

Lodge of Sorrow

M. W. PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE, F. & A. M.
OF TENNESSEE



TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1979 — 8:00 P.M.

HYATT REGENCY
Knoxville, Tennessee



REVEREND BYRON G. RAGSDALE

The Reverend Dr. Byron G. Ragsdale, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, is the son of the late Rev. W. E. and Mrs. Selma O. Ragsdale.

He received his early education from public schools in Memphis. In 1947, he was graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He received the Bachelor of Divinity degree from Howard University, Washington, D.C. in 1949. In 1973, an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred upon him by the Easonian Baptist Seminary in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Ragsdale has held the following pastorates: Salem Baptist Church, Humbolt, Tennessee; Lee Street Baptist Church, Bristol, Virginia; and Rogers Memorial Baptist Church, where he has pastored since January, 1961. Many accomplishments have been made during his ministry of Rogers Memorial, including the liquidation of all indebtedness, six years ahead of schedule.

He has received many honors for outstanding community work including the "Matthew A. Jones Award," as "Black Minister of the Year," in 1977.

Dr. Ragsdale is currently affiliated with the following organizations: Moderator, Knoxville District Baptist Association; Board of Trustees, Lakeshore Mental Health Institute; Board Member, National Conference of Christians and Jews; Board of Trustees, LeMoyne-Owen College, Memphis, Tennessee; Board Member, Association of Religious Ministers; Member, Pastoral Care Advisory Board; Board Member, Wesley House Community Center; Member, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Member, C. C. Russell Lodge No. 262, F.&A.M.; Member, Knoxville Ministerial Association.

He is married to Mrs. Floy King Ragsdale, a teacher at Fair Garden Elementary School. They have two lovely daughters; Cynthia Amita, a graduate at the University of Tennessee and Shelia Odellia, a freshman at the same institution.

Dr. Ragsdale served as Vice President and Chairman of the Business Committee, Tennessee B. M. & E. Convention for four years before being elected as President in October, 1977.

PROGRAMME

Bro. John V. Malone, Deputy Grand Master, Presiding

Processional

Invocation.....Bro. James L. Guthrie
Grand Chaplain

Selection.....Prince Hall Masonic Chorus
Rev. Bro. Jimmy L. King, *Director*

The Occasion.....Bro. William B. Horton

Selection.....Prince Hall Masonic Chorus

Lodge of Sorrow Ceremonies:

John V. Malone, *Deputy Grand Master*
William E. Blevins, *Grand Senior Warden*
Bennie Griffey, *Grand Junior Warden*
James L. Guthrie, *Grand Chaplain*
George H. Coffin, *Grand Recording Secretary*
C. E. Hopkins, *Grand Senior Deacon*
Robert W. Gordon (deceased), *Grand Junior Deacon*
Louis G. Dobson, Jr., *Grand Senior Steward*
Andrew J. Bowden, *Grand Junior Steward*
William L. Perry, *Grand Marshal*
Tillman W. Payne, II, *Grand Pursuivant*
John H. Sharpe, *Grand Organist*

Selection.....Prince Hall Masonic Chorus

Eulogy.....Byron G. Ragsdale
Pastor, Rogers Memorial Baptist Church
Knoxville, Tennessee

Selection.....Prince Hall Masonic Chorus

Benediction.....Rev. Bro. Charles F. Williams
Grand Master

Recessional

C R E D O

I Believe in God, Grand Architect of the Universe, the Alpha of the unreckoned yesteryears, the Omega of the impenetrable tomorrows, the beginning and the ending.

I Believe in Man, potentially God's other self, often faltering on his way upward but irrepressible in the urge to scale the Spiritual Annapurnas.

I Believe in Freemasonry, that corporate adventure in universal brotherhood, despising kinship with no child of the All-Father.

I Believe in Prince Hall Masonry, a door of benevolence, securely tiled against the unworthy, but opened wide to men of good report, whether Aryan or Hottentot.

I Believe in Masonic Vows, the troths of true men plighted to their better selves.