

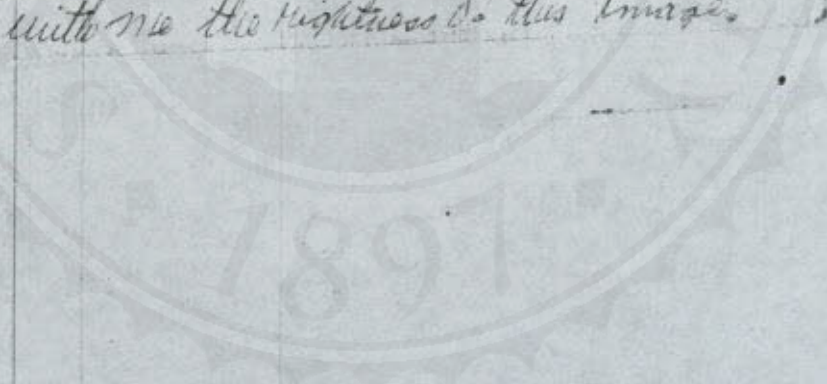
What can we say about Preston? Preston was one who
Championed efforts to relieve poverty, fear, and ignorance. He has
left a legacy of service to his community in ~~Cleveland~~ and San Diego, and to
the future by the way he lived and the commitment he made.

What shall we name him? Today, as we remember his life among us and mark his passing, how
shall we name him? To be sure, he was a good servant of Jesus
Christ, a faithful husband, ~~and~~ a devoted father and grandfather.
He was a loyal Minneman, a helpful friend, and a man
who never met a stranger. How shall we name him? ^{Lord}
You recall that in Genesis 32:28, we are told that at the ~~foot~~
of the Gabbath river, Jacob wrestled with God. Jacob was the
nameless Israel because he had struggled with God and
with ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~angel~~.

On the road to Caesarea Philippi, Simon bar Jonah
made the first confession of faith: "You are the Christ!" He
was named Peter the rock.

It could be said that our beloved
~~P. Charles~~ was like a rock: stalwart, steady
always the same. It could be said that he was
like the light of the world: warm, bright and
belonging to vision.
But consider with me the rightness of this image.

United Negro College Fund
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~~Charles~~ ^{Charles} was like a tree, planted by the King of life. ^{Psalm 1}
Say so well what I want to say today.

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of
the wicked,
nor stands in the way of the sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the
Lord.

He is like a tree
planted by streams of water,
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.

On all that he does, he prospers.

Now a great tree has fallen in the forest, and today it leaves
an empty place against the sky. But we know ~~Charles's~~ ^{Charles's} name,
and we know the God who named him and the Shepherd
who calls him by name. A sheep of his own fold, a son of

his own household, a citizen of God's Kingdom. He is
like a tree that has born good fruit for the blessing and
benefit of us all.

Thanks be to God for the life ~~and~~ and death and
Witness of this man. Thanks be to God who gives Vic-
tory through our Lord Jesus Christ -
- Sweet Spirit -