 at 01:59 PM



“ DDarceline Harris lit a candle in memory of Rev. Elward Dwayne Ellis



DDarceline Harris - May 16, 2012 at 10:48 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Elward Dwayne Ellis.*



May 16, 2012 at 07:01 AM



“ *Dear Ellis Family,*

We at Wycliffe are so saddened to learn of your loss. Please be assured of our prayers.

*Bill Leonhard
Associate Director
Wycliffe Bible Translators*

Bill E. Leonhard - May 15, 2012 at 04:07 PM

EA

“ No matter what we say as tribute, Elward Ellis was your father, husband, confidant and we share a sliver of your pain, but the rest is yours to mourn in your own way. I am sorry about the loneliness that pain brings the most. When I was pledging my fraternity, faithless, depressed and beaten down I called Uncle Elward and he shared with me his story of pledging. He picked me back up, kindly telling me that he did not support what I was doing in the pledging process but sharing with me that there was a bigger picture. He did the same for my family under horrible circumstances when my dad died suddenly. He did the same again for my oldest brother when he was crippled by depression and needed money and acceptance. Even now, my little brother mourns Uncle Elwards death in a more personal way than I can imagine because he has suffered the loss of a second father. Family loves you unconditionally and we, the Anderson family are indebted to the Ellis family.

Emmanuel Anderson - May 15, 2012 at 01:07 PM

DP

“*Heaven's great gain is earth's great loss in the passing of our dear brother. I always considered him a "gentle giant" in the faith - strong, powerful and commanding, yet compassionate, caring, helpful and loving. The lessons he taught us and the legacy he leaves behind will last us a lifetime. Thank you, Brother Elward, for being the person, man of God and friend to all that you were. You will be sorely missed but never forgotten in our hearts and walk with Christ. Praying earnestly for my sister Dawn and Jonathan, and the Crossroads congregation. May the Lord's comfort abound.*



With joy at his ascent to the Father, but deep sadness in this human loss of a dear friend -

Dr. Carolyn P. Parks, Duluth, GA

Dr. Carolyn P. Parks - May 15, 2012 at 11:22 AM

DT

Elward, for over 40 years you knew that you were my "one in a million" friend. I recall so many times asking how "you" were doing, because you were always concerned about how life was for others. You would oftentimes answer, "better than I deserve." You realized that it was God's grace and His mercy that was the source of all you hoped to become and accomplish in this life, and you shared this same grace and mercy with "all" who had the privilege of crossing your paths. Today, I feel broken, I feel perplexed, but I know that I must trust that God had a great purpose for your life, and an even greater purpose for your death.
Forever your friend,
Dianne

Dianne Edwards Thompson - May 15, 2012 at 12:37 PM