

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr.

PERSON

Brown, Matthew Southall, 1922-

Alternative Names: Reverend Matthew Southall Brown, Sr.;

Life Dates: July 16, 1922-November 21, 2021

Place of Birth: Savannah, Georgia, USA

Residence: Savannah, GA

Work: GA

Occupations: Religious Leader

Biographical Note

Religious leader Reverend Mathew Southall Brown, Sr. was born on July 16, 1922 in Savannah, Georgia to Christopher Frederick Brown and Helen Robinson Brown. In 1943, Brown graduated from Cuyler-Beach High School in Savannah, Georgia and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served in World War II as a non-commissioned officer and was assigned to a support unit. Following his military service, he attended Georgia State College and earned his B.D. degree from the American Baptist Seminary in Nashville, Tennessee in 1961. Brown also studied at the University of Miami, the Division of Addiction Sciences with a grant from the City of Savannah

Brown was ordained as a minister in 1961 in the Historic First African Baptist Church. The following year, he accepted a position as a pastor at First Smyrna Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia. In 1963, Brown became a pastor at Royal Missionary Baptist Church and then St. John Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia in 1969, where he led his congregation through the renovation of the church. In 1986, Brown dedicated St. John Villa, formerly the East Broad Street School, as a housing complex for the elderly and the handicapped. In 1988, the Matthew Southall Brown Resources and Learning Center was named in his honor. Brown then hosted a morning radio show called "Thought for the Day," which aired on Clear Channel Radio Savannah, Georgia WSOK 1230 AM. In 1991, Brown then published, *The Best of Pastor Matthew Southall Brown, Sr.'s 6:30 a.m. Meditative Thoughts*. Brown retired as pastor of St. John Baptist Church in 2004 and became pastor emeritus. He founded the Boys' Summit in 2010.

In 1971, Brown was appointed by Judge Alexander Lawrence as chairman of a biracial school advisory board. Brown also served as chair on the Emancipation Association beginning in 2013. He was also recognized and honored for his service to his community. In 2013, Brown was recognized by the National Baptist Convention for more than fifty years of service.

Brown has four children: Maxine Jones, Leonard Brown, Christa Stephens, and Matthew Southall Brown, Jr.

Brown passed away on November 21, 2021.

Matthew Southall Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on February 7, 2017.

Related Entries

Florence Street Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Beach-Cuyler School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Alfred E. Beach High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Savannah State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

American Baptist Theological Seminary [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Miami [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Smyrna Baptist Church [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1961 to 1962]

Senior Pastor

Royal Missionary Baptist Church [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1962 to 1969]

Senior Pastor

St. John Baptist Church [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to 2005]

Senior Pastor

Nicholsonboro Baptist [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1990]

Senior Pastor

Mutual Benevolent Society [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Savannah Housing Authority [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

President

Georgia Baptist Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Secretary

Bereca Baptist Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

President and Moderator