



## Deacon Jonathan Caleb Cotten

August 23, 1978 - April 9, 2024

Jonathan C. Cotten  
Obituary

Jonathan Caleb Cotten, affectionately known as Caleb, was born on August 23, 1978 in New Haven, CT to Bishop W. Vance Cotten Sr. and the late Julie Ann Bell. He was the brother to Joshua (Sana), JonPaul, JulieAnne, and the late W. Vance Cotten, Jr., and became a bonus son to Reverend Dr. Kim L. Cotten. Caleb spent much of his life in both New Haven and Middletown, CT surrounded by family, friends, and communities that deeply loved him. In 2021, he and his lovely wife, Danielle Cotten made the decision to move with their three sons, Kalen, Kamren, and Karter to Lawrenceville, GA where they found themselves among yet another loving community. His family is devastated by the sudden loss of his life on April 9, 2024.

Caleb had a profound love of God and showed it through his enthusiastic commitments as a member of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Middletown, CT and New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, GA where he dedicated his time through the Men's, Media, A.C.T.S., and Security Ministries. He also shared his voice in the Men's and Mass Choirs. Caleb gained his musical talents from his grandmother, Mrs. Jessie Powell, and his entrepreneurial mind from his grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Browning. He was also dearly loved by his late grandparents Bishop Jonathan Powell and

Deacon and Mother Edward Lee Cotten.

For 22 years, Caleb served the youth and children of New Haven, CT as Dean of Students at Hyde and Common Ground High Schools and Wexler Elementary School. In Lawrenceville, GA he served as a paraprofessional at Taylor Elementary School. Outside of the classroom, he was also a devoted coach of the Collins Hills football team. Caleb believed in the transformative power of mentorship in the lives of young people and felt called to work with students whose brilliance often went unseen and undersupported.

In addition to being an exemplary husband, father, son, and brother, he was passionately present in the lives of his godchildren Trevaughn West, Cherish Richardson, Breanne Evans, Tamiya King, and Vanessa Mack. To Caleb, they were not just his godchildren, but his children. He embodied what it means to love unconditionally, hold unwavering faith, and give freely with open arms and an open heart. He was an encourager, confidant, and mentor and had a deep love for people. There wasn't a person that he didn't meet which he didn't come to call friend as he carried and shared a strong belief that community equals family. Those who knew him and loved him well would say that he was never (ever) at a loss for words.

While his death, in turn, has left the hearts of his family speechless, they are grateful for the time that God gave them to experience his life, spirit, presence, and infectious laugh and smile. Caleb will be greatly missed. His family appreciates the outpouring of comfort, love, and support during this difficult time. In honoring and celebrating Caleb's life, the family kindly requests that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to future scholarships supporting the students of New Haven, CT.

# Cemetery Details

## Beaverdale Memorial Park

90 Pine Rock Avenue  
New Haven, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

APR 22. 10:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church  
346 Butternut St  
Middletown, CT 06457

## Homegoing Service

APR 22. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church  
346 Butternut St  
Middletown, CT 06457

# Tribute Wall

LF

“ Dear Bishop Cotten, Co-Pastor Cotten, Danielle Cotten and the entire family,

*I want to send you my sincerest condolences with the passing of Caleb. This hit me deeply as Caleb was always such a warm, kind and supportive presence as I was growing up. I remember his smiling friendly face at church, him showing up to support me at some of my high-school and college volleyball matches and our conversations about life as I was making big decisions like where I wanted to go to college. He was such a bright light to his whole community. One that I will always have a fond memory of. I wish I could be there to celebrate the life he led and the impact he has had on those around him. Sending you all my warmest and sincerest condolences during this time.*

*Lesley Faulkner, from Paris, France*

*..... and Love to my Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church Family God Bless!*

---

**Lesley Danielle Faulkner** - April 24, 2024 at 04:20 PM

WD

“ My condolences to the family.



---

**Wanda Dawson** - April 23, 2024 at 09:52 PM

JL

“ I WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUR  
CONDOLENCES FROM ME AND MY WIFE



Joseph and Darlene Lowery - April 21, 2024 at 11:42 AM

GS

“ Heartfelt condolences to Aunt Jessie and the Cotten family.  
Reacquainted myself with my cousin this past November in New  
Haven. He and my youngest son started their educators journey at  
approximately the same time. I had a great conversation with Caleb  
at that time. Saddened that he transitioned so young. Praying for all  
who are grieving his accomplished life. Gloria Saulsbury, Macon,  
GA

Gloria Saulsbury - April 20, 2024 at 07:31 PM

SH

“ Sending heartfelt condolences to the entire  
family and all who knew and loved Caleb, an  
amazing soul.



*I will always remember the times, the good  
ole days!*

*Rest up Big Man, Job well done* 📖🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻

💛 *Shintell*

Shintell - April 19, 2024 at 07:35 PM

MA

“ I am dedicating these poems to my little cousin whom had the same gifts that his Great Grandmother Mother Cora Kilpatrick Bell had at all times, she always had children around her and Caleb followed in her footsteps and He was a Modern Day Pied Piper with all of the lives he had helped and mentored.

*Author Unknown - Until We Meet Again*

*I am writing this from Heaven,  
Where I Dwell with God above,  
I am resting here with Angela,  
Who Surround me now with Love.*

*Although I may seem far away,  
We will truly never part,  
For part of me Lives on Forever,  
There within your Heart.*

*So remember to have Faith,  
Be Courageous and be Strong,  
Think of me with a smile,  
And when you hear a Heartfelt song.*

*As life's Beautiful journey continues,  
May you remember now and then,  
I will Love and Protect you Always,  
Until We Meet Again.*

*In Loving Memory:*

*Deacon Jonathan Caleb Cotten*

*Date of Birth: August 23, 1978*

*Date of Death: Tuesday, April 9, 2024*

*Date of Service: Monday, April 22, 2024*

*Parents: Bishop Willie Vance Cotten, Sr.*

*Reverend Dr. Kim L. Cotten*

*Ms. Julie Ann Bell Cotten*

*Never Forgotten... Always Loved*

*No matter what, we can count on the love of God.  
His love meets us wherever we are and carries us  
through even the darkest of times. Through  
prayer - our own and that of others on our  
behalf - we can summon His power, His healing,  
and His grace for every need. He continually saves us from fear  
because His perfect love casts out fear. He saves us from worry  
because He gives us peace that passes understanding. And he  
saves us from ever having to go it alone because He is always with  
us. His love never fails!*

*Author is Unknown*

*Celebrate My Life*

*Remember me with love and j,  
Let gratitude fill your heart.  
Thankful for the time we had,  
Gone... yet not apart.  
If we measured life in moments,  
Not in months or years,  
I loved a hundred lifetimes,  
Loved by all who hold me dear.*

*I hope you'll find your smile,  
And generously speak my name,  
Share stories and my heart,  
Your love for life, unchanged.  
Celebrate the life, I loved,  
I will be watching from above.  
I am always with you,  
Sending you my light and love.*

*Ms. Cheryl M. Atkinson (Cousin Cheryl)  
Hamden/New Haven, CT*

---

**Ms. Cheryl M. Atkinson** - April 19, 2024 at 06:20 PM

EM

“ Elder Ronald D. Holmes & Gethsemane MBC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Deacon Jonathan Caleb Cotten.

Elder Ronald D. Holmes & Gethsemane MBC - April 19, 2024 at 06:10 PM

EM

“ Elder Ronald D. Holmes & Gethsemane MBC purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Deacon Jonathan Caleb Cotten.



Elder Ronald D. Holmes & Gethsemane MBC - April 19, 2024 at 06:10 PM

RR

“ Roosevelt & Wannetta Rankins lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Cotten



Roosevelt&Wannetta Rankins - April 19, 2024 at 03:16 PM

KF

“ Kelvan Fitzpatrick lit a candle in memory of Jonathan Cotten



Kelvan Fitzpatrick - April 19, 2024 at 02:53 PM