

## **Apostle John Henry Heath, D.D., H.L.D.**

Preaching the unadulterated gospel of Christ, singing melodious songs of praise, and being an outstanding example of a Christ-like walk are all immutable characteristics that have been and always will be associated with an extraordinary general in the Kingdom of God...Apostle John Henry Heath was born May 28, 1958, to Mrs. Hattie Heath Bradford and the late Eddie Heath Sr. in the city of Winston-Salem, NC, the youngest of seven siblings. He married the former Janice Olgesby in May 1979 and they have one daughter, Bethany Nichole. A product of Winston-Salem Forsyth County educational system, he graduated from R. J. Reynolds High School in 1976. He continued his post-secondary studies at Forsyth Technical Community College and attended the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he was formally trained in voice. Apostle Heath received an Honorary Doctorate degree of Divinity from Bethlehem Bible College in May of 1999 and later received an Honorary Doctorate degree in Humane Letters in 2004.

Professionally, he was a highly sought after gospel recording soloist, with a unique baritone voice that was unmistakable. Apostle Heath was one of the lead singers with David Allen and the Ambassadors for Christ Church Choir and was spotlighted on their 1980 recording. He has lent his voice to such selections as "He Made It Possible", "Try Jesus" and "What Shall Separate Me", which were recorded with the Gospel Music of America in Atlanta, Georgia in 1984. Opportunities were abundant and Apostle Heath recorded "I'm Going Home Soon" in Detroit Michigan in 1987, soon after recording with T & G Productions in August of 1988 and Jimmy Thomas with the Triad Mass Choir in 1988. He has recorded several solo projects including "*Christmas with Bishop Heath*", "*Get Right Church*" and "*Put Your Hand in Mine.*" The latest album contained the break out hit "Put Your Hand in Mine", which received overwhelming air play locally and nationally. Apostle Heath became a member of the North Carolina Black Repertory Theater, where he has performed in such stage productions as "The Amen Corner", "God's Trombone", and "Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope". Other theatrical roles include Mabel Robinson's musical, "Dancing with Duke", where he had the leading role of the singing preacher. This performance was held at the North Carolina School of Arts and at Guilford Technical Community College for the Impressive Black Society in February 1989. Apostle Heath was also featured in the musical "Mahalia" at the 16th Annual Black Theater Festival in August of 2005. He has performed numerous times on WGHP-TV 8 Gospel Expo, had appearances on Trinity Broadcasting Network, and received the 1988 Male Vocalist of the Year Award from the Waljo Award Committee. His community involvement was undeniable, and he was a true pillar of the community with involvement in such organizations as the NAACP and the Urban League. As a tribute to his service, he was honored with a proclamation, designating February 5, 1989, as John Heath Day in Winston Salem, NC, from former Mayor Wayne Corpening and the city of Winston Salem. While traveling across the nation performing, singing, and preaching, he has inspired many lives with his anointed gifts.

1982 brought about a spiritual promotion as Apostle John Heath was obedient to the voice of God and was ordained as a Minister at Ambassador Cathedral under the leadership of Bishop F.D. Patterson. While faithfully serving his church and pastor, Bishop Patterson saw fit to ordain and consecrate Apostle Heath as an Elder and was placed in the church's archives as the Jurisdictional Evangelist in the 1988 Congress of the Ambassadors for Christ Revival, Inc. Apostle Heath had a great call to lead God's people to the promise land and to push them to reach their destiny in God. By hearing the voice of God and having the blessings of his spiritual father, Apostle Heath became the pastor of the Righteous Church of God in 1992. Being led by the Holy Spirit, he founded Higher Ground Deliverance Tabernacle in 1994. In 1998, Apostle Heath was consecrated to the Episcopacy under the

righteous hand of Apostle S. D. Johnson and ten other consecrated Bishops. In 2001, Apostle Heath became a member of the African American Joint College of Pentecostal Bishops. He was affirmed as an Apostle of Jesus Christ on July 26, 2014, under Bishop Freddie B. Marshall and Greater Church of Deliverance, Inc. Apostle Heath served as the Presiding Prelate and Chief Apostle of the Greater Higher Ground Ministries World-Wide, Inc. in Winston- Salem, NC and Greater Higher Ground Ministries #2 in High Point, NC. Apostle Heath was a highly sought after and respected preacher, teacher, mentor, father, and prophetic voice to the body of Christ. He operated in the five-fold ministry and was amongst the last-day Apostles, sounding the alarm of reformation and redemption with Holy Ghost demonstration. Apostle Heath's declaration was to use the gifts of the Spirit to fulfill the mandate to Know God and Make Him known! He has been most noted in ministry by his motto, "Love is not Love until you give it away," emulating Christ through every opportunity to show love.