



"PEANUT"

Rafer Earl Shaw

OUR GIFT: APRIL 7TH, 1977

GOD'S GIFT: MAY 15TH, 2017

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017

Viewing: Eleven o'clock in the morning

Celebration Services: Twelve o'clock noon

Windsor Village United Methodist Church,
6000 Heatherbrook, Houston, Texas 77085


2 Corinthians 5:7: For we live by faith, not by sight.

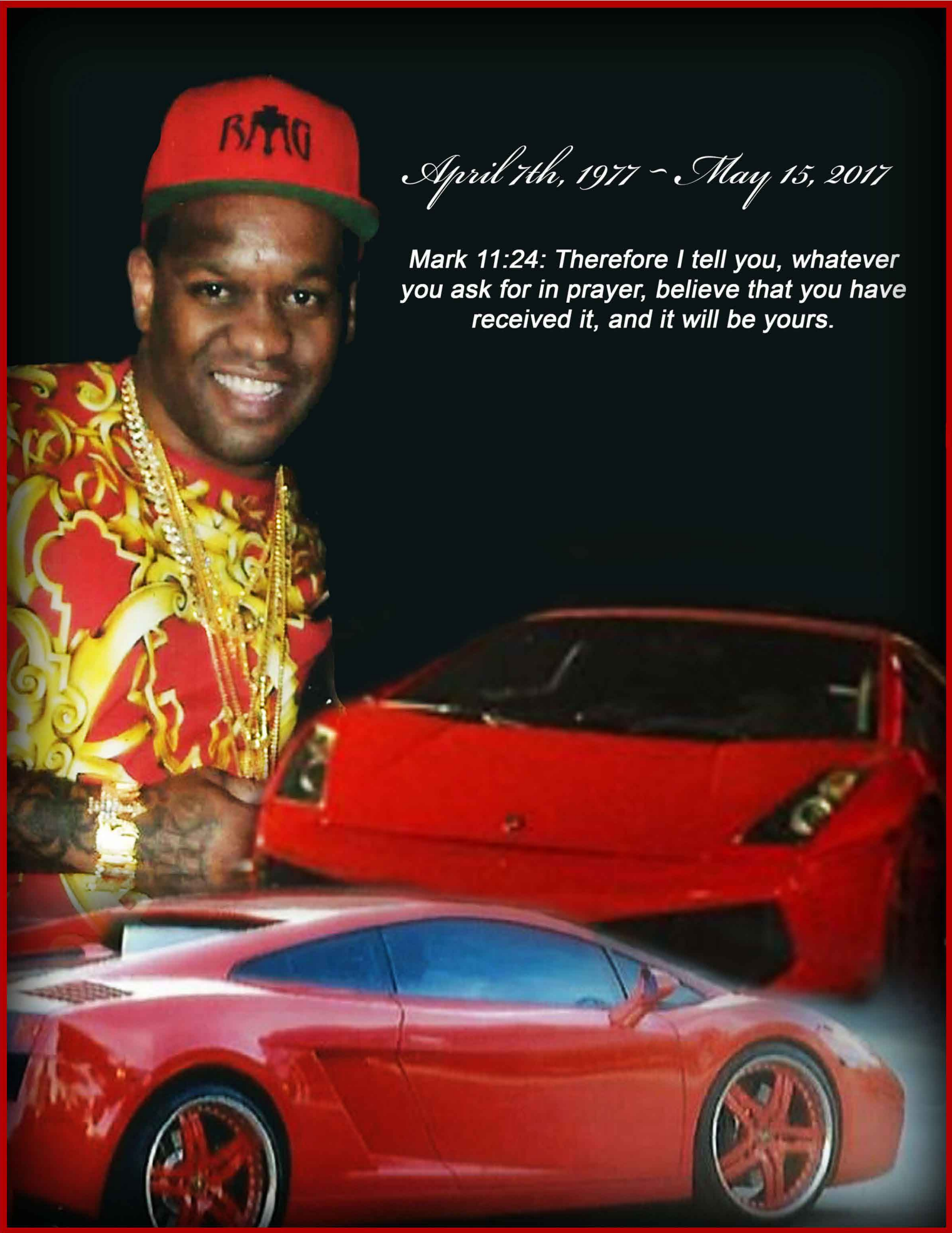


I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard his call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of the day.
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My Life's been full, I savoured much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch,
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.

Ephesians 3:16-17: I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love.





April 7th, 1977 ~ May 15, 2017

**Mark 11:24: Therefore I tell you, whatever
you ask for in prayer, believe that you have
received it, and it will be yours.**



You'll Never Walk Alone

When you walk through the storm

Hold your head up high,

And don't be afraid of the dark.

At the end of the storm

Is a golden sky

And the sweet silver song of a lark.

Walk on through the wind,



Walk on through the rain,

Though your dreams be tossed and blown.

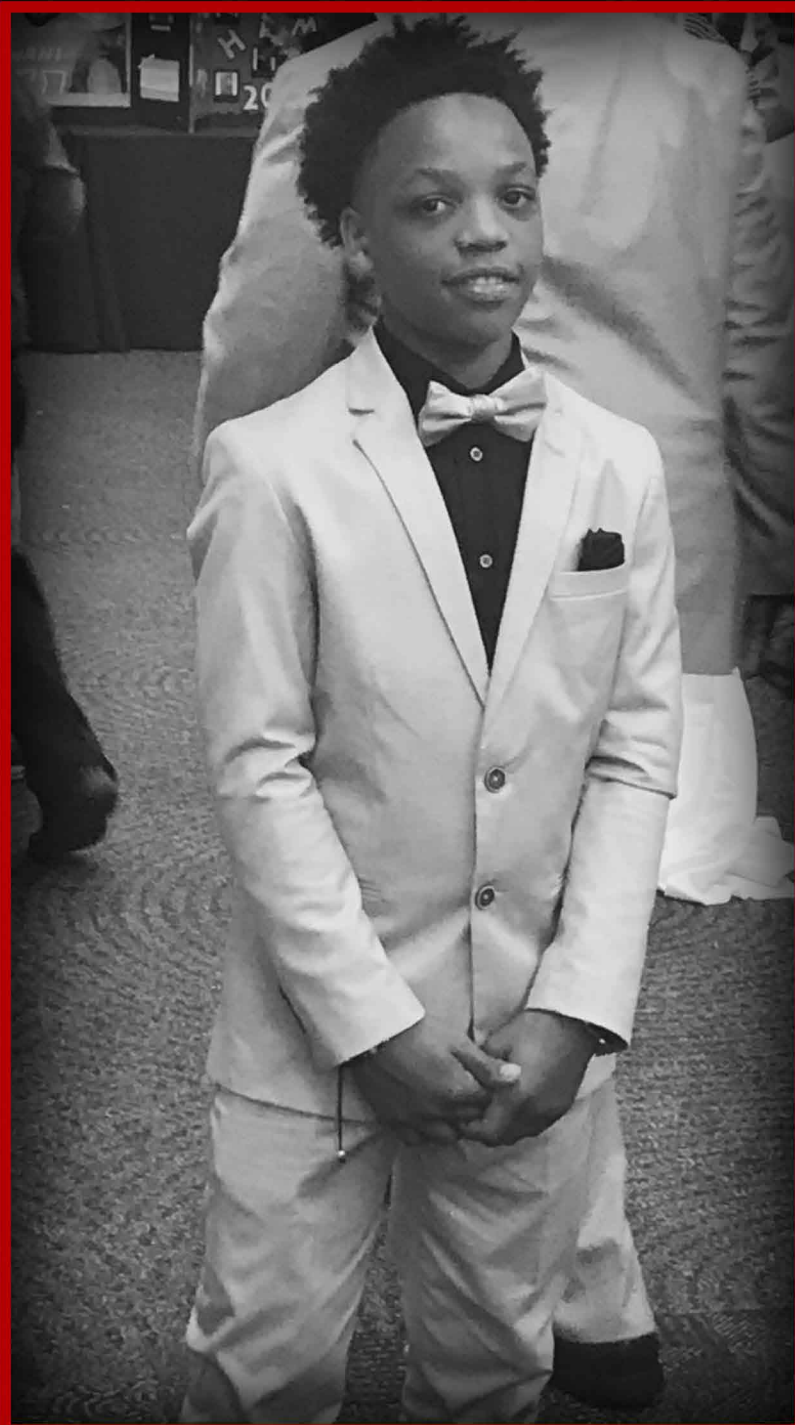
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart

And you'll never walk alone.

You'll never walk alone



Son's Tribute



Dear Dad,

I really miss you and am sad that you're gone but I am happy that you are happy and peacefully resting in Heaven.

When I would come to the hospital to visit you while you were sick; I used to cry, pray, pray, and pray. I am happy you are in a better place.

When my mom talked to me and told me that you had passed and gone to Heaven I cried, prayed, hugged my mom asking, "why him Lord Jesus"? Life hasn't been the same since, but it's nothing you can do but pray and be happy with the memories you left me with.

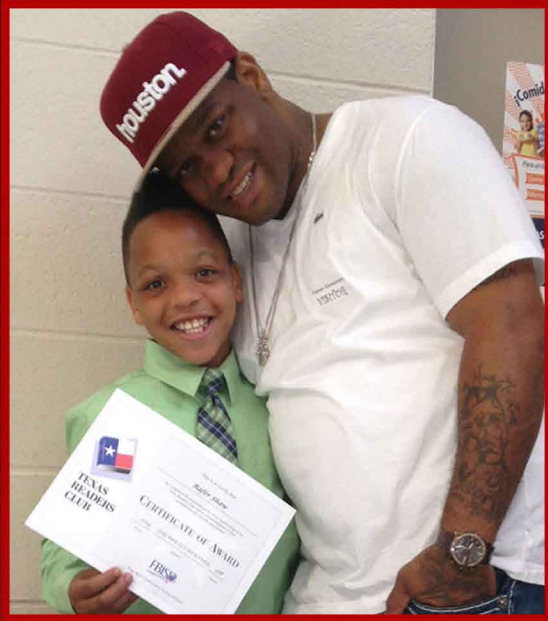
I know that I will be okay because you are in a better place and also because you taught me how to be strong.

The thing I will miss most bout you is you is being here every day, by my side and doing stuff with me and teaching me stuff as the days go by.

I can still see you by my side, sleep on your side of the bed, wear your shoes and clothes, drive your cars and I look forward to and thank you for that. When I play sports, I strive harder and I think of you.

I LOVE YOU.

Nut, Jr.



Wife's Tribute

Hey BABE!!

"What's up with you? It's been a few days since I've been able to hold your hand and whisper in your ear as I express how much I LOVE you. I still long for that one last breath against my cheek, that one last hand squeeze, one last kiss, one last anything!!! You would just stare in my eyes while I encourage you to get well as I reminded you of the endless prayers that myself and EVERYONE had been showering you with. I continued to be encouraged as I waited patiently for your departure from the hospital and return to our home....I never imagined that you would be leaving the hospital and moving directly on to your new "home"; your final resting place in Heaven!!!!

Yesterday was my birthday and also the 1 week anniversary of your passing. Rafer I pray you are resting in peace. I've always heard people say "Rest In Peace" for their loved ones. Now having to experience death so closely, I'm left questioning in a more in depth way what that saying really means. ☺ You know me Rafer, I read up on it. Apparently it's meant as a prayer that the deceased person (yourself) finds eternal peace in the next life, free from the struggles of living in this world. The person saying this prayer views death as a euphoric rest in paradise, with angels floating on the clouds. I've always imagined the Pearly Gates kind of paradise. I'm sure your idea of paradise would include one fit for the cover of a magazine. A scene featuring a garage filled with tricked out exotic vehicles (cars, boats, jet skis, etc.), all painted your favorite shade of red complete with custom EVERYTHING! You would stand draped in your super fly gear as usual, all blinged out & chilling, making sure everyone else around you are happy & having a good time.

While I'm often saddened by the loss of your presence in the flesh I'm EXTREMELY GRATEFUL for the LOVE you showered me with over the course of our 22 years spent on this earth together in the flesh....it's enough to last me a LIFETIME which is why I know I'm going to be alright. When I think of your smile alone, it brings me some peace. Knowing that you're resting peacefully with no more pain and suffering quells the pain in my heart. Those 46 days spent in the ICU were a force to be reckoned with. However just as expected you fought a good fight. I have a sense of gratitude knowing I was there every step of the way with you, helping you fight day by day, hour by hour and you knew I was there. I know that in the end...ultimately this was between you and God.

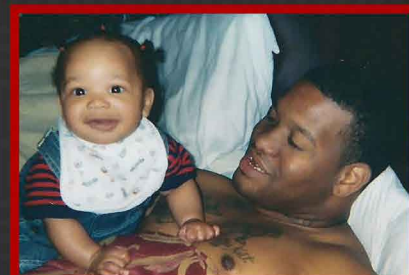
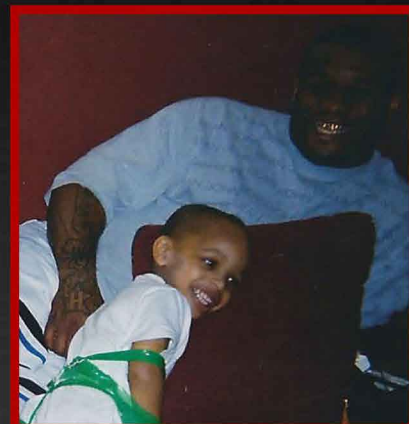
To My HUSBAND

Thank you for being my friend, my lover and my husband.
Your friendship is a gift most appreciated and cherished.
You listened with an open mind never criticizing and always supportive.
You shared the good times & the bad with love and kindness.
You have always been a great friend from the first time we met.
Your love is exciting, passionate and tender.
Your partnership left me feeling both secure and familiar.
Years of sharing growing and discovering.
A bond between two souls, not describe by mere words.
Thank you for being my friend, my lover, my HUSBAND!



Rest in peace. I prefer to believe it means that our soul or spirit can be at peace because the people we leave behind think of us with love. You've always known me to be a firm believer in karma. What we give out into the universe we get back, meaning we sow the seeds of our future heaven or hell by the way we live our lives in the flesh. If people loved EVERYONE and lived life to the fullest as you lived your life, I do believe that EVERYONE could be as fortunate as I am to be left with a plethora of HAPPY memories to create my very own heaven in my mind by the imprint you left in my life. RAFER.....I LOVE YOU FOREVER!!!!!!

Love ALWAYS,
Your Wife



A Life Well Lived and Loved

Rafer Earl was born in Houston, Texas on Thursday, April 7, 1977 to Rafer Sowell and Ora Shaw. Rafer's life's journey was one of a victorious, selfless and loving man. He wore many hats: devoted husband, father, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, cousin, and friend.

Rafer received Christ at a young age. He attended Houston area schools. North Shore High School is where he displayed his talents on the both, the track and field & football field. While passing through the school hallways his senior year (1995), he met his wife, Nayaka Wilson.

The high school sweethearts spent 20 plus years together, and married in 2003. This beautiful union between Rafer (affectionately called Peanut or Nut) and Nayaka (nicknamed Yaka), produced a handsome baby boy named after his father, Rafer Shaw, Jr. and he aka "Lil Nut". Lil Nut is a carbon copy of his father, manifesting the same easy going spirit, wit, and infectious smile Rafer counted Lil Nut as his life's greatest accomplishment.

After graduating from North Shore, he attended Prairie View A&M University. A few years later, Rafer decided to move on from the University. He began to build his 15 year career, as a Licensed Press Operator with the Houston Chronicle. After-life at the Houston Chronicle, The Shaw Husband and Wife duo began to embrace their entrepreneurship skills. With faith and hard work, they were able to build a recording studio, successful transportation company, a burgeoning hair salon, and a host of other family businesses, adding entrepreneur to his resume and list of hats.

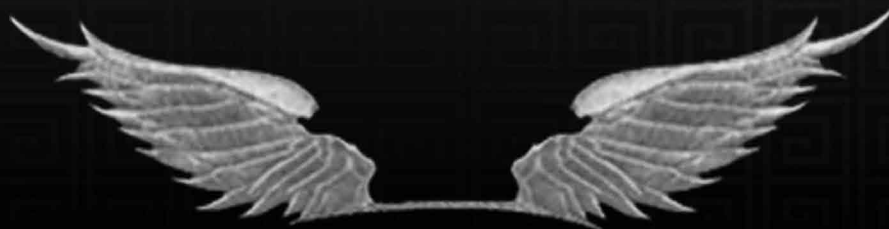
He held family values at the core of his heart. Being surrounded by family and friends was very important to Peanut. Rafer was "The Favorite Cousin". He transcended the roles of mentor, father figure, and brother to many. Peanut's close friends were family to him and he held them close to his heart. He was always lending a genuine helping hand to anyone in his inner circle.

His passions and hobbies included tinkering with cars or projects. They all donned RED paint, whether the vehicles were a classic Cadillac convertible, a fully customized T-Rex motorcycle, or the flashiest Lamborghini that for sure turned many heads and had some power under the hood,. Peanut was with "that" and it made him very happy. He was a jack of all trades. That would describe him BEST!

Rafer lived life to the fullest. He enjoyed the BEST of everything! Spending time with his wife and son were always a top priority. He loved to travel, experience life events and entertain his family and friends.

On May 15, 2017, Rafer made his triumphant journey to return to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Peanut leaves to cherish his memory and legacy his loving and devoted wife: Nayaka; his pride and joy, his son: Rafer Jr.; his Mother: Ora Shaw; his Father: Rafer Sowell; his sister: Lydia Sowell; his Brothers: Raymond Sowell and Rafer Sowell; his mother-in-law: Janice Joseph; his father-in-law: Mitchell Joseph; his brothers-in-law: Lacordio Wilson and Cardell Cook; pets: Meech and Cartier and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.





Order of Service

Rev. Rickey Haynes – One Community Church - Officiate

Prelude

Processional.....Clergy, Pallbearers, & Family

Final GlimpseFuneral Staff

Old Testament Reading
New Testament Reading

Prayer

Musical Selection.....Windsor Village Church

Special Remarks/Eulogy

Yolanda Haynes
Anthony Cage
Shaw Family
Sowell Family


Family Acknowledgment.....Andrea Jones-Haggerty

Tribute to *Peanut*


Musical Selection.....Windsor Village Church

The Message.....Rev. Rickey Haynes

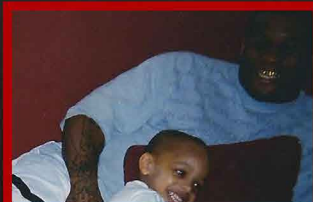
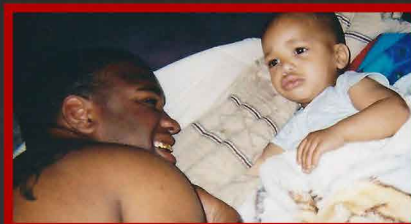
Recessional

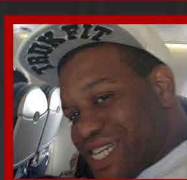


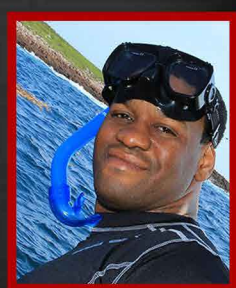
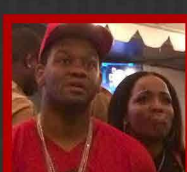
*John 3:16: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*













When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me, and I am not here to see
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me,
I know how much you love me as much as I love you,
And each time you think of me I know you'll miss me too.
But when tomorrow starts without me please try to understand,
That Jesus came and called my name and took me by the hand.
He said that my place is ready in heaven far above,
And that I have to leave behind all those


I dearly love. But as I turned to walk away a tear fell from my eye,
For all my life I'd always thought it wasn't my time to die.
I had so much to live for and so much yet to do,
It seems 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 have stayed for just a while,
I'd say goodbye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.

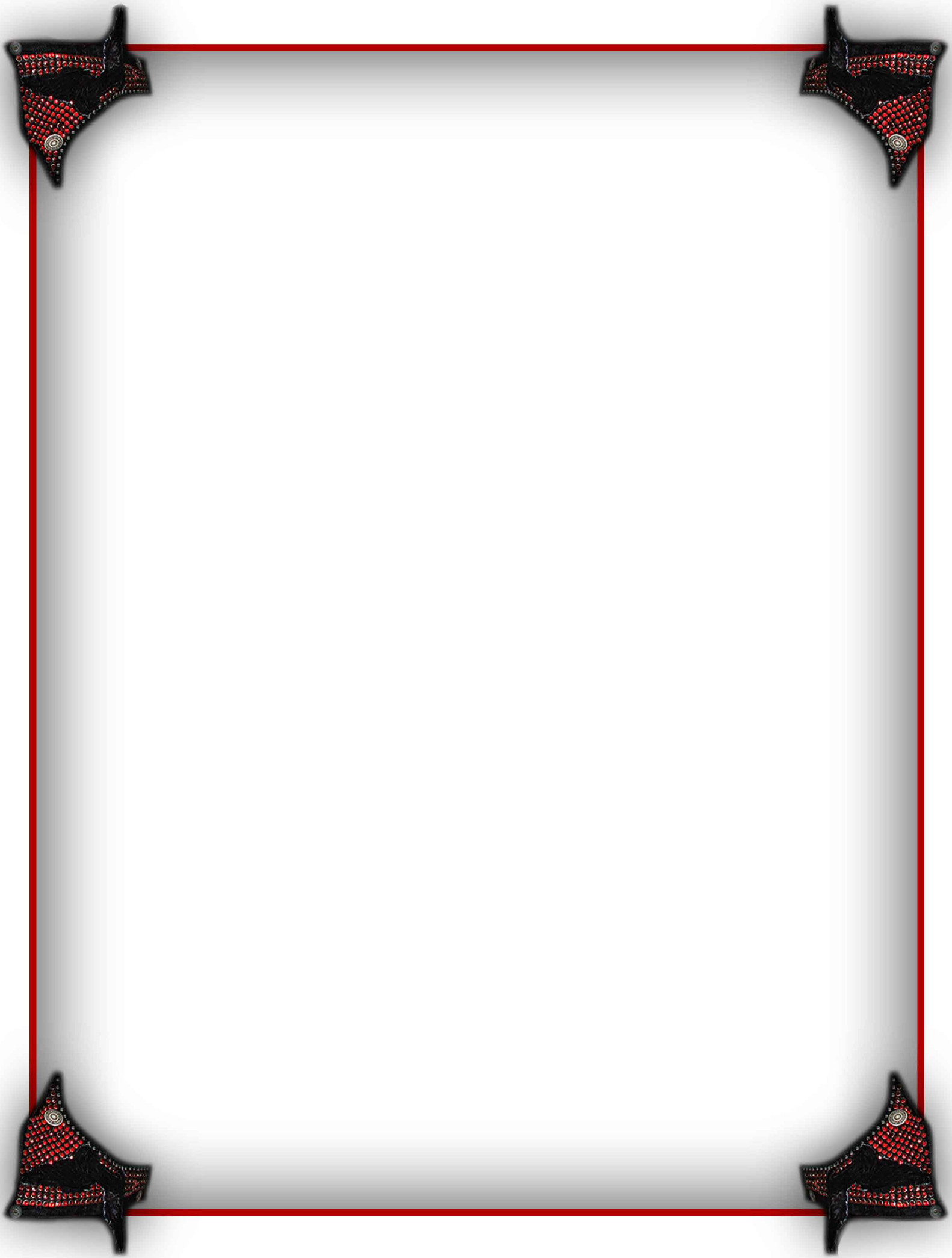
But then I fully realize that this could never be,
For emptiness and memories would take the place of me.
And when I thought of worldly things that I would miss tomorrow,
I thought of you and when I did my heart was filled with sorrow.

But when I walked through heaven's gate and felt so much at home,
As God looked down and smiled at me from his great golden throne.

He said "This is eternity, and all I've promised you,
Today your 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 here there's no longing for the past."
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









Active Pallbearers

Leroy Allen • Eddie Dancy • Bennie Dunn
Kendron Haggerty • Michael Lee • Reginal Wilson

Honorary Pallbearers

Daniel Flores • Rodney Johnson • Jerald Mason
Delvin Mosley • Dezra Shaw • Raymond Sowell

Family Acknowledgement

God has touched our hearts through each of you and for this, we are thankful! To those who sent a card, flower, plant, phone call, text, email, & prayed for us it all was greatly appreciated, to those who sat quietly and just remembered us, we are sincerely grateful for your acts of caring and expressions of love extended to us. Your kindness and your prayers are humbly received and cherished! Please continue to pray for us for we will miss Rafer tremendously. May God continue to bless you and your families.

-The Family of Rafer Earl Shaw (Peanut)-

Special thanks to:



Janice R. Hicks
NATIONAL FUNERAL CONSULTING GROUP
832.721.8700
janicerhicks.nfcg.org

However, as it is written: What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived — the things God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9