

## REV. CHESTER A. HAMMOND, JR.

Rev. Chester A. Hammond, Jr. was born to Rev. and Mrs. C.A. Hammond, Sr. in Opp, Alabama.

He received his early education at the Elba City Schools, and is graduate of Elba High School. Early on in his school career, he is a person that is respected by his peers. He attended Troy State University in Troy Alabama receiving a degree in Accounting in 1981.

He is also a Veteran of the US Army having served in Korea and on the Island of Grenada. Following his military career, he was employed by the U.S. Small Business Administration in Jackson, Mississippi. He was a member of the SBA's disaster loan team during hurricane Hugo. He also served as a senior loan officer with the SBA.

While employed in Mississippi his life was changed forever as he traveled around the State and viewed first hand the poverty of his people. He helped many people open businesses in the State of Mississippi, and was a guest speaker at seminars as well as televisions shows in the state.

However, while working in the secular world, he was being touch spiritually by God. He grew up under the ministry of his father at the First Baptist Church of Andalusia where he received Christ. While living in Mississippi, he remained true to his covenant with God and united with the Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist, Jackson, Mississippi under the pastorate of Rev. A.L. Barnes.

In 1990 an event would take place that would change his life forever. He met **Mietta René Lee** who would later become his wife. He was married in 1991 and returned to Alabama and united with the First Unity Baptist Church of Andalusia. This church was organized by his father. Pastor Hammond was one of the charter members and first deacons of this church. However, being a deacon was not his calling, and a few months later he confessed his calling to the Gospel Ministry and preached his first sermon. He was later ordained and was elected the Vice Moderator of the Southwest District Association.

Pastor Hammond is currently serving as **Moderator of the Salem-Enterprise District** Association and **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.** He is presently serving as **Senior Pastor of the Pleasant Shade Missionary Baptist Church** of Enterprise Alabama where the Lord is blessing tremendously. He is a member of the Southeast District State Convention, Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. and the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., as well as many other organizations. Pastor Hammond was named **PASTOR OF THE YEAR, 2005**, by WQLS radio listeners.

Pastor Hammond is co-owner of **Hammond Funeral Homes** which has locations in Dothan, Elba, Florala and Andalusia. In 1995 and 1996 the Lord gave him a special blessing. His sons Hoyt and Julius were born.