

New Light Christian Center Church

“An Evening of Honor”

Objective: To tell the story of Pastor’s life while making the celebration fun and “different”. Four aspects to be focused on: meditation (God), marriage (family), ministry, and mentorship.

Length: approximately 10-15 minutes

SUGGESTED VIDEO

Open with **M.E.N. Logo** on the screen.

AUDIO

(Some type of intro music)

INTRODUCTION

NARRATOR: August 29, 1952. Theodore and Gladys Hilliard were now the proud parents of another baby boy. Little did they know, hidden inside of their little 6-lb 7-oz bundle of joy was one who would become a man after God’s own heart. One who would be a leader and visionary for thousands. One who would be a catalyst for change throughout the world. One who would dedicate his very life to see that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was spread to everyone who would have ears and hearts to hear.

Ira Hilliard...armed with the wisdom and integrity of his mother and father, has gone from standing on soda cases to teach to a mega-ministry that is causing waves of change to sweep throughout the world. Tonight we invite you to journey with us as we momentarily turn back the hands of time to peer into the life of one who is so great among us...as we give honor to one of our elders who has ruled well.

(INSERT FOOTAGE OF PASTOR C.L. JACKSON)

A MAN COMMITTED TO MEDITATION(& THE THINGS OF GOD)

Just as David was hand-picked by God to deliver the children of Israel from the hands of Goliath, Ira. Hilliard has been chosen by God to lead a people into deliverance from the giants of their generation. At the tender age of 9, an angel of the Lord visited him while his brother and sister slept

peacefully near by. The angel was there to proclaim his assignment, to “Go and save and they shall save others and after this is done you will have done your duty.” This was straight from the heart and mind of God. As a young boy, Ira Hilliard traveled across the city to preach and was affectionately called the Wonderboy Preacher. Even while attending Phyllis Wheatley High School, he maintained his commitment to God. He was not distracted by the ills of society of his generation...partying, drinking, and cursing were not his everyday habits as they were for many of his peers.

(INSERT FOOTAGE OF MRS. BRENDA MITCHELL AND/OR OTHERS WHO KNEW PASTOR AS A KID)

NARRATOR: Since choosing to accept his God-given assignment, Ira Hilliard has wielded his weapon skillfully. Ira Hilliard...a man committed to meditation and the things of God. This is just the first stop on our journey so stay tuned, we will continue in a moment.

(SWITCH TO LIVE SERVICE – People who knew him from childhood: MS. BERNA KENNARD, PASTOR A.L. PATTERSON AND OTHERS

A MAN COMMITTED TO MARRIAGE(& FAMILY)

NARRATOR: A masterful swordsman indeed, Ira Hilliard has been on a mission to deliver his generation from the grips of despair caused by poverty, sickness & disease, depression, and fear fueled by ignorance of the Word of God. Surprisingly, once he became a student of the Word, the first order of business on his agenda was his marriage.

In October 1975, Pastor Hilliard married a beautiful and intelligent young woman by the name of Bridget Harrison. The day after their wedding he was installed as a pastor. Differences in upbringing and thinking were the cause of unhappiness in their marriage. As he began to focus on his ministry and being the man that God intended him to be, he realized that getting his marriage on the right track was the first step he had to take in order to please God. Today, Pastor and Dr. Bridget’s marriage is admired by many and the cause

of great enjoyment for both of them.

Just as he studies to be a great pastor and leader, he also studies to be a great husband and father. As a result, the return on his investment is visible for all to see and appreciate. Here to bear witness to this fact are our first family.

(INSERT FOOTAGE FROM PASTOR LEWIS AND MINISTER TINA – FOOTAGE WITH THEM TOGETHER WOULD BE NICE. IT WOULD MAKE IT FUN AND NOT SO “STUFFY” FOR THEM TO BE RELAXED AND JUST HAVING FUN TALKING ABOUT THEIR DAD.)

PASTOR LEWIS (ON THE FOOTAGE): As you can see, we love our dad. We know he is a man committed to marriage and committed to his family. Mom/Dr. Bridget, don't you agree?

(SWITCH TO DR. BRIDGET AND PREASHEA LIVE)

A MAN COMMITTED TO MINISTRY

NARRATOR: Marriage and family are just one piece of the intricate puzzle of our Pastor's life. As members of New Light Church we can see his commitment to being the shepherd of this house.

END OF EXCERPT...