

Rev. Eric J. Knowles



I am a native of Nassau, Bahamas and I was born on August 31, 1952. I am the son of Elder Arold J. Knowles and Ms. Shelia B. Johnson and the father of a loving daughter, Alexis Knowles. I attended the public schools of the Bahamas and I accepted my call into the ministry on Friday, the 18th of August 1972.

After seeking the divine guidance of Him by whom I was called, I left my native Bahamas and enrolled in American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, TN.

I have preached and taught the good news of Jesus Christ for forty years.

During the early seventies, my service began as a youth at St. John's Native Baptist Church in Freeport, Bahamas where I served as the voice of advocacy for the youth through my role as the president of the St. John's Young People's Society and as president of the Bahamas Baptist Educational Youth Convention. It was at St. John's that I was licensed to preach in 1974 and served as a supply pastor. I received The Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983 and was ordained to preach the gospel in 1984.

Over my forty year span of pastoral ministry, I have served as pastor in both Nashville and the surrounding areas of Memphis, TN. Prior to coming to Memphis, I served as pastor at Messiah Baptist Church in Nashville, TN for eight years. Additionally, my pastoral experience includes two years at St. Matthews A.M.E. Church located in Cornersville, TN, and four years at St. Paul A.M.E. Church located in Oakwood, TN. I was transferred to the West Tennessee Conference in 1999 and was assigned to Williams Chapel A.M.E. Church in Millington, TN. Later, I served as pastor at Mt. Herman A.M.E. Church for four years. During the 130th Session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference in 2004, I was assigned to serve Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church by Bishop Vashti Murphy-McKenzie.

Throughout my course of ministry I have been an innovator, builder, visionary and spiritual leader. I have spearheaded many dynamic programs and projects to better serve the church and community. Among them are:

- **Served on the Council for Second Presbyterian Church and Clayborn Ball Temple A.M.E. Church**
- **Mentored for Nexus Program for Second Presbyterian Church**
- **Renovated St. Matthews A.M.E. Church located in Cornersville, TN**
- **Built a new sanctuary at St, Paul A.M.E. Church located in Oakwood, TN**
- **Was an Administrator at Davidson/Williamson County Juvenile Center, Nashville, TN, 1989 – 1996**
- **Was Regional Director for Aztex Enterprises/Texaco, Memphis, TN, 1996 – 2000**
- **Serving as Manager of Advanced Toxicology Network, Memphis, TN, 2000 – Present**

I consider myself to be a true servant of God who believes in being obedient to the calling God has placed upon my life and clearly demonstrate the characteristics of a humble servant and a faithful leader. I continue to walk according to the will of God as I preach His word and remain committed to the UP building of His Kingdom.