

Bishop Rosezell Rutley (of Berea Family Tabernacle of Faith church)

Born and raised in Tuscaloosa, AL, Bishop Rosezell Rutley is the third of five children, born to the union of Roosevelt and Rosa Rutley. He is a giant among men and has always been known for his gentleness, love, and compassion.

In 1974, Bishop Rutley attended Stillman University and Liberty University where he studied Theology. He got his start in the ministry as a Jr. Deacon at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, AL, under the pastorate of Reverend W.D. Billups. The following year, he moved to Pontiac, MI where he was ordained as a minister under the leadership of Reverend John K. Pinckney. He later met his soon to be wife, the former Darafela Shabazz, at Gethsemane Bethel Apostolic Church (under Pastor Robert Simmons) in 1978.

In 1983, Bishop Rutley packed up his wife, and children, and moved to Grand Rapids, MI where he served diligently at Bethel Pentecostal church, under the pastorate of the late Bishop William C. Abney. Two years later, he founded “Emmanuel Ministries” (now called “Jesus is the Answer”) TV program which aired on public access in the greater Grand Rapids community and still airs in several cities in the Detroit Metropolitan Area and Flint.

After much prayer and years of faithful service to his pastors, Bishop Rutley retired from GM, early, and answered the call to move back to Pontiac and start a ministry. In December of 1991, he, his wife, and eight other spirit filled believers started the Berea Family Tabernacle of Faith church. He was officially installed as pastor on Sunday March 15, 1992 by Elder Joseph Morris of Gethsemane Apostolic Church of Detroit, MI. One of his fondest memories of embracing the pastorate came as advice from his mother, who told him, “If anyone has to go through, you (the shepherd) go through.” Years after her passing, he has never forgotten these words and has made it his focus to lead with them at the forefront of his mind.

After 23 years of faithfully sowing into thousands of lives, Bishop Rutley retired as senior pastor of Berea Family Tabernacle of Faith, succeeded by his son, Darick. Bishop Rutley, though retired as senior pastor, is far from retired from ministry. He has a passion for men and women in ministry who have been overlooked. His years of serving people has garnered him respect from many and he believes that the best is yet to come.

Bishop Rutley has served on a number of boards and committees: PATH in Pontiac, Silverton Club, M.A.L.D., Forgotten Man Ministries and Sons of Thunder, to name a few. In 2008, he was officially ordained as Bishop by Apostle Paul Shields of Fargo, ND into “Lion of Judah International Ministries”.

He and his wife (Dr. Dara) have five sons (Ryan, Darick (Stephanie), Jason (Kristal), Vincent (Larice), Byron), five granddaughters, and one grandson.